

Information to Catholics on the Catholic Church's Membership Register in Denmark.

The Catholic Church in Denmark has an electronic register (CR) over all members in Denmark. This information includes your name, address, date of birth, and if possible your CPR-number. Besides this, there is also information regarding baptism, confirmation, 1st. Communion, reception into the Church, marriage and death. In addition, there is registered other church ceremonies as well as any special ministries of service, which one has had in the Church. This is to your advantage should you later wish to certify the one or the other church ceremony or ministry, of which you have been a part.

As we know, it is expected that all members support their church. The best way to do this is to pay to your parish church through the Bishop's Office by agreement a specific amount each year. This church tax agreement gives you the right to declare your donations as tax free. This means that you do not pay any tax on the amount you donate. However, the Danish state requires that our church also has your CPR-number to certify that you have paid the agreed upon amount, should the tax department check. This is to your advantage as well as for the church. (All organizations in Denmark now have to have the CPR-number to register their members as members who can be counted upon for support or deductions.) All this information is confidential and can only be received by the pastor and his secretary. Other information, such as the amount you donate, *is not shared even with your parish priest.* The Vicar General and the one from the Bishop's Office who works with finances are the only ones who know your donation and gifts. The Vicar General is the responsible person for the central register; he alone gives access to this register and it is only to a specific person, primarily the pastor of your parish.

Since the register is first to be filled out in your parish, we ask you to send or give to the pastor the information requested. He will send it further. The one exception is any information on your church tax donations. This is confidential knowledge between you and the Bishop's Office. Your personal information found in the registry can always be attained by asking the priest of your parish. Should it be necessary to correct any of your information, these corrections will be made in the central register after the Bishop's Office receives the information.

*(This is a condensation and translation of the letter by the Vicar General,
Prælat Lars Messerschmidt, given 19 May 2008.)*