

**Diocese of San Diego**

**POLICY ON THE ONGOING FORMATION OF DEACONS WITH DIOCESAN ASSIGNMENTS**

Permanent deacons with diocesan assignments have a responsibility to deepen their spiritual lives and to develop their ministerial abilities. This ongoing formation, with sensitivity to cultural diversity, is to include, as a minimum, the following:

- I.** Not less than a three-day annual RETREAT and participation in the spring and fall ASSEMBLIES OF DEACONS AND THEIR WIVES; these activities are required.
  - A. The place of primary assigned ministry shall pay for expenses up to \$400 per couple for the annual retreat and up to \$200 per couple for the annual assemblies.
- II.** Deacons are expected to participate annually in diocesan sponsored in-service training programs and in other freely chosen ministerial enrichment activities. The place of primary assigned ministry shall pay for expenses up to \$350.
- III.** Deacons are expected to participate in ongoing spiritual direction and to pray morning and evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours.
- IV.** Deacons are encouraged to participate in a diaconal community support group for the purpose of prayer, mutual sharing and reflection.
  - A. Diaconal support groups may be organized along deanery or regional lines, by ordination class, or among those involved in similar areas of ministry.
  - B. Wives of deacons are encouraged to participate in such support groups or to form similar groups of their own to focus on their personal needs and concerns.