

MATTERS PERTAINING TO PRIESTS/SEMINARIANS

Mentor Program for Newly and Recently Ordained Priests

- A. The Bishops of the U.S. have emphasized the importance of programs for newly and recently ordained priests. "The first years of priestly ministry make exacting demands on a young priest in his spiritual and emotional maturing, the formation of his pastoral skills, and the practice of theological reflection. Special programs should be created to meet the particular needs confronting priests at this stage of ministry" (The program of Continuing Education of Priests. USCC, 1972, p. 15).
- B. A program for the newly and recently ordained priests will help build a greater spirit of mutual support in the diocese. It should give the newly and recently ordained a sense of truly belonging. It should also give those who are mentors a sense of their own personal value and a feeling of affirmation because they have been able to share their own experience of priesthood with another priest.
- C. It is, therefore, strongly recommended that our newly and recently ordained priests join a priests' support group. Existing support groups are encouraged to invite the newly and recently ordained to join them.
- D. It is, further, the policy of this Diocese that newly and recently ordained priests are to have a mentor.
 - 1. The mentor is chosen by the newly and recently ordained priest in consultation with the Bishop/Vicar General.
 - 2. The mentor is to be a priest other than the one the newly and recently ordained priest is working with in ministry.
 - 3. The newly and recently ordained and his mentor are to meet at least four times a year for up to three years following ordination and/or appointment being a parochial administrator.
 - 4. The newly ordained is to be in contact with the Bishop/Vicar General to verify that he and his mentor are meeting.
- E. For more detail see the following documents which are available through the Office of Vicar General.
 - 1. Mentor Priests for Newly and Recently Ordained
 - 2. Pastor and Parochial Vicar Relationship
 - 3. Mentor Pastor/Parochial Administrator Relationship

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