

English Translation of  
Prot.N.15944/2017  
Vatican City, 13 June 2017

(omisis)

This Pontifical Council has received your letter on May 25, 2015, in which you have asked for an explanation regarding the Interdiocesan Tribunal referred to in can. 1673, § 2, CIC (*MIDI*).

The interdiocesan tribunals are erected according to the norm of can. 1423 CIC which states: “In substitution of diocesan tribunals, mentioned in cc. 1419-1421, several diocesan Bishops, with the approval of the Apostolic See, can jointly establish a single tribunal of first instance for their dioceses; in this case, the group of Bishops or the Bishop designated by them have all "the powers that correspond to the diocesan Bishop over his tribunal. / § 2. The tribunals referred to in § 1 may be constituted for all causes or only for certain types of them”.

Consequently, for the erection of the tribunal, it is necessary, above all, that there is common agreement among the Bishops concerned. If there is, they will then ask the Holy See, in this specific case, the apostolic Signatura for the authorization to erect such a tribunal. It seems that the Apostolic Signatura is inclined to examine such requests, in view of granting the authorization, when the requesting Bishops do not belong to the same metropolitan. However, if they belong to the same ecclesiastical province, it is sufficient that the Apostolic Signatura be informed of the decision of the Bishops by which they establish the interdiocesan tribunal.

(omisis)