

Canonical Processes

Modification of Parishes

	Amalgamation	Merger	Relegation to Profane Use	Alienation of Property
What is it?	One or more former parishes are subsumed into another existing parish; subsumed parishes become extinct; absorbing parish becomes larger (both people and land); $A + B + C = C$	Two or more former parishes unite to become a single new parish encompassing the sum of all the previous parishes' people and territory; $A + B + C = D$	Closing of a church; no longer a sacred space; must be done prior to alienation of property	Selling property (value in excess of \$25,000)
What is required?	Just cause; convocation of Presbyteral Council and consultation	Just cause; convocation of Presbyteral Council and consultation	Grave cause; convocation of Presbyteral Council and consultation	Just cause; written appraisals; permission of the Archbishop who must receive the consent of the College of Consultors and the Archdiocesan Finance Council and any interested parties
How does it take effect?	Decree of the Archbishop	Decree of the Archbishop	Decree of the Archbishop	Pastor negotiates sale; all contracts (even with the realtor) must go through the Archdiocesan Finance Office (Property Management)
When does it take effect?	After the period for recourse has elapsed (approx. sixty days)	After the period for recourse has elapsed (approx. sixty days)	After the period for recourse has elapsed (approx. sixty days)	With finalization of sale

There are additional canonical requirements for the issuance of any administrative decree. **Canon 50:** Before issuing a singular decree, the person in authority is to seek the necessary information and proof, and, as far as possible, is to consult those whose rights could be harmed. **Canon 51:** A decree is to be issued in writing. When it is a decision, it should express, at least in summary form, the reasons for the decision.

For alienation of property whose value exceeds \$3,500,000, or if it is a question of something given to the Church by reason of a vow, or of objects which are precious by reason of historical or artistic significance, the additional permission of the Holy See is required.