

14 *Permission for the absolution of reserved cases.*

nearest archpriest. If nevertheless they have cause to think that such persons cannot be referred without some scandal or some considerable inconvenience, they will obtain from us, or from some one of our vicars general, the permission to absolve them themselves: a permission they may always ask, when they shall think fit, but which will never be granted but for present need, and which must be asked for, as often as such need may occur.

REMARKS. 1st. Every approved priest may absolve penitents, from other dioceses, guilty of sins reserved in such dioceses, and which are not reserved in this, provided they do not come to make their confession *in fraudem legis*. Should this however be the case, every approved priest might also absolve these penitents, provided they expressed a true repentance of their conduct.

2d. Should a confessor through forgetfulness or other cause have absolved a penitent from a reserved case, without having the power so to do, he ought, if the proceeding should not be attended with weighty inconveniences, and after having asked permission from the penitent, to inform him that the absolution was not valid, and that consequently he must have recourse to the bishop, or to some other priest furnished with sufficient powers; or else, as appears more proper, the confessor will himself obtain from the bishop, or from some vicar general, the power to absolve the penitent, and will engage him to return to him again, in order to receive absolution. (a).

3d. The power to commute vows, and to dispense with the impediment *à petendo debito conjugali*, is not comprised in the general or particular permission to absolve from censures and reserved cases.

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(a). See the Conf. d'Angers, ed. 1778, vol. V. page 183.