



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Memo

To: All Priests and Catholic School Principals

From: Kathy Conner, Chancellor

Date: January 24, 2012

Re: Guidelines for Selecting Speakers

I would like to remind you that Bishop Soto has published Diocesan guidelines for inviting speakers from *outside* the Diocese of Sacramento.

In general, the hosting party (a parish, school, apostolic group, or movement) is asked to send in specific documentation provided by the potential speaker to the Diocese for final approval by Bishop Soto.

For English speakers, Bishop Soto would like this information sent to Kevin Staszko, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis.

For Spanish speakers, this information should be sent to Deacon Germán Toro in the Hispanic Apostolate.

Please review the attached *Guidelines for Selecting Speakers* that will provide further clarification.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Kevin at 733-0152, Deacon Germán at 733-0179, or myself at 733-0207.

Thank you.

Guidelines for Selecting Speakers

Diocese of Sacramento

Parishes, Movements, Apostolic Groups, Catholic Schools

It is the responsibility of the hosting parties to present a list of potential speakers. The Diocesan Bishop will make the final decision. In this case, the bishop has appointed the offices of Evangelization and Catechesis for the English speaking community, the Hispanic Apostolate for the Spanish speaking community, and the School Superintendent for Catholic Schools to gather and review all required information and make a final decision.

A. Required Documentation

1) For Priests/Religious

- a) Letter from the diocesan Bishop or the Religious Superior. (It must be original and recent)
- b) Proof of having completed the Safe Environment Training and have submitted proof of fingerprinting to their respective diocese.
- c) A curriculum Vitae with the following information:
 - Education
 - Ministerial Experience
- d) Social Security Number or TIN for income tax purposes

2) For the Laity

- a) Letter from the diocesan Bishop or from the Diocesan Apostolic Movement or group.
- b) Subparagraphs b, c and d of Section 1.

B. General Rules on Speaker Stipends and Sales

- 1) You must come to an agreement with the diocese, parish, apostolic movement or group on the conditions of sale of any item (CD, DVD, books, etc.)
- 2) You must come to an agreement in advance for the stipend, which will be paid by check and must comply with all conditions required by the IRS.
- 3) Under no circumstances is the speaker allowed to request a donation

Note: Violations of this rule may result in the suspension of faculties of the speaker in this diocese, and the host may lose the authority to create or host future events.

C. Host's Responsibilities

- 1) Collect and submit all required documentation
- 2) Clarify the purpose and goals of the event with the speaker
- 3) Check Visa information (if the speaker is from outside the country)
- 4) Verify Social Security and or TIN (If you do not have a TIN, make arrangements to get it.)
- 5) Clarify arrangements for sales allowances and rates
- 6) Provide an environment that supports learning (space and materials)
- 7) If it is possible arrange for coverage with the media, video recording, etc.
- 8) Provide an assessment of the speaker, including assessments of the audience, and deliver a report to the respective office. (Evangelization and Catechesis, Hispanic Apostolate, or Catholic School Dept).

As a general rule, the invitation of any speaker or honoree should be an opportunity to evangelize and catechize the faithful. Thus, anything which may cause confusion or scandal or incite disrespect or dissent is to be avoided.

Remember that when a speaker is assessed, Diocesan Statute #81 must be followed:

Any speaker who publicly promotes or advocates views which are contrary to Church teaching, may not give a talk, retreat, workshop, course, etc., at Church related events, or on church, school or diocesan property in the Diocese of Sacramento.

Likewise, anyone who publicly promotes or advocates views which are contrary to Church teaching may not be given awards, honors, or other marks of public recognition.