

Revision Date -
Source - House of Bishops

DEPLOYMENT OF CLERGY AND LAY PROFESSIONALS

Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

Preamble

The following guidelines are intended to clarify the expectations and processes whereby a priest or lay professional transfers from one jurisdiction to another for both long term and short term ministry. The underlying premise is that both sending and receiving bishops should be fully involved in initiating the process and managing it through to completion. They should be fully informed of all decisions, and never taken by surprise or embarrassment.

It is recognized that clergy and lay professionals are ordained or otherwise affirmed for ministry in the whole church. They should not be made to feel guilty for considering moving to another diocese. No bishop should keep individual clergy on a protected or "untouchable" list permanently. Nevertheless bishops have the responsibility to share with one another whether the welfare of the church really is being promoted by the move of an individual priest at any particular time. The timing should feel reasonably right for all parties.

Normally incumbents should not move before completing 4-5 years in their present position; for curates and others newly ordained, a period of at least 2 years is a reasonable exception.

The following guidelines are recommended:

I Inter-diocesan Transfers

1. Any bishop desiring to interview a priest or lay professional, or in responding to an applicant for a position from another diocese, should first consult with the bishop of that diocese.
2. In Diocese where it is permitted, parishes should be informed that before they can approach a person in another dioceses, consultation must take place with their own bishop who, in turn, would request permission of the bishop of that diocese.
3. Clergy who desire to leave their present diocese and who want to make inquiries before submitting their resignation or notice, should first inform their own bishop and then with his/her (written) consent or permission, proceed by approaching bishops of other diocese, not individual parishes.
4. It is increasingly common for dioceses to advertise vacant positions in the Journal, local diocesan papers, or other publications. Such advertisements should always include a clause directing all potential applicants first to obtain the permission and blessing of their present bishop before making application.
5. In the transfer to another diocese, matters to be negotiated by both dioceses include ...any outstanding debts or other obligations, accrued vacation time, date and method of announcement of the appointment, exchange of letters of transfer and been decessit.

II Short Term or Guest Ministry

Since Bishops bear responsibility for ministry within the diocese, they deserve to be consulted before invitations are issued to others from outside the diocese to minister within the diocese.

1. Before bishops accept invitation into other dioceses, they should ascertain that the local bishop has already given consent.
2. Before a priest or lay leader is invited into a diocese for parish, diocesan, or other recognized ministry events, the local leaders and organizers must seek and obtain permission from the bishop.
3. Bishops with theological colleges, seminaries, or faculties of religious studies within their dioceses, will seek to affirm and respect the principle of academic freedom in these institutions, and encourage a wide spectrum of theological, spiritual, and liturgical inquiry in these institutions. At the same time colleges should seek to develop a trusting relationship with the local diocese and bishop, and seek to avoid unnecessary embarrassment or confrontation.