



**ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE
CATHOLIC CENTER
TEMPORAL GOODS POLICY MANUAL**

SECTION

100 Governance & Leadership

SUBSECTION

100.4 Parish Finance Council – Relevant
Canons

SECTION 100 THE PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL – RELEVANT CANONS

Canon 532

In all judicial matter, the parish priest acts in the parish, in accordance with the law. He is to ensure that the parish goods are administered in accordance with canons 1282-1288.

Canon 537

In each parish there is to be a finance council to help the parish priest in the administration of the goods of the parish, without prejudice to Canon 532. It is ruled by the universal law and by the norms laid down by the diocesan Bishop, and is composed of members of the faithful selected by these norms

Canon 1281

With due regard for the prescriptions of their statutes, administrators invalidly posit acts which go beyond the limits and procedures of ordinary administration unless they first obtain written authority from the ordinary.

The acts which go beyond the limits and procedures of ordinary administration are to be defined in the statutes; if, however, the statutes do not mention such acts, it is within the competence of the diocesan bishop to determine such acts for persons subject to him after he has heard the finance council.

Unless and to the extent that it is to its own advantage, a juridic person is not held to answer for acts invalidly posited by its administrators. A juridic person, however, is responsible for acts illegitimately but validly posited by its administrators with due regard for the right to sue or to have recourse against administrators who have damaged it.

Canon 1282

All clerics or lay persons who through a legitimate title take part in the administration of ecclesiastical goods are bound to fulfill their duties in the name of the Church and in accord with the norm of law.

Canon 1283

Before administrators take office:

- They must take an oath before the ordinary or his delegate that they will be efficient and faithful administrators;



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- They are to prepare, sign and subsequently renew an accurate and detailed inventory of immovable goods, movable goods, either precious or of significant cultural value, or other goods along with a description and appraisal of them;
- One copy of this inventory is to be kept in the archives of the administration; the other, in the curial archives; any change whatever which the patrimony may undergo is to be noted on each copy.

Canon 1284

All administrators are bound to fulfill their office with the diligence of a good householder.

For this reason they must:

- Take care that none of the goods entrusted to their care is in any way lost or damaged and take out insurance policies for this purpose, insofar as such is necessary;
- Take care that the ownership of ecclesiastical goods is safeguarded through civilly valid methods;
- Observe the prescriptions of both canon and civil law or those imposed by the founder, donor or legitimate authority; they must especially be on guard lest the Church be harmed through the non-observance of civil laws;
- Accurately collect the revenues and income of goods when they are legally due, safeguard them once collected and apply them according to the intention of the founder or according to legitimate norms;
- Pay the interest on a loan or mortgage when it is due and take care that the capital debt itself is repaid in due time;
- With the consent of the ordinary invest the money which is left over after expenses and which can be profitably allocated for the goals of the juridic person;
- Keep well-ordered books of receipts and expenditures;
- Draw up a report on their administration at the end of each year;
- Duly arrange and keep in a suitable and safe archive the documents and deeds upon which are based the rights of the Church or the institution to its goods; deposit authentic copies of them in the archive of the curia when it can be done conveniently.

It is strongly recommended that administrators prepare annual budgets of receipts and expenditures; however, it is left to particular law to issue regulations concerning such budgets and to determine more precisely how they are to be presented.



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Canon 1285

Within the limits of ordinary administration only, it is permissible for administrators to make donations for purposes of piety or Christian charity from movable goods which do not pertain to the stable patrimony.

Canon 1286

Administrators of goods:

- Are to observe meticulously the civil laws pertaining to labor and social policy according to Church principles in the employment of workers;
- Are to pay employees a just and decent wage so that they may provide appropriately for their needs and those of their family.