

RETREAT POLICY FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

*“In leading their lives clerics are especially bound to pursue holiness because they are consecrated to God by a new title of orders as dispensers of God’s mysteries in the service of His people. They are also bound to make a retreat according to the prescriptions of particular law”
(Canon 276.1 and 2°)*


If one is to pastor the flock of Christ, he must first of all shepherd his own soul. To that end, he must regularly make time for days of retreat and spiritual renewal, whereby he may be refreshed by the Lord, both in body and in spirit. Therefore, it is required that all priests of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas participate annually in a retreat, or comparable spiritual exercises. It is to include at least three full days of retreat time, with a spiritual director/retreat director available at the retreat.

Furthermore, it is the policy and practice of this diocese that diocesan priests in active ministry make a retreat in common with the presbyterate of the diocese every other year, in odd numbered years (e.g., 2019, 2021, 2023, etc.). In the even numbered years (e.g., 2020, 2022, 2024, etc.), this requirement may be satisfied elsewhere by a retreat or other suitable spiritual exercises. If priests choose to make a retreat elsewhere, he is to inform the bishop of the diocese, or his representative, as to the location and length of the retreat or spiritual exercise.

Every year, a diocesan-sponsored retreat will be available for the priests, including retired priests of the diocese and those serving in the diocese from religious communities, if they choose to attend.

Payment for the annual retreat is drawn from parish funds. If a priest decides to attend a retreat, other than the one offered in the diocese, parish funds are to be provided to him, according to the current amount allotted for the diocesan retreat. When necessary, due to travel costs, location of the retreat, etc., this amount may exceed the allotted diocesan amount, but within reason and without being financially excessive.

Policy promulgated on May 9, 2018 and revised on March 14, 2019.



Most Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, S.T.D.
Bishop
Diocese of Victoria in Texas