

§400 PRIESTS' RESIDENCE

§401 ORDINARY ARRANGEMENT

401.1. Policy Priests shall live in the housing provided by the parish or institution to which they are assigned.

§402 EXCEPTION FOR SERIOUS REASONS

In certain circumstances, serious reasons relating to a priest's personal life or ministry may compel him to petition for an alternate residence. In regard to such situations, it is important to note the observations of the Bishops' Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry document, "The Priest and Stress":

A priest's working conditions are also important. They should be such that his work space and living space are separated. Some diocesan priests find living in community with other priests uplifting. In certain situations, it may be valuable for priests of an area, each of whom is living alone, to explore the possibility of a common residence.(p. 17)

With regard to a priest's living conditions, a diocese should explore other possibilities in order to eliminate abuses, provide support, and give spiritual witness to the local church.(p. 21)

The priestly profession is one that must work within an ecclesial community that is sometimes polarized. Sometimes, vastly differing notions of faith, ecclesiology, law and ministry are to be found within the same rectory. This is a cause of tension, especially when the individuals must not only work together, but share common living arrangements.(p.9)

402.1. Policy A priest shall have the opportunity to petition his Episcopal Vicar for an alternate residence.

Note

In the case of a priest working full-time for an agency or institution, the priest would present his request for alternate residence to the Priests' Placement Board and the Department Director.

402.2. Policy The Episcopal Vicar is authorized to approve another ecclesiastical residence for a parish priest after consulting other parish priests involved. Part of this consultation shall be a contract between the priest who is going to live elsewhere, the pastor, and other parish priests regarding mutual responsibilities.

§403 REMUNERATION

403.1. Policy After the Episcopal Vicar has approved an ecclesiastical residence for a parish priest, other than the parish to which he has been assigned, the parish to which he has been assigned has certain financial obligations to the parish in which the priest lives. The parish to which the priest has been assigned will pay the parish in which the priest lives the same amount which the Priest Retirement and Mutual Aid Association pays to a parish which houses a retired priest who did not retire from the parish.

§404 NON-ECCLESIASTICAL RESIDENCE

404.1. Policy Living in a non-ecclesiastical residence should be available only in special circumstances requiring the approval of the archbishop.

404.2. Policy It is the presumption that this approval will be granted only under the most special circumstances. When the Archbishop has given his approval for a priest to live in a non-ecclesiastical residence, the parish or agency to which the priest is assigned will pay for the priest's board. The amount of the board payment will be the same amount which the Priest's Retirement and Mutual Aid Association pays to a parish which houses a retired priest who did not retire from that parish. With the Archbishop's approval the parish or agency to which the priest is assigned will pay the rent and/or assessments on the priest non-ecclesiastical residence. If the non-ecclesiastical residence is a property owned by the priest or a member of the priest's family, the parish or agency to which he is assigned will not be responsible for its mortgage payments.

404.3. Policy If the Archbishop grants a non-retired priest permission to live in a non-ecclesiastical domicile because of health reasons or some other special need, financial arrangements will be determined by the Vicars for Priests and Priest's Retirement and Mutual Aid Association.

§405 POLICY REVIEW

405.1. Policy Section 400 shall be reviewed by the Deans and Presbyteral Council every three years.