



**ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE of ORANGE**

Tribunal and Office of Canonical Services  
Diocesan Pastoral Center  
13280 Chapman Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92840  
Tel.: 714 - 282-3080  
Fax: 714 - 282-3087

### **Finding Sacramental Records**

Are you looking for sacramental records? A recent certificate of baptism or other sacraments is usually required to receive other sacraments. Especially for those preparing for marriage, there is a need to find sacramental records.

All baptismal records for the Diocese of Orange are kept at the parish of baptism. Indeed, all sacramental records in the Diocese of Orange are kept only at the parish where that particular sacrament was celebrated.

*\*\*Please note that our sacramental records are private, and not part of the public domain. Therefore, they are not open to the general public for genealogical research.*

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### **Obtaining Records from a Parish**

If you know the name of the parish, please contact that parish directly. If you have a general idea of which parish it may be, or know the geographic area, [please click here for our parish directory](#).

When you contact a parish to request a baptismal certificate, please be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your name at birth
  - Date of birth
  - Date of baptism or approximate year (if known)
  - Mother's maiden name
  - Father's name
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### **Tips for Finding Records**

1. Assuming you are looking for your baptismal certificate, did you ever receive First Communion, Confirmation, or Matrimony in the Catholic Church? Parishes celebrating these other sacraments are supposed to send that information (a notation only, not the certificate) back to the parish of baptism, so if you contact the parishes of these other sacraments that may point you back to the parish of baptism. Please note that the parish of baptism cannot give you your certificate for First Communion, Confirmation, etc.; it would just have a notation that you received that sacrament (elsewhere). Sacramental certificates are only available from the parish where you celebrated that sacrament.

For birth or marriage records, you can also contact the County Clerk-Recorder Office. For more information regarding Hours & Locations [please click here](#).

2. Where were your sisters and brothers baptized? Sometimes siblings were baptized together, or at least at the same parish.

3. What address did you live at when you were baptized? We can check the map book and see in what parish that address geographically belongs.

4. Do you know the priest's or deacon's name who baptized you? If so, we can check the clergy records and see where he was stationed at the time.



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5. Is there any remembrance of the parish?

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### **Records from Military Bases**

Were you baptized on a U.S. military base, either in the U.S. or abroad? If so, your records should be at the Military Archdiocese:

Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.  
Office of Sacramental Records  
P.O. Box 4469  
Washington, DC 20017-0469  
phone: (202) 719-3605  
fax: (202) 269-1002  
webpage for sacramental record requests:  
<https://milarch.org/index/sacramental-records>

Please send a request to the Military Archdiocese by postal mail, fax, or on-line, not by phone. It takes two to six weeks to process a request, with their busiest time from mid-January through mid-June.

Each certificate costs the Military Archdiocese more than \$25.00 to produce, process, maintain, and mail. Donations are gratefully accepted.

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### **Donations for Records**

No matter which parish, diocese, or archdiocese provides you the baptismal certificate, it would be kind to send a donation once you have received your certificate to help the entity recover its expenses (searching the records for the certificate, typing it up with the notations of the other sacraments, mailing it).

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### **For Further Assistance**

We hope these questions help you in your search.

If you need further assistance or would like to be directed to your local diocese or archdiocese, please feel free to contact the Tribunal. You may also find a listing of dioceses and archdioceses at the [Website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#).

Thank you. Best wishes in your search.

*Tribunal and Office of Canonical Services*

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