

## **POLICY No. 29**

### **FINANCING OF ABSENCES**

#### 1. Term definitions

An absence: a period of time approved by the Bishop or his delegate, during which a priest may undertake a renewal program, carry out a program of graduate studies, pursue non-ministerial work, or any other initiative.

#### 2. Intent of the directive

To provide a leave for priests incardinated in the diocese.

#### 3. Policy

##### **Absences**

- a. According to Canon 279, clerics are to continue their sacred studies even after ordination. At times determined by the law, they are to attend courses, theological meetings or conferences, which offer them an occasion to acquire further knowledge of the sacred sciences and of pastoral methods.
- b. The Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie or his delegate determines the duration of the absence.
- c. A priest who is granted a leave retains his office as assigned by the Bishop. The diocese is responsible for: tuition, room, board, required books, travel and the priest's full salary, but not personal items. The parish is responsible for the salary, room and board of the replacement priest. These expenses come from the Ministry Formation Fund.

##### **Sabbaticals**

- d. After the completion of seven (7) years of active full-time ministry, priests may request a sabbatical leave. Permission for a sabbatical leave depends upon the pastoral situation of the diocese, the personal needs of the priest, and the availability of approved programs.
- e. Policy No. 33 "Remuneration, Replacements, room and board", shall be applied in the case of priests assigned by the Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie for absences.