



Support for Canceled Priests: Eligibility, Protocols, and Types of Assistance

Internal Draft for Board Consideration

Revised by Brian Holuj on July 26, 2021



Who is eligible for support?

Each of the following criteria must be met:

- ✓ A validly-ordained **Catholic Priest**
 - Evidenced by: provision of copy of Certificate of Ordination to CFCP, if necessary, after due diligence is done.
- ✓ **No** substantiated history or current allegations of a **delict** (a Canon Law violation that is gravely immutable by reason of malice or negligence) at any point since ordination. This does not pertain to a situation in which due process has not been afforded.
 - Evidenced by: CFCP Canonist review of relevant filings at the Chancery.
- ✓ **No** substantiated history or current allegations of relevant **criminal wrongdoing** at any point since ordination. This does not pertain to minor matters such as a traffic violation, nor disobeying an unjust law (as per the Catechism), nor situations in which due process has not been afforded.
 - Evidenced by: CFCP Review of publicly-available criminal proceedings or convictions or other evidence conveyed to CFCP privately.
- ✓ Clear need for **significant imminent temporal or spiritual support** to avert serious adversity.
 - Evidenced by: Details on restrictions by the Bishop or Religious Superior relative to available means (e.g. salary / bank balance).
- ✓ Long-standing and consistent **fidelity to the Magisterium** of the Catholic Church in public ministry and private life.
 - Evidenced by: Written attestation by at least two Catholic Priests and by at least two lay Catholics in good standing who have adequate familiarity with the situation; CFCP may also consider other publicly available information (e.g. social media posts, videos, articles and other content authored by the candidate).

Which types of support are available?



Depending on the availability of CFCP resources and proportionate to the demonstrated need of the candidate, any or all may be offered:

- Spiritual Support:
 - **Prayers** - Mass intentions; Rosary intentions; fasting intentions; public prayer rallies at a requested location (e.g. Chancery, Parish).
 - **Guidance** - Discernment with a spiritual advisor.
- Temporal Support for needs which cannot be met through existing means:
 - **Housing** – temporary living quarters; rental assistance; essential repairs (including medically-necessitated alterations) to current housing.
 - **Transportation** – moving to a new location, transit to critical meetings (e.g. for a hearing, a CFCP event to share their story), temporary regular transportation, essential repairs to vehicle.
 - **Medical** – assistance paying physical or mental health bills.
 - **Legal** – assistance paying for legal advisement by a Canon and/or civil lawyer.
 - **Outreach** – opportunities to raise awareness through CFCP-facilitated speaking engagements, letter writing campaigns, website postings, social media, etc.
 - **Other** – additional requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

❖ Legal Disclaimer: CFCP's provision of support based on current circumstances and available information which can be reasonably considered by the organization does not confer endorsement of all actions by the priest nor is it an indicator of continued support into the future, particularly if relevant context was not disclosed to CFCP during the application process.



How is support obtained?

- The Priest completes an initial request form on the CFCP website which is routed to CFCP's Priestly Assistance Coordinators: bholuj@canceledpriests.org and fatherlovell@canceledpriests.org.
- A phone interview or additional written correspondence may be conducted if supplemental information is needed by CFCP during the due diligence evaluation.
- If the initial request is denied, a brief explanation will be provided by CFCP to the applicant. An appeal may be requested one-time by the applicant by submitting in writing to the CFCP Priestly Assistance Coordinators further context that seeks to address all issues identified in CFCP's explanation of its original decision. The determination of the appeal request will be provided back to the applicant as soon as practicable. If in the negative, the case is closed and no further action is taken. If positive, the case continues as follows.
- A case deemed worthy of full consideration must be thoroughly described in a full written application form that is provided by CFCP, including a sworn affidavit by the priest attesting to the facts of his cancellation and including - where possible - any additional pertinent evidence for review by the CFCP Board.
- If the full application is conditionally approved, negotiations of the support to be provided will be undertaken with the Priestly Assistance Coordinators, and then subsequently voted upon by the CFCP Board. If this final approval is granted, support is administered as soon as practicable.
- If final approval is not granted, more information may be requested and/or adjustments to the proposed support may be made in attempt to rectify concerns. If the application is denied following further negotiations, a written explanation will be provided, and no further recourse or appeal is available.
- ❖ Legal Disclaimer: All information disclosed to CFCP will be treated confidentially. Any information to be shared publicly will be done following written consent by a CFCP Board member and the Priest. CFCP's support is voluntary and subject to change at the Board's discretion.



How quickly and to what extent is support provided?

- The due diligence evaluation by CFCP on the initial request form following submission is anticipated to require at least two weeks to be completed (or faster in emergency situations).
- The second-round of due diligence by CFCP for those approved to submit a full application is anticipated to require an additional 3 weeks or more to be completed (or faster in emergency situations).
- Once the CFCP Board grants approval for requested assistance, a canceled priest may be supported as soon as circumstances permit as a one-time or recurring activity as appropriate for his case.
- The duration of support is generally anticipated to be concluded within one year in most cases, though it may extend longer depending on the circumstances and availability of resources. In no case will CFCP provide permanent support.
- While there is no set minimum value for support, in general, if recipients have a sufficiently critical need, financial or other material support is anticipated to be of a value of \$500 or more.
- The maximum available value of financial or other material support is \$30,000.
- All support is subject to the availability of funds and/or other requested resources.
- Priority will be given to fulfilling any existing commitments for the needs of canceled priests who have been approved by CFCP before expanding the pool of recipients to include new canceled priests' requests.

Requests for those Receiving Support

To the extent practicable:

- Pray for the successful pursuit of the CFCP mission by its volunteers and those priests aided by them.
- Share lessons learned from your experience that can aid others facing a similar situation.
- Take reasonable steps to restart active ministry and self-sufficiency as soon as practicable.
- Publicly recognize the support provided by CFCP and promote the organization's mission and work (could include a quote and photo for use in promotional material, speaking at events, etc.).
 - Note: Written authorization is required by CFCP to divulge any details of a beneficiary's case, and vice versa for the beneficiary to share details of CFCP support.