



Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls
Office of the Bishop

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Decree

DONALD

By the Grace of God and Favor of the Holy See

BISHOP OF SIOUX FALLS

To all the Priests and Deacons of the Diocese of Sioux Falls and serving in the same:

In recent months, diocesan policies and guidelines including the procedures affecting the role of the consultative body of priests of the Diocese of Sioux Falls have been reviewed. Suggested revisions to the existing policies were made in an effort to assure their compliance with Canon Law, their consistency with observed protocols, and their inclusion of all priests in the process that leads to the formulation of a Council's composition.


Having received the present Council of Priest's recommendation during its May 5, 2023 meeting that these revised statutes be implemented and Canonical counsel's assurance that they are consistent with the law of the Church, and after having personally reviewed these revisions, I hereby decree

the Statutes of the Council of Priests, the Duties of the College of Consultors and Duties of the Deans, into effect.

All previous Statutes are to be considered abrogated.

Given at the Chancery this twenty-sixth day of June, Monday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time, in the Year of Consecrated Life in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-three.


Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood
Bishop of Sioux Falls


Mr. Thad A Pals
Chancellor



Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

STATUTES OF THE PRIESTS COUNCIL

Article One: Name

The Priests Council of the Diocese of Sioux Falls

Article Two: Purpose

The Priests Council, representing the priests of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, assists the bishop in his governance of the Diocese according to the norm of law in order to promote as much as possible the pastoral good of the portion of the people of God entrusted to him. This Council is the primary consultative body of the priests of the Diocese.

Article Three: Officers and their Duties

- A. Unless the bishop decides to chair the Council, a chairman is elected from among its members to conduct Council meetings.
- B. The bishop determines the agenda in consultation with the chairman, if there is one, after having invited and considered topic proposals from the Council members.
- C. The bishop designates, with the advice of the Council, other officers for other administrative functions of the Council as he determines necessary.

Article Four: Membership

Membership on the Priests Council comes from four distinct groups:

- 1) *Ex officio* -The auxiliary bishop (if any), the vicar(s) general, and the vicar of lay and clergy formation. *Ex officio* members of the Council serve for as long as their appointment to the canonical office remains active.
- 2) Appointed -One priest is appointed from each deanery of the Diocese by the Bishop to serve as vicar forane (Can. 553 §2) and as the representative to the Council. Appointed deans serve until otherwise notified.

3) Elections –

- a. One priest is elected from each deanery (up to 6) of the Diocese by the fellow priests of each deanery to serve as its representative to the Council. The dean appointed by the Bishop is eligible to be elected, but is not required to be elected.
- b. One senior priest is to be elected from among the priests incardinated with the Diocese of Sioux Falls who have retired from Diocesan assignments.

Elected members of the Priest Council serve a term of three years.

4) Other – The Chancellor shall serve as a non-voting member and act as the recorder of the Priests Council.

The Council shall be composed of at least nine members.

Article Five: Elections

A. Elections for Representatives to the Council occur within each deanery. The chancellor of the Diocese will conduct the election.

1) Eligibility to Vote

All priests, Secular (incardinated or from another Diocese) and Religious, who have been assigned to fulfill an active assignment in the Diocese and whose principal residence is within the deanery may vote for the representative from that deanery to serve as a member of the Priests Council.

When conducting an election, priests incardinated in the Diocese but fulfilling an assignment outside the Diocese will be considered members of the deanery where they resided immediately prior to their assignment outside the Diocese.

2) Eligibility to be Elected

Only those priests enjoying an active assignment in the Diocese and residing within the particular Deanery that is voting may be elected as a deanery representative to the Council. Secular (incardinated or from another Diocese) and Religious priests are eligible to serve provided they are fulfilling the Diocesan assignment.

3) Ties in Elections

In the event of a tie, the more senior priest by Orders will be considered elected.

4) Term Limit

The elected Priest representatives serve a term of three years. No elected member can be elected for more than two consecutive terms.

B) An election for the Senior Priest, as representative to the Council occurs from within the subset of the presbyterate. The chancellor of the Diocese will conduct the election.

I) Eligibility to Vote

a) All senior priests incardinated in the Diocese are eligible to vote for the senior priest representative. Residency shall have no bearing on the eligibility of senior/retired priests to participate in the election.

2) Eligibility to be Elected

a) All senior priests incardinated in the Diocese are eligible to serve as the Senior Priest representative on the Council regardless of the location of his residence.

3) Ties in Elections

In the event of a tie, the more senior, senior priest by Orders will be considered elected.

4) Term Limit

The elected senior priest representative serves a term of three years. No elected member can be elected for more than two consecutive terms.

Article Six: Change in Status of Council Members

In the event of the priest assignment change, death, retirement, or resignation of an elected member of the Priests Council, the chancellor of the Diocese will be directed by the bishop to conduct an election of a representative within the deanery whose representative is no longer able to serve for the remainder of the vacated term.



Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

DUTIES OF THE COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS

The College of Consultors is comprised of priests appointed by the Bishop. Priests appointed to the College must be serving on the Council of Priests at the time of their appointment. The Bishop must appoint at least six and no more than twelve from the Council to the College.

Consultors are appointed to the College for five-year terms. In the event the priest appointed to the College discontinues serving on the Council of Priests, the term as consultor shall remain in effect. Location of residency or assignment shall have no bearing on a priest's appointment to the College.

The duties of the diocesan College of Consultors are as follows:

1. Give consent before a diocesan administrator may permit excommunication, incardination or migration of clergy after the See has been vacant for one year (c. 272);
2. Give consent for the administrator to remove the chancellor or other notaries;
3. Be consulted before hiring or dismissing the diocesan fiscal manager (c. 494);
4. Give consent for acts of extraordinary administration (c. 1277);
5. Give consent to alienate diocesan property (c. 1292).

Functions of the College of Consultors if the See is NOT vacant:

1. For the appointment of a coadjutor bishop, the papal legate is to seek the view of some of the members of the college (c. 377§3).
2. The coadjutor bishop takes possession of his office by showing the apostolic letters of appointment to the diocesan bishop and the college (c. 404§ I).
3. If the diocesan bishop is wholly impeded, the newly appointed coadjutor or auxiliary bishop is to show the letters of appointment to the college (c. 404§3).
4. Having consulted the diocesan finance council and college, the bishop appoints the diocesan finance officer (c. 494§ I).
5. The bishop may remove the diocesan finance officer before the end of the term of office for a grave reason after having heard the college and the diocesan finance council (c. 494§2).
6. The diocesan bishop must consult the college and the diocesan finance council concerning acts of administration of major importance (c. 1277, See USCCB Statutes).
7. For certain acts of extraordinary financial administration, the bishop must have the consent of the college and the diocesan finance council (c. 1277, See USCCB Statutes).
8. The bishop needs the consent of the college and the diocesan finance council, as determined by the conference of bishops, for the alienation of temporal goods belonging to the diocese and to juridical persons subject to the bishop (c.1292§I).

Duties of the College of Consultors in the Event the See is Vacant

1. The council of priests and its functions are fulfilled by the college (c. 501 §2).
2. When the See has been vacant for one year, the diocesan administrator may with the consent of the college grant a cleric excommunication, incardination and transfer to another particular church (C. 272).
3. The papal legate must seek the view of some of the members of the college concerning the appointment of the new diocesan bishop (C. 377§3).
4. The new diocesan bishop takes possession of his see by showing his apostolic letters of appointment to the college (C. 382§3).
5. When the see becomes vacant, if there is no auxiliary bishop, the government of the diocese passes to the college until the election of a diocesan administrator (C. 419).
6. When there is no auxiliary bishop, the college is to notify the Apostolic See that the diocesan bishop has died (C. 422).
7. Within eight days of being notified that the see is vacant, the college is to elect a diocesan administrator (C. 421§1).
8. The diocesan administrator is to make a profession of faith in the presence of the college (C. 833§4).
9. The diocesan administrator may give dismissorial letters for the secular clergy with the consent of the college (C. 1018§ 1 & 2).



Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls

DUTIES OF THE DEAN

The bishop will appoint a dean to serve as his *vicar forane* (c.553 §2) in each of the respective six deaneries. The appointment is *ad discretionem episcopi*.

The duties of the Deans reserved to the geographical area of the deanery to which they have been appointed to serve the Pastors, Parochial Vicars and Deacons of his Deanery include: (c. 555)

1. Promote and coordinate common pastoral action; (§ 1, 1^o)
 - a. The primary diocesan liaison to the pastors of the deanery for the purposes of advancing the aims of *Set Ablaze*.
 - b. The Deans will check-in with pastors weekly or as needed in order to collect “field reports” to relay to the bishop, identify trends in successes or difficulties, and identify resourcing needs of particular pastorates. This information will be shared with the Vicar General with responsibility for *Set Ablaze*.
 - c. Promote accountability to pastoral planning phases and milestones; promote accountability to implementation of approved pastoral plans; avoid a zero-defect, risk avoidance mentality; and encourage experimentation and boldness.
 - d. Foster a leadership culture among pastors that embraces *Set Ablaze* with joy, courage, clarity, and authentic priestly fatherhood in order to infuse these same values within the entire presbyterate of each deanery.
 - e. Throughout *Set Ablaze*, cultivate apostolic communion among pastors in order to renew the sense that priestly ministry flows from the bishop’s *munera* to teach, sanctify, and govern.
2. Seeks to promote fraternity and mutual support among the priests and deacons of the Deanery;
 - a. Promoting social gatherings.
 - b. Coordinating opportunities for shared prayer and reflection.
 - c. Encouraging participation in fraternal groups.
 - d. Being present and attentive to individual priests or deacons in time of illness, trial or difficulty.
3. Fosters communication between priests and deacons of the Deanery and the Diocesan Bishop;
 - a. Proactively presents ideas/initiatives, needs, questions, and feedback from priests and deacons of the Deanery to the Diocesan Bishop, especially through participation on the Council of Priests.
 - b. Works on behalf of the Diocesan Bishop.
 - i. To organize clergy cooperation with the Bishop’s initiatives and requests.
 - ii. To solicit, summarize, and communicate requested feedback to the Bishop from priests and deacons as requested.
4. Promotes common pastoral action by:
 - a. Identifying common needs among pastorates in the Deanery.
 - b. Fostering formation opportunities (retreats, speaker engagements, formation opportunities for laity and/or clergy) of common interest that can best be met on a regional (as opposed to parish) level
 - c. Animates coordination of Communal Penance services, days of prayer, processions and similar matters on a seasonal basis throughout the year.
 - d. Invites collaboration of Deanery clergy in proposing strategies of shared action and resources among pastorates to meet the needs of parishioners in the Deanery in a fruitful and sustainable way.
5. Works with Pastors in the deanery to ensure:
 - a. Liturgical discipline
 - b. Proper keeping of Sacramental records

- c. Proper administration of ecclesiastical goods
 - d. Suitable upkeep of parish facilities and liturgical items (furnishings, vessels, vestments, etc.)
 - e. Development and updating of a summary “snapshot” of the needs and opportunities pertaining to each Pastor’s assignment
6. Has a special solicitude to help the Vicar General (Set Ablaze) attend, especially to following in the Deanery:
 - a. Newly ordained
 - b. Pastor-Parochial Vicar Relationships
 - c. Pastor-Deacon Relationships
 - d. First Time Pastors
 - e. Retired Priests
 7. Works on behalf of the Vicar General (Set Ablaze) to help clarify and constructively resolve conflicts or complaints directed to the Chancery about a priest or deacon’s ministry which have not been effectively resolved through direct engagement between the complainant and the cleric.

Additional Canonical duties per the universal law of the Church:

1. See that clerical life and duties are suitably carried out; (§ 1, 2°)
2. Ensure that religious functions are celebrated according to the requirements of the sacred liturgy, in clean, properly maintained places, especially regarding the offering of the Holy Eucharist and reservation of the Blessed Sacrament; (§ 1,3°)
3. Ensure that parish registers are properly entered and safeguarded, ecclesiastical goods are carefully administered and that proper care is also given to rectories; (§ 1, 3°)
4. Encourage the clergy of their deanery to attend prescribed formation & continuing education offerings, retreats, conferences and meetings; (§ 2, 1°)
5. See that priests have spiritual assistance, especially those in difficult circumstances or troubled by personal difficulties; (§ 2, 2°)
6. Have special concern for priests who are ill; (§ 2, 3°)
7. See that funerals of priests are worthily celebrated; (§ 2, 3°)
8. Ensure that parish resources, records, furnishings and property are not lost or removed at the time of the priest's death; (§ 2, 3°)