



The Roman Catholic
DIOCESE OF LEGAZPI

The Chancery, Saint Gregory the Great Cathedral
P.O. Box 182, Legazpi City 4500 Philippines

DIOCESAN CIRCULAR Number 8, Series of 2025

To: All Clergy, Religious, and Lay Faithful
Re: Constitution of the Legazpi Ecclesiastical Tribunal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to announce the constitution of the **Legazpi Ecclesiastical Tribunal**, which will formally commence its operations on **March 19, 2025**, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In response to the reforms promulgated by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, in the Motu Proprio *Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus*, and in fulfillment of Canon 1673 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, this tribunal is being constituted to serve as **First Instance Tribunal for marriage nullity cases** within our Diocese. By bringing this judicial service closer to our faithful, we seek to ensure a more accessible and efficient process for those who seek clarity regarding the validity of their marriages.


For many years, our Diocese has entrusted such cases to the **Inter-Diocesan Ecclesiastical Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Cáceres**. With this constitution, our own tribunal will now exercise jurisdiction over these cases, responding more effectively to the needs of our people while remaining in full communion with the wider judicial system of the Church.

The Legazpi Ecclesiastical Tribunal will be under the leadership of our Judicial Vicar, **Rev. Fr. Paul Rene P. Ocfemia, JCD**, who will oversee its operations and ensure that its work is carried out with fidelity to the truth, justice, and charity of the Church.

To mark this significant moment in the life of our Diocese, a **Eucharistic Celebration and Inaugural Ceremony** will be held on **March 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **Parish Church and Diocesan Shrine of Saint Padre Pio**, Rawis, Legazpi City. All clergy, religious, and lay faithful – especially those involved in canonical, pastoral, and family ministries – are invited to participate in this occasion.

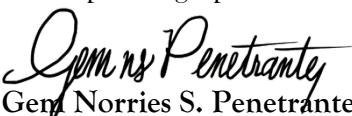
We entrust our tribunal to the intercession of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, upright and just man.

In the PEACE that binds us all,



+ JOEL Z. BAYLON, D.D.
Bishop of Legazpi

By mandate of His Excellency,
The Bishop of Legazpi:



Fr. Gen. Norries S. Penetrante, T.O.Carm.
Chancellor

Please keep on file
17 February 2025
The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order