



## A. POLICY ON ALCOHOL AT DIOCESAN AND PARISH FACILITIES

The Diocese and the Bishop of Wichita have an interest in the safety and welfare of all individuals on diocesan property. Some social events have traditionally served alcoholic beverages. Social customs and legal penalties for drunk driving have challenged past attitudes about the “necessity” and advisability of serving alcohol at family and parish celebrations.

The Church opposes excessive alcohol consumption because it disrespects one’s own health and the well being of others. If alcohol is served on parish property, it must be done responsibly and in moderation and in compliance with Kansas law. This will reduce the risk of an alcohol-related death or injury, and lessen the risk of damage to facilities and property.

**THE POLICY:** Pastors, in consultation with parish pastoral councils, are free to determine whether alcohol may be consumed on parish property, or to limit the events at which it may be served. The pastor should know and approve of the presence and consumption of alcohol prior to an event. If alcohol is served on parish or diocesan property, Kansas Law must be observed. The following guidelines should also serve as education and safety elements.

## B. KANSAS LAW

1. Alcohol shall never be served to, served by, nor consumed by an individual who is under the age of 21 years. Positive proof of age through identification shall be requested of anyone who appears younger than 26 years of age.
2. If alcohol is being sold at an event on church property, a temporary permit/license is required. The event’s planner should contact the local Alcohol and Beverage Council (ABC) office.
3. Alcohol served at an event on parish property must remain on parish property where the event is taking place. Guests are not permitted to carry alcohol away from the event’s premises.
4. No one who is intoxicated may be served alcohol. Slurred speech, staggering, stumbling behavior, or poor motor skills are clear indicators of alcohol intoxication.

### **C. GUIDELINES FOR THE PROPER USE AND SERVING OF ALCOHOL**

1. Alcohol shall never be served, available or otherwise consumed at a youth event. This includes celebrations of the sacraments bestowed on those under the legal drinking age (including marriage), or any event associated with the parish school, a diocesan high school, or a parish youth group.
2. If alcohol is served at an event where an open invitation has been issued, at least one security guard per 150 guests should be present throughout the event. "Open invitation" means that non-parishioners have been invited, and includes wedding receptions.
3. Guests should not be allowed to bring their own alcohol onto parish property.
4. To reduce the possibility of damage to persons and facilities, alcohol should not be served in bottles.
5. Only one alcoholic beverage should be served to a guest at a time. The bartenders should be trained and instructed to serve no more than 1 ounce of whisky in a mixed drink, no more than 12 ounces of beer per serving, and no more than 6 ounces of wine per serving.
6. When alcohol is served at an event on parish property, it should be dispensed only by an individual or individuals who are of mature demeanor, and who are at least 21 years old. Such persons should abstain from drinking alcohol during the event.
7. Food, coffee, and non-alcoholic beverages (pop, tea, water, juice) should be served constantly throughout an event where alcohol is served. Food should be readily available throughout the event. At least 1 ½ hours before the event concludes, the bar should be closed.
8. If a guest appears intoxicated and has transported himself or herself to the event, the event's planner should provide, or otherwise arrange, alternative transportation for the guest. The determination of intoxication may be made through personal observation: slurred speech, staggering, or poor motor skills coordination.

### **D. SUGGESTIONS BY THE DIOCESE AND CATHOLIC MUTUAL GROUP**

1. Alcohol related liability could financially ruin the event's planner. Many insurance companies offer a "rider" on a homeowner's insurance policy for an event planned by the insured. It is strongly suggested that the event's planner obtain such a rider.

Recommended by the presbyteral council  
Approved by Bishop Michael O. Jackels  
December 14, 2006