

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PRIESTS AND DEACONS**

### **WITNESSING MARRIAGES IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Our General Counsel's office annually sends a list to the state with the names of all priests and deacons who are authorized to perform marriages and have assignments through the Office of Clergy Personnel. It has come to our attention that when communicating with a local municipality regarding witnessing marriages, the priest or deacon must indicate their association with the Archdiocese of Boston. The Massachusetts Secretary of State's office can only access the officiant's name under the listing "Archdiocese of Boston" and not through any church or parish name. You may want to let your local municipality know of this nuance for when they are communicating with the Secretary of State's Office. This does not affect how you fill out the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 'Certificate of Marriage,' please fill this out as you normally would.