

POLICY No. 8

ASSISTANCE TO PRIESTS IN NEED

Assistance to a priest in need is realized through a separate and independent Canadian corporation named **The Clergy Benefit Fund of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie (CBF)**.

1. Term definitions

Priests in need: priests who, due to illness or other legitimate impediments, are unable to be assigned to or continue to administer a parish, yet are not eligible to receive pension benefits from the Registered Pension Plan for priests.

2. Intent of the directive

To make certain that priests incardinated in the Diocese are cared for in an appropriate manner and to implement the prescriptions of Canon 281, §§2-3.

3. Policy

- a. A priest who is unable to continue to exercise the responsibilities of parish ministry shall first bring the matter to the attention of the Bishop.
- b. If necessary, one or more medical reports may be needed, explaining the nature of the disability to the Bishop.
- c. If authorized by the Diocesan Bishop, the priest may receive financial support from the **Clergy Benefit Fund of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie**, according to the policies of the fund. This support might not be the amount of a full salary.
- d. Additional requirements, such as money to cover living arrangements, special expenses, etc., shall be brought to the attention of the Board of CBF for approval.
- e. A priest who has sufficient personal funds to cover these unforeseen costs would be expected to assist, at least in part, to meet his own needs in order that the fund not be depleted and be available to those who are unable to provide, at least in a part, for themselves.
- f. If the incapacity to continue in ministry is not based on a medical condition, individual arrangements shall be made with the Board of CBF.

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