

## How to Request a Papal Blessing

The Archdiocese of New York does not issue Papal blessings. Instead, requests for Papal blessings are handled by the Apostolic Nunciature (the embassy of the Holy See to the United States).

The request for a Papal Blessing, in the form of a printed certificate, should be placed in a letter addressed to:

Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò  
Apostolic Nuncio  
Apostolic Nunciature United States of America  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008-3687

Enclose the following with your request (a sample of which can be found below):

- (1) A written recommendation from a parish priest of the persons to receive the blessing, or from a priest familiar with the persons, attesting to their good standing in the Catholic Church. In the case of a wedding, both parties should be Catholics. A sample letter from your parish priest can be found below.
- (2) The contents of the blessing, clearly printed, including:
  - a. The name(s) (typed or written in capital letters) of the people to receive the blessing.
  - b. The occasion to be celebrated (birthday, wedding, ordination, wedding anniversary, etc.). Anniversaries should be of a special nature, such as the 25th, 50th, or 60th. Birthdays should also be special, such as 80th or 90th, and so on.
  - c. The date of the occasion.
  - d. If the blessing is for a wedding, include the name of the church and its city and state.
- (3) An offering of \$20.00, by check or money order, made payable to the “Apostolic Nunciature.”

Please indicate the address to which the document should be sent, as well as the Diocese to which the persons to receive the blessing belong.

If you prefer a handwritten blessing on parchment, you should request it directly from Rome. Mail all the above information to:

Servizio Assistenziale del Santo Padre  
00120 Vatican City State, Europe.

The customary offering is \$45.00, payable to the Servizio Assistenziale del Santo Padre. Please be informed that it takes at least two or three months.

## Sample Letter Requesting Papal Blessing

Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò  
Apostolic Nuncio  
Apostolic Nunciature to the United States of America  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008-3687

Your Excellency:

I am writing to respectfully request a Papal Blessing on the occasion of *[insert the nature of the occasion here, such as “my parents’ fiftieth wedding anniversary”, or “my wedding”]*.

**[For a wedding anniversary]:** The date of my parents’ wedding anniversary is *[insert date]*. Their names are *[insert names as you would like them to appear on the certificate]*. Both of my parents are Catholics and they belong to *[insert the name of their diocese]*.

**[For your own wedding]:** The date of our wedding is *[insert date]* and it will be celebrated *at [insert the name, city and state of the church where the wedding will take place]*. Our names are: *[insert names as you would like them to appear on the certificate]*. Both my intended spouse and I are Catholics, and we belong to *[insert the name of your diocese]*.

I enclose an offering in the amount of \$20.00, and a letter of recommendation from a priest of my parish, *[insert the name of the priest submitting the letter]*. Please mail the document to the following address: *[insert address]*.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

I have the honor to be, Your Excellency,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Sample Letter of Recommendation**

(This letter should be on Parish letterhead, with the Parish seal)

Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò  
Apostolic Nuncio  
Apostolic Nunciature United States of America  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008-3687

Your Excellency:

I am a priest of the parish of *[insert name of parish]* located in *[insert city of parish]* New York, in the Archdiocese of New York.

I hereby attest that *[insert names of persons requesting the blessing]*, who is receiving the Papal blessing, is a member of my parish and a Catholic in good standing. May I respectfully recommend that a papal blessing be arranged as requested.

I also attest that, should the papal blessing be sought on the occasion of a wedding, both parties are Catholic and the marriage is valid according to the Catholic Church.

I have the honor to be, Your Excellency,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

-----PARISH SEAL-----

Please mail the blessing to the following address: