

CCCB Decree 25: Ecclesiastical Dress – Appendix PD408A

Implementation of the 1983 Code of Canon Law

*** DECREE ***

Decree No. 25: Ecclesiastical Dress

In accordance with the prescriptions of Canon 284, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops hereby decrees that, without prejudice to the provisions of Canon 288, clerics are to dress in such a way as to be identifiable as clerics.

This decree is effective immediately.

Commentary

Decree No. 25, approved by the CCCB in October 1986, was reviewed by the Apostolic See, October 10, 1987
(Congregation for Bishops – Prot. No. 6/84).

The decree applies to all clerics. However, in virtue of the prescriptions of Canon 288, permanent deacons are not bound by its prescriptions.

The decree does not specify what would constitute clerical dress. Instead, it calls for some identifying sign, which may vary from place to place. This sign could be the roman collar, a crucifix or cross worn either on a lapel or around the neck. In the case of a cleric who belongs to a Religious Institute, it could consist of the insignia of the Institute.

The purpose of the decree is to ensure that clerics dress in a discreet manner appropriate to the given situation.