

POLICY No. 38

PERMANENT DEACONS

1. Term definitions

A permanent deacon: is one who has been ordained to the order of the diaconate and therefore incardinated in the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.

Candidates to the priesthood, ordained to the transitional diaconate in anticipation of priestly ordination, are not covered by this policy. The diocesan policy relating to seminarians applies to them.

Permanent deacons may be asked by the Bishop to serve the diocese on a full-time basis, or on a part-time basis.

2. Intent of the directive

To provide the terms of reference for full-time or a part-time ministry and service of permanent deacons in the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie.

3. Policy

- a. Permanent deacons, as such, do not receive a salary from the diocese or from the parish.
- b. Permanent deacons employed full-time for an official capacity in the diocese will receive a salary according to Policy N° 41 concerning employment in the diocese. A contract and job description are required. Permanent deacons may be eligible for group insurance and other benefits if employed under the same conditions as lay persons providing they fulfill the necessary requirements.
- c. Married deacons who receive remuneration by reason of a civil profession or employment, including pension income, are to take care of their own family's needs from the income received from these sources.
- d. Permanent deacons who assist in parishes or other diocesan works on a part-time basis, are to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in the exercise of their ministry. This remuneration is based on an agreement with the parish priest following the current diocesan scale. An approved job description is recommended.
- e. The parish or diocesan work to which the deacon is assigned shall cover the costs of the annual retreat and any pre-approved costs involved in continuing education programs sponsored or recommended by the diocese for deacons.
- f. The Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie does not assume responsibility for the financial support of a deceased deacon's widow or family. Suitable arrangements to this effect should have been made before the candidate is ordained.