

§5200 EXTERN PRIESTS

Extern priests are those priests living outside the jurisdiction of their diocese or religious community.

§5201 MINISTRY

5201.1. Policy With due regard for the faculties granted to priests according to canon law, all priests who are not incardinated in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois shall be required to obtain the permission and faculties of the Diocese in order to exercise a ministry which involves the care of souls, the public exercise of divine worship, or some other work of the apostolate on a stable basis, that is, for six months or longer (cf. cc. 392 and 678, §1). A priest who is expected to be present in the Diocese for less than six months may be permitted to celebrate the sacraments if he is known to the pastor or rector of the church or if he presents a valid *Letter of Suitability*, issued by his ordinary or superior within the year.

§5202 RESIDENCE

5202.1. Policy Extern priests shall not be accepted for residence in a rectory or religious house without prior written permission of the Bishop or his delegate.

§5203 EMPLOYMENT

5203.1. Policy Employment of an extern priest shall not commence until approval is received from the Bishop or his delegate.

5203.2. Policy Approval for employment of an extern priest shall not be granted unless he has the permission and Letter of Suitability from his diocesan bishop or religious superior.

5203.3. Policy It shall be the responsibility of an extern priest from a foreign country to comply with all applicable immigration laws and regulations, including, where applicable, any needed authorization to be employed. Necessary letters of invitation or sponsorship shall be provided by the Vicar General or Vicar for Priests, as required and appropriate, to assist an extern priest in securing his required immigration status.

§5204 FUNDRAISING

5204.1. Policy As a general rule, extern priests shall not be permitted to engage in fundraising activities (see Policy Book V §9000, Fundraising for Missions Policy §9003.1).

§5205 FACULTIES

5205.1. Policy Faculties for extern priests are granted by the Diocesan Bishop only upon presentation of a letter of permission from their proper Ordinary, in accord with the requirements of any pertinent agreement between the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the proper episcopal conference of the extern priest. As a general rule, faculties are granted only to priests residing in a rectory or a religious house.

5205.2. Policy Religious priests who are externs shall be granted faculties by the Diocesan Bishop only upon written presentation by the competent religious superior (cf. c. 971). (The term “religious priest” is intended to include priests who are members of institutes of consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, personal prelatures, associations of the Christian faithful, and any other forms of non-diocesan priestly communities.)

5205.3. Policy The issuance, denial, extension or revocation of faculties, as well as any condition on their exercise or duration, are, in accord with the norm of law, within the sole discretion of the Bishop or his delegate.

Procedures

- a) Each extern priest must provide a letter from his proper Ordinary indicating the priest's current status, permission for his ministry in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, the length of time for such permission, an indication of his ministerial background and experience, and a description of any other special considerations pertaining to the priest's stay here.

This letter must also contain a statement about the priest's current status, background, character and reputation. Any history problems with substance abuse, violations of celibacy, sexual impropriety, physical abuse, or financial impropriety must be reported. In particular, the priest's proper Ordinary must certify that he is unaware of anything in the priest's background which would render him unsuitable to work with minors. The information will be maintained in a confidential manner.

- b) If required by any pertinent agreement between the USCCB and the episcopal conference of the extern priest, appropriate letters must also be provided by the USCCB's Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees and the proper episcopal conference of the extern priest.
- c) As provided by canon 271, these procedures and the extern priest's letter of appointment shall constitute the written agreement describing the extern priest's rights and duties in his ministerial assignment.

§5206 SEXUAL MISCONDUCT WITH A MINOR

5206.1. Policy Extern priests shall abide by the Diocesan policies and procedures relating to sexual misconduct with minors. (See Book II, §100)

Procedure

- a) If an extern priest exercising public ministry or an apostolate in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is accused of sexual misconduct with a minor, the Diocese must confer with the competent ordinary. The Diocese will determine whether or not the priest may continue to exercise a ministry which involves the care of souls, the public exercise of divine worship, or some other work of the apostolate (cf. cc. 392 and 678, §1). If the Diocese determines that an extern priest may no longer exercise any ministry in the Diocese, his faculties will be revoked, and his proper Ordinary will be requested to recall the priest immediately.
- b) If sexual misconduct with a minor is alleged to have occurred, the Diocese retains the right to initiate the process of investigation and take whatever action it deems appropriate. Any determination about return to ministry and restoration of faculties will be made according to Diocesan policies and procedures.

§5207 DISCLAIMER AND SANCTIONS

5207.1. Policy Any priest who exercises ministry contrary to these policies and procedures for extern priests, or any pastor, administrator or rector of a church who so permits a priest to function does so illicitly and without the permission of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois. After a warning and admonishment or rebuke, culpable violation may be punished with a just penalty (cf. cc. 1352, 1319, 1339, 1347, 1384 and 1389).

§5208 BENEFITS FOR EXTERN PRIESTS

- (1) Pay according to the Decree of Compensation for Priests.
- (2) Free room and board in rectory.
- (3) Mass stipends according to Diocesan and Provincial Norms.
- (4) Health insurance:
 - a) Diocesan coverage provided through the Commission for Priests Benefits (cost of premium is paid by parish or agency);
 - b) If priest is covered by his own diocese or religious order, and it is willing to continue coverage, the parish shall reimburse the Diocese or Order (proof required).
- (5) Eligible to elect or be elected to the Presbyteral Council (c. 498, §1, 2^o)
- (6) No life insurance.
- (7) No pension benefits
- (8) No term of office or right to reassignment.
- (9) One week of religious retreat per year.
- (10) Up to one month of vacation per year (cf. cc. 283, §2; 550, §3).