

POLICY 6.6

Incardination of Clergy

The Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan does not seek to incardinate clergy who have been ordained outside of the Archdiocese. However, while honoring the provisions for such as laid down in Canons 267 – 272 and Canon 693, clergy who have performed ministry in the Archdiocese may ask to be incardinated.

In such case, the Archdiocese will enter a process of discernment that will include the following steps:

1. The priest must have ministered in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan for at least five full years before the application to be incardinated is initiated. This requirement may be waived by the Archbishop.
2. The priest must have established permanent resident status in Canada before the act of incardination is completed. The Archdiocese will pay once for the priest to take the language test required by Immigration Canada. If he fails this test, subsequent language tests are at the cost of the priest.
3. The priest's bishop or religious superior must agree in writing to the cleric's incardination in this Archdiocese.
4. The priest must request in writing to be incardinated in the Archdiocese of Grouard McLennan. This letter must indicate his free willingness to comply with the policies and procedures of the Archdiocese, and to offer religious obedience to the Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan.
5. If the applicant is an international priest, he must have attended the enculturation program conducted by Newman Theological College in Edmonton, or a similar program.
6. The priest must request in writing a true copy of his personnel file to be sent directly from the chancery office of his former bishop or religious superior to the Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan.
7. The priest will undergo a series of psychological tests administered by a psychologist, agreed to by both the Archbishop and the priest. The priest must agree to release the psychologist's report to the Archbishop. This requirement may be waived by the Archbishop.
8. The priest will undergo a medical examination, providing the physician with a form from the Archdiocese for that purpose. The priest must agree to release the complete results of the examination to the Archbishop.
9. The chancery office will conduct a thorough examination of the priest's ministry in all the parishes where he has served in the Archdiocese. This will include collecting the testimony of other priests, parish staff, parish pastoral council members and other parishioners, school principals and teachers.
10. The final decision to incardinate a priest will be made by the Archbishop, having received the counsel of the Curia.