

PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA

Vatican City, 10th March, 2025

Prot. N. 523/25

Most Reverend Father,

The Apostolic Penitentiary, in response to Your Paternity's kind request (Prot. N. 25/2624), gladly grants the extension of the special faculties for the members of this Order for another five years, starting from the date of this letter (see attachment).

The concession is a "regulatory" one and is entrusted to the wisdom and ecclesial spirit of the priests, to whom the Minister General deems it appropriate to delegate the faculties in question.

In this regard, we would like to point out that the Holy Father Francis, through the Apostolic Letter *Misericordia et misera* of the 20th November 2016, has granted to all priests of the Church approved to hear confessions the faculty to absolve in cases of abortion (see *Misericordia et misera*, 12).

Conversely, the exemption from irregularity arising from abortion, both in the case of candidates for Holy Orders and in that of those ordained *in sacris* for the exercise of their ministry, remains reserved to the Apostolic See, that is, to the Apostolic Penitentiary.

With regard to cases reserved to the Holy See, it will be possible to avail oneself of what is presented in canon 1357. For the peace of mind of the Most Reverend Fathers, who in their ministry should deal with cases of this kind, the Penitentiary points out that its responses are sent, if possible, within 24 hours of when the appeal is received. Thus, the need for a rigorous reservation to the Supreme Authority of very serious matters is harmonized with that of providing for the reconciliation of the repentant faithful as soon as possible.

Please accept our religious and respectful respects.

Angelo Card. De Donatis
Paenitentiarius Maior

Krzysztof Józef Nykiel
Regens

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