

POLICY FOR TENURE OF PASTORS

1. The office of pastor is of such an importance in the diocese that the priest named should be distinguished for his sound doctrine and integrity of morals. Furthermore, he should be endowed with a zeal for souls and possess the qualities necessary for him to care for the parish to which he is assigned. This office enjoys stability by the law itself. (cf. cc. 521-522)
2. The bishop, in solicitude for all of the souls entrusted to his care, can name a pastor for a specific period of time. A pastor in the diocese is named for a period of six years.
3. The assignment can be renewed for an additional six years, with the possibility of review and reassignment during these six years, depending on the needs of the diocese and the individual pastor.
4. After 12 years of service as pastor in a given parish, the priest is to be reassigned to another office in the diocese, unless special circumstances warrant that he continue in the present position. If the priest continues in the same assignment, his position is to be reviewed annually with the possibility of transfer.
5. If the transfer or removal of a pastor is necessary before the six-year term of office has been completed, the procedure found in the Code of Canon Law, cc.1740-1752, is to be followed.