



UNAUTHORIZED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A priest will be considered on an unauthorized leave of absence when he:

1. leaves active ministry without informing the bishop;
2. refuses to accept an assignment from the bishop;
3. absents himself from the diocese without at least the presumed permission of the bishop;
4. does not follow through with the agreement for a Personal Leave of Absence.

The bishop will use the investigative process as found in canons 1717 - 1719 to validate an Unauthorized Leave of Absence. If it is proven that a priest is on an Unauthorized Leave of Absence then:

- The priest will lose his faculties and will be prohibited to act as an agent for the diocese or to present himself as a priest in good standing.
- The priest will cease to have any financial support and will no longer receive medical and dental insurance or any other benefit from the diocese.
- The priest will also be liable to a canonical penal process which could lead to suspension or possible dismissal from the clerical state.