



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE of RALEIGH
OFFICE OF PROPERTY & CONSTRUCTION

NORMS AND GUIDELINES FOR DESIGN

2026 Updates – See full document for details

Throughout	Formatting and minor language adjustments.
Section 2, b. Design for Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement	New policy requiring systems and equipment to be designed and located for ease and efficiency of future maintenance, repair, and replacement.
Section 2, h. Digital Displays within Churches	New policy requiring review prior to installation, defining placement and content requirements, and clarifying copyright considerations.
Section 2, i. Security Cameras	New policy prohibiting audio recording except in limited livestream/intercom situations and requiring discreet placement.
Section 2, j. Defibrillators and First-Aid Kits	Relocated existing policy from the Planning & Construction Manual which encourages installation in new and existing facilities.
Section 2, o. Reconciliation Room	Updated policy to add limiting sound transmission of normal speech levels to adjacent spaces in new Reconciliation Rooms
Section 2, p. Staff Toilet Facilities	New policy requiring dedicated staff toilet rooms in new staff-occupied buildings.
Section 2, q. Rectory Resident Suites	Relocated existing policy from the Planning & Construction Manual which requires a suite (bedroom, bathroom, sitting room) for each permanent occupant of a rectory.
Section 3, d. On-Site Retention Ponds	Updated policy to revise fencing language to recommend placement 20' outside the crest of the berm for maintenance access.



Section 3, e. Burial of the Deceased	New policy encouraging inclusion of space for burial of the deceased within new or updated Master Plans.
Section 3, f. Rectory and Parish Offices	Relocated existing policy from the Planning & Construction Manual which requires new office and living spaces to be under separate roofs.
Section 4, c. Accessible Parking	Updated policy to recommend that any accessible spaces exceeding the minimum code requirement be marked as “Limited Mobility” in lieu of posting and striping as additional accessible spaces.
Section 5, b: Master Plan	Updated policy to include zoning, storm-water, impervious or built-upon area, utilities, and parking requirements. Master Plans shall indicated the total impervious area and number of parking spaces broken down by phase as applicable.
Section 5, c: Schematic Design	Updated policy to include a preliminary grading plan and utility placement for more complicated sites. Floor plans shall indicate room square footages and ceiling plan height. Church floor plans shall indicate seating count calculated per building code, seating count of any future expansion, and overall sanctuary dimensions and furnishing layout.
Section 5, d: Design Development	Updated policy to require a section drawing through the nave for church projects showing the site lines to the Altar.

