

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL

This manual has a two fold purpose:

1. to ensure that those who administer temporal goods belonging to parishes and to the diocese are aware of the civil and canonical legislation to which our Church is subject;
2. to be of assistance and guidance for those who accept to offer their services both at the parish and the diocesan level in the administration of temporal goods.

This manual has as its purpose to consolidate the existing legislation, previous letters and information bulletins sent by diocesan offices.

The mission of preaching the Word of God, teaching the faith, providing for the needs of the poor and government of the local Church is the Diocesan Bishop's primary responsibility. To accomplish this mission he is to be a good steward of the temporal goods entrusted to his care. To assist him in accomplishing his mission, he calls upon the skills and talents of members of the diocesan Church, whether laity or cleric to assist in its administration.

Diocesan regulations governing temporal administration have but one general purpose: to allow the Church to fulfill the mission entrusted to it by Christ in accord with the appropriate Church and Civil laws. Everything in the Church must serve this mission, including its temporal assets, whether they are monetary or in the form of real estate.

The Bishop, having consulted the College of Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Committee, has appointed a Diocesan Financial Administrator who assists in the administration of the temporal affairs of the diocese.

Canon 1254, echoing Vatican II (*Christus Dominus*, 7, 28 and 31, *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 8, 17 and 20-21) notes that the Church needs temporal goods to provide for Divine worship as well as for the formation and support of the clergy and of other persons involved in ministry. In addition, it must provide for works of the apostolate and for works of charity. In this manner, the Church will be a living sign and witness of the love of Jesus Christ for all humanity.

Devotional and liturgical celebrations require a proper environment. Thus parish buildings, especially the church building, require vigilant maintenance and upkeep. Effective apostolic works likewise require buildings which are well maintained, in good condition, insured, heated, and so forth. Many of our buildings consume a significant portion of parish revenues, which, for the most part, are free will offerings of our people given by them so as to fulfill their obligations to provide for the needs of the Church according to their means (Canon 222§1 and 1261§2). Although common knowledge, it bears mentioning that the Church, in order to fulfill its mandate, requires resources and that the faithful have a responsibility to provide for us support.