

## Constraints According to Church Law and Local Practice

There is a set of policy constraints that every pastoral plan must recognize and respect. These policies are based on universal Church law, local diocesan legislation, and interpretations of both. They provide a stable framework for planning. The application of these policies in specific situations will require a balance between flexibility, good order, and a faithful communion with the universal and diocesan Church.

1. No priest will say more than three Masses of Sunday obligation (all references to "Masses of Sunday obligation" include Saturday Masses of anticipation) each weekend.
2. As a Eucharistic community, every parish must have a weekly Sunday Eucharist as long as this is possible and practical. There could be additional sites that are used for weekday Masses, weddings and funerals. These will be properly seen as "chapels of ease" rather than parishes or parish Sunday worship sites. Seasonal worship sites and/or seasonal Sunday worship schedules may be appropriate for areas impacted by seasonable changes in population.
3. No priest pastor, priest administrator or pastoral administrator will be assigned to more than three parishes. No parish will have more than three worship sites per assigned priest.
4. A cluster of two or three parishes with a single pastor is not the norm in canon law. Typically, any cluster should be moving toward becoming a single canonical parish.
5. Every parish, faith community, or worshipping community must meet the requirements and expectations appropriate to its nature. These will be based on the requirements of the universal church as well as local diocesan legislation.
6. Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest (SCAP) can only be used in short-term, emergency situations.