

## **§300 DIACONATE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

### **§301 INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY COUNSELING**

*The tremendous demands made on marriages today can often be heightened by the additional challenge of ministry. The Cardinal has made these supportive services available and encourages their use.*

**301.1. Policy** Should any individual or family within the Diaconate Community need the services of trained counselors, contact the Office of the Vicar for appropriate Counseling.

### **§302 CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY PROBLEMS**

**302.1. Policy** A Chemical Dependency Advisory Team has been formed to minister to members of the Diaconate Community (Deacons, wives, family members). The purpose is to provide comfort and aid should any of deacons suffer from this disease, or should they be affected by another family member who does.

#### ***Procedures***

- a) This dependency takes many forms: alcohol, the myriad drugs now available. While one may not be directly involved in such abuse, he may be deeply affected by a spouse, a parent, or child. All those affected need assistance.
- b) The team of trained men and women from our diaconal community is available on a 24-hour a day basis. When responding to a call either by phone or in person, the team member or members will gather information relative to the problem, assess the need and formulate a response.
- c) The team is familiar with various treatment programs and self-help groups. They will also be available to ascertain what financial assistance might be available for such help through medical insurance and through Archdiocesan programs.
- d) Confidentiality will be maintained at all times in every instance.

**§303 MUTUAL AID FUND**

**303.1. Policy** In the spirit of service to our brothers and sisters in Christ, the Mutual Aid Fund of the Diaconate Community of the Archdiocese of Chicago exists to provide aid to the deacons and their families in times of need. The need may be in the form of spiritual support during a period of personal crisis, counseling or financial assistance in a time of hardship.

**Procedures**

- a) Funds in support of the Mutual Aid activities shall be raised through the efforts of the Diaconate Council, from the Diaconate Community at large, and other interested parties. This shall be accomplished via periodic mailings requesting donations to the Diaconate Mutual Aid Fund and other such methods as the Diaconate Council deems appropriate.
- b) The identification of those in need shall be the responsibility of the entire Diaconate Community. This responsibility shall be communicated to each deacon through the various publications of the Diaconate Community of the Archdiocese of Chicago, at deanery meetings of the deacons, at various public gatherings of the Diaconate Community and at other gatherings when appropriate.
- c) The Mutual Aid Fund shall be administered by the Executive Committee of the Diaconate Council. The Executive Committee of the Diaconate Council consists of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
- d) Knowledge of a needy deacon or his family should be communicated to a member of the Executive Committee. It shall then be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to determine the level of need through discussions and/or meetings with the individual deacon and offer the aid appropriate to the situation. When it is possible to use the professional resources of other agencies, such as Catholic Charities, such should be considered.
- e) The Treasurer of the Diaconate Council shall be responsible for the management of the financial resources of the Mutual Aid Fund. The Treasurer shall be required to make periodic reports to the Diaconate Council, and shall be required to report annually to the entire Diaconate Community the financial condition of the Mutual Aid Fund.