

NE TEMERE DECREE

the parish priest or the Ordinary of one of the contracting parties, unless it be a case of grave necessity, which excuses from this requirement.

(iv) Except in cases of necessity, it is unlawful for a parish priest to assist at the marriage of persons without fixed abode (*vagos*) until the matter has been duly reported to the Ordinary or to a priest delegated by him, so as to obtain permission to assist at the marriage.

(v) In every case let it be held as the rule that the marriage is to be celebrated before the parish priest of the bride, unless some just cause dispenses from this rule.

VI. The parish priest and the Ordinary of the place may grant permission to another priest, specified and certain, to assist at marriages within the limits of their district.

The delegated priest, in order to assist validly and licitly, is bound to observe the limits of his mandate and the rules laid down above, in IV and V, for the parish priest and the Ordinary of the place.

VII. When danger of death is imminent, and where the parish priest, or the Ordinary of the place, or a priest delegated by either of these, cannot be had, in order to provide for the relief of conscience, and (should the case require it) for the legitimization of the offspring, a marriage may be contracted validly and licitly before any priest and two witnesses.

VIII. Should it happen that in any district the parish priest, or the Ordinary of the place, or priest delegated by either of them, before whom marriage can be celebrated, is not to be had, and that this condition of affairs has lasted for a month, marriage may be validly and licitly entered upon by the formal declaration of consent made by the contracting parties in the presence of two witnesses.

IX. (1) After the celebration of a marriage the parish priest, or he who takes his place, is to register at once in the book of marriages

the names of the couple and of the witnesses, the place and day of the celebration of the marriage, and the other details, according to the method prescribed in the ritual books or by the Ordinary. This obligation holds likewise when another priest, delegated either by the parish priest himself or by the Ordinary, has assisted at the marriage.

(II) Moreover, the parish priest is to note in the book of baptisms the fact that the married person contracted marriage on a certain day in his parish. If the married person was baptised elsewhere, the parish priest who has assisted at the marriage is to send notice of the marriage, either directly or through the episcopal curia, to the parish priest of the place where the person was baptised, in order that the marriage may be inscribed in the book of baptisms.

(III) Whenever a marriage is contracted in the manner described under VII and VIII, the priest in the former case, the witnesses in the latter, are bound conjointly with the contracting parties themselves to provide that the marriage be entered as soon as possible in the prescribed registers.

X. Parish priests who violate the rules here laid down are to be punished by their Ordinaries according to the nature and gravity of their transgression. Moreover if they assist at the marriage of anybody in violation of the rules given under (II) and (III) of No. V, they are not to appropriate the stole-fees, but must remit them to the parish priest of the contracting parties.

XI. (1) The above laws are binding on all persons baptised in the Catholic Church, and on those who have been converted to it from heresy or schism (even when either the latter or the former have fallen away afterwards from the Church), in all cases of betrothal or marriage.

(II) The same laws are binding also, on such Catholics, if they