

## **POLICY CONCERNING RETREATS OF DIOCESAN PRIESTS**

"In leading their lives clerics are especially bound to pursue holiness because they are consecrated to God by a new title in the reception of orders as dispensers of God's mysteries in the service of His people. They are also bound to make a retreat according to the prescriptions of particular law." (Canon 276.1 and 2 #4)

If one is to pastor the flock of Christ, he must first of all shepherd his own soul. To that end, he must regularly make time for days of retreat and renewal whereby he may be refreshed by the Lord, both in body and in spirit.

To this end, it is required that all priests of the Spokane Diocese participate annually in a retreat or comparable spiritual exercises each year for a period of approximately 5 consecutive days. Furthermore, it will continue to be the policy and practice of this Diocese that our priests in active ministry make a retreat in common every other year. Thus, the odd numbered years (1993, 1995, etc.) will be occasions for a retreat shared in by all. In other years, a retreat for priests will be scheduled at Immaculate Heart Retreat House in which priests may take part, but in these (even numbered) years, the retreat requirement may be satisfied elsewhere by suitable spiritual exercises. I earnestly desire that priests inform me of their retreat option in the even numbered years. A priest is to consult with me prior to the required retreat in odd numbered years if circumstances make his presence unduly burdensome.

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Bishop of Spokane