

MINISTER TO PRIESTS JOB DESCRIPTION

RATIONALE

Ministry to priests should be a priority for the Diocese of Lafayette. The future of our parish and diocesan ministries depends most directly upon the spiritual, physical and emotional health of our priests.

The Minister to Priests is charged with the responsibility of promoting the personal and spiritual well-being of the priests of the Diocese of Lafayette. He is to foster the fraternal bond that unites priests into one presbyterate of diocesan, religious, active and retired priests. He is to be an advocate for priests. As such he conveys to the Bishop the hopes and needs of priests. This position in no way impedes the freedom of access of priests with the Bishop. He is to encourage priests in the appreciation of the dignity of their calling and will provide priests a confidential setting in which they can find assistance and counsel.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Minister to Priests should be a priest who:

1. Is demonstrably a man of prayer, balance, experience and personal character in order to impact positively the lives of priests.
2. Is capable of maintaining confidentiality within appropriate boundaries in order to respect the lives and privacy of priests.
3. Is able to relate warmly, compassionately and comfortably with priests as brothers in the Lord.
4. Is willing and able to devote the majority of his time and energies to the well-being of the presbyterate.
5. Is able to relate to all priests regardless of their theological perspective.
6. Has earned the respect of the presbyterate.
7. Is flexible, creative and seeks ongoing formation for himself.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The activities of the Minister to Priests include but are not limited to the following:

1. Contact priests in order to offer personal support and affirmation. Each priest within the Diocese is to be contacted at least twice per year.
2. Be available to pray with, counsel, absolve and/or give spiritual direction in a confidential setting. He shall maintain an office away from Immaculata Center.
3. Take a special interest in the newly ordained, priests transitioning from one ministry to another, those retiring, or those experiencing personal or ministerial difficulties.

4. Advocate priests' concerns to the Bishop and diocesan administration.
5. Encourage priests individually and collectively to be responsible for their own continued growth and spiritual well-being.
6. Serve as a consultant to the Council of Priests, Continuing Formation Advisory Board and Priests' Welfare Committee.
7. Develop and promote priests' support groups.
8. Give particular attention to priests who are in recovery and be knowledgeable of professional resources available for priests.
9. Promote positive living situations for retired priests.
10. Seek ongoing professional training and consultation as a Minister to Priests.
11. Maintain membership in professional organizations deemed beneficial to his ministry to priests.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Minister to Priests is specifically responsible and accountable to the Bishop.

TERM

The Minister to Priests is appointed to a four (4) year term.

Approved +Michael J. Jurek

Date August 15, 2006