



## Exorcism Protocol

1. Those seeking the assistance of the Church for themselves or another, or for a particular place, regarding a matter they feel involves demonic influence or spiritual disturbance, should first contact their local parish priest and request his assistance. The parish priest should meet with the individual<sup>1</sup> to discern his or her needs, and may seek guidance in this area from the Office of Spiritual Affairs.
2. If further assistance is necessary, the priest is to write to the Chancellor of Spiritual Affairs outlining the matter and any previous actions taken as well as any relevant recommendations. This letter should also contain the full name, phone number, and address of the individual seeking help. Any medical or other supporting documents may also be included.
3. Once the case has been received by the Office of Spiritual Affairs a file will be opened. The Chancellor will decide on one of the following actions:
  - i) The case does not require action and the individual is referred back to the priest for ongoing pastoral care.  
OR
  - ii) The case requires additional medical and/or psychological supporting documentation before proceeding further.  
OR

(A) The case should be referred to an inner-healing ministry team. The team will meet with the individual needing assistance and will submit a report to the Chancellor after each prayer session, and after sufficient assistance has been given, a letter will be sent to the referring priest to inform him of any additional pastoral or spiritual assistance that is necessary.

(B) The case should be referred to a relevant expert so that a psychosocial-spiritual assessment may be completed. Once the assessment has been returned, the case file is referred to the Chancellor for discernment before proceeding.

AND

The Chancellor will discern if the case needs to proceed as per (A) above, or if the case should be referred to a deliverance ministry team. The deliverance team (*made up of a priest and two lay persons*) will meet with the individual needing assistance for several sessions over a period of time, and will submit a report to the Chancellor after each session.

After several sessions with the deliverance ministry team, it will be discerned whether the case needs to be forwarded to an Exorcist for further action or referred back to the parish priest for ongoing pastoral care.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the *Intake Assessment Form*

4. Once the recommendation of the inner-healing ministry team, deliverance ministry team, or Exorcist has been obtained, the Chancellor will provide guidance to the priest who made the initial contact with the Office of Spiritual Affairs.

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