

Decree Appeal Process

1. Request for Revocation or Amendment of a Decree (Mandatory First Step)

Before making a formal appeal, the person must first ask the bishop to reconsider the decree.

- This must be done **in writing**.
- It must be submitted within **10 working days** from the date the decree was lawfully communicated.
- The person asks the bishop to revoke or amend the decision

The bishop then has **30 days** to respond.

- The bishop can uphold the decree.
- The bishop can modify the decree.
- The bishop can choose not to respond within the 30 days.

2. Hierarchical Recourse (Appeal to Higher Authority)

After the bishop responds (or fails to respond within 30 days), and the person is still unsatisfied, hierarchical recourse may be taken. The person then has **15 working days** to file an appeal to the bishop's hierarchical superior. This is submitted to the diocesan bishop, and he is required by law to send it to the required office of the Roman Curia.

For a diocesan bishop, in this case:

- The Dicastery for the Clergy (for parish matters or clergy issues).

The appeal must:

- Be in writing.
- Clearly state the reasons for the appeal (both factual and canonical).
- Include relevant documentation (including responses from the bishop up to this point).

3. Review by the Holy See

The appropriate dicastery will:

- Review the documentation.
- Possibly request additional information from the diocese.
- Determine whether the bishop acted within the law.

The dicastery may:

- Uphold the decree.
- Modify it.
- Overturn it.
- Send it back for reconsideration.