



## RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY VISA (National Visa)

You must submit all required documents. Visa applicants **must appear in person** to submit their visa request at this Consulate General or at the appropriate Honorary Consul (please see the [Consular Network](#) link on our website).

Applicants must pay the **national visa fee** for this visa.

Applicants must submit the following documents in original:

- **Passport** or travel document accepted by the Schengen countries valid for a period of 3 months beyond the applicant's last day of stay abroad. The passport must have a blank page on which the visa will be affixed. (**plus: photocopy of the official page with personal data and expiration date, plus page with signature if it does not appear on the same page**).
- **Proof of physical residence** in our jurisdiction, such as driver's license, state ID, or utility bill.
- **Proof of legal permanent residence** in the United States (only **non-U.S.** citizens): U.S. Alien Registration Card or valid long-term U.S. visa, valid for at least three months beyond the intended departure from the Schengen member states. **U.S. visas B1/B2 visas are not acceptable for this purpose.** If you have a B1 or B2 visa, you cannot apply for the Schengen tourist visa. (**plus: photocopy of the residence card or the passport page with the long-term U.S. visa**).
- **One** recent ICAO standard **photograph**: 45mm (1,77 inch) by 35mm (1,37 inch) in size, full face, front view, color. It must be glued to the Schengen visa application form, in the top right.
- **One [Schengen visa application form](#)** (for those staying 90 days or less) **[Long stay visa application form](#)** (for those staying longer than 90 days) completely and clearly filled out.
- **The national visa application fee** must be paid in exact amount by **cashier's check** or **money order** upon presentation of the visa application regardless of the outcome of the request. The fee adjusts every three months - Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – based on the government's official euro-dollar exchange rate.
- **Round-trip tickets or booking**
- **Documentation of religious qualification** specifically stating the applicant's position within his/her congregation/parish in the U.S. and assignment in Italy
- **Documentation of religious event or activity** from the applicant's congregation/parish in Italy, specifying:
  - The purpose of the trip
  - The name and address of the organization where the applicant intends to stay
  - The length of stay
  - That the applicant's personal needs will be met in full by the congregation/parish in Italy,
  - The letter must bear the official seal of the relevant authority from the Holy See



- Proof of economic means of support, generally in the form of a recent bank statement. The account balance must equal or exceed the minimums established by the Ministry of the Interior's Directive of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000 ([available here](#)). Alternately, the congregation/parish can assume responsibility for the applicant.
- **Health insurance** with a minimum coverage of \$30,000 for emergency hospital services and repatriation. The letter from the insurance company must specifically state that the applicant is covered while in the Schengen territories.
- **One [Declaration for Mailing Passports](#)** completely and clearly filled out and a **self-addressed** (from yourself and to yourself) **pre-paid US Postal Service envelope** so that your passport can be mailed back to you.

Consular officers may request additional documents at their discretion. **Please be aware that submitting the required documentation does not guarantee the issuance of a visa.**

We strongly urge you to take a photocopy of the application and supporting documents with you to Italy, because the domestic immigration authorities may ask you to show the documents submitted to obtain a visa. There are nine time zones of difference between us and them, so if the authorities must wait for us to send them those documents, it may be inconvenient for you.