

Appraising Sacred Objects?
or
Documenting Sacred Patrimony

2014 ACDA Biennial Conference
July 23, 2014
Mundelein, IL



Appraising Sacred Objects

Learn how to appraise or reappraise sacred objects in diocesan collections and how to dispose of unwanted items.

What is a Sacred Object?



What is not a sacred object?



Canon 1171

Sacred objects, which are designated for divine worship by dedication or blessing, are to be treated reverently and are not to be employed for profane or inappropriate use even if they are owned by private persons.

Appraisal

The process by which the archivist/records manager determines the value and thus the disposition of records based on their current administrative, legal, and fiscal use; their evidential and informational or research value; their arrangement; and their relationship to other records.



Official Documents of the Holy See

Prior to alienation, all sacred objects, relics, sacred furnishings, stained-glass windows, bells, confessionals, altars, etc. are to be removed for use in other sacred edifices or to be stored in ecclesiastical custody. Because altars can never be turned over to profane use, if they cannot be removed, they must be destroyed (cf. cann. 1212 and 1238)

Letter from the congregation for the Clergy and procedural Guidelines for the Modification of Parishes and the Closure, Relegation and Alienation of Churches (The Jurist 73, 2013, 211-219.)

Canon 123

In the case where the portion of the Christian Faithful is reallocated among pre-existing or newly created parishes, the corresponding or newly created parishes, the corresponding patrimony and obligations of the closed parishes must follow the Faithful in an equitable and proportionate fashion in accord with the corresponding responsibilities and pastoral duties assumed by the parishes *ad quem*. The wishes of any existing founders and benefactors must be respected, as must any acquired rights as expressed in canon 121 or 122.

(Roman Replies 2006)

Pastoral Plan 2008

■ Patrimonial Goods Policy

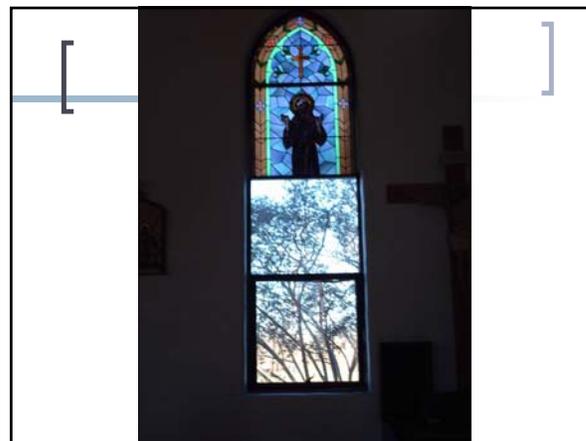
For the purposes of this plan sacred patrimonial goods include (but are not limited to) sacred objects, statuary, stations of the cross, religious art, altar furnishings, sacramentals and other items used for worship, liturgy and prayer in churches and chapels.

- Collection
- Documenting
- Safe-keeping
- Distribution

Damaged statuary



Chalices



Documenting



Storage



Closing Parishes and Schools



Sacred Patrimonial Goods

- Inventory sacred objects (3129)
- Create a digital image of each object (4420)
- Define metadata
- Create reports

Inventory of Goods – Canon 1283

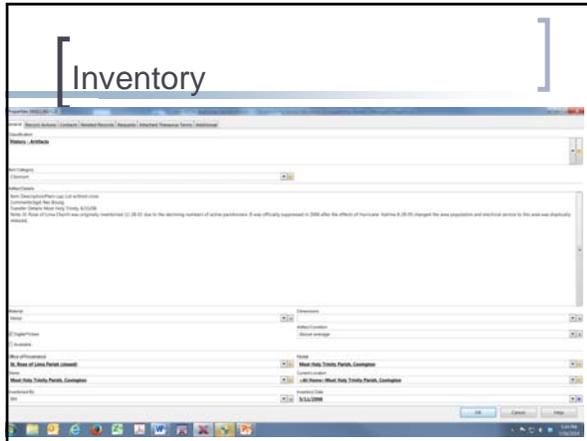
Before administrators begin their function:

1° they must take an oath

2° They are to prepare and sign an accurate and clear inventory of immovable property, movable objects, whether precious or of some cultural value, or other goods, with their description and appraisal; any inventory already done is to be reviewed;

Inventory of Goods – Canon 1283

3° one copy of this inventory is to be preserved in the archive of the administration and another in the archive of the curia; any change which the patrimony happens to undergo is to be noted in each copy.



- ### Reports
- [St. Rose of Lima Chalice and Ciborium.pdf](#)
 - [Angola Prison Statuary.pdf](#)
 - [Angola Prison Statuary images.pdf](#)

- ### Budgeting
- Moving expenses
 - Storage costs for larger items
 - Space
 - Time
 - Personnel
 - Insurance
 - Packaging: boxes, bubble wrap, tissue, tape, etc.



- ### Relics – Canon 1190
- §1. It is absolutely forbidden to sell sacred relics.
 - §2. Relics of great significance and other relics honored with great reverence by the people cannot be alienated validly in any manner or transferred permanently without the permission of the Apostolic See.
 - §3. The prescript of §2 is valid also for images which are honored in some church with great reverence by the people.

[Do your homework - resources]

- Code of Canon Law (commentary)
- Church Property (Renken)
- Roman Replies
- The Jurist

[Questions]



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