

§1600 THE COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS

The College of Consultors is an institute established by canon law. While the Code of Canon Law defines certain basic functions of the College of Consultors, the following policies and procedures specify more fully the purpose, responsibilities and operation of this consultative body in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

§1601 PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1601.1. Policy. In addition to the functions defined in canon law, the College of Consultors in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois shall provide counsel to the Bishop on specific matters of pastoral concern at his request.

Procedures

- a)** The functions of the College of Consultors are defined by the Code of Canon Law as follows:
- 1) When the see is vacant, if there is no auxiliary bishop, to govern the Diocese until the election of a diocesan administrator (c. 419) and to inform the Holy See immediately upon the death of the Bishop (c. 422);
 - 2) To elect the diocesan administrator within eight days of receiving notice of the vacancy of the episcopal see (c. 421, §1); such election shall be conducted in accord with the norms of law (cf. cc. 119, 165-178 and 424);
 - 3) To be present when the diocesan administrator makes his profession of faith (c. 833, 4°);
 - 4) If the see has been vacant for a year, to determine whether to give the diocesan administrator consent for him to grant incardination, excardination, or permission for a cleric to move to another particular church (c. 272);
 - 5) When the see is vacant, to determine whether to give the diocesan administrator consent if he wishes to remove the chancellor or any ecclesiastical notary from office (c. 485), or to give the diocesan administrator consent to grant dimissorial letters for the ordination of secular clergy (c. 1018, §1, 2°);
 - 6) When the see is vacant, to fulfill the functions of the Presbyteral Council (c. 501, §2);
 - 7) When the see is impeded due to captivity, banishment, exile or incapacity, and the Bishop is wholly prevented from fulfilling his pastoral function in the Diocese and cannot communicate with the people of the Diocese even by letter, if there is no coadjutor bishop or if he is likewise impeded, and there is no list of persons provided by the diocesan bishop, to select a priest to govern the Diocese (cc. 412-413).

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- 8) To receive the apostolic letter of appointment from a new Bishop when he takes canonical possession of the Diocese personally or through a proxy in the presence of the Chancellor (c. 382, §3);
 - 9) To receive together with the Bishop the apostolic letter of appointment from a new Coadjutor Bishop when he takes canonical possession of his office personally or through a proxy in the presence of the Chancellor (c. 404, §1);
 - 10) To advise the Bishop in naming the finance officer (c. 494, §1);
 - 11) To advise the Bishop regarding the more important acts of administration in light of the economic condition of the Diocese and to determine whether to give consent for the Bishop to perform acts of extraordinary administration as defined by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (c. 1277);
 - 12) To determine whether to give consent for the Bishop to alienate the goods of the Diocese when the value of the goods whose alienation is proposed is within the range of the minimum and maximum amounts determined by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (c. 1292, §1);
 - 13) To determine whether to give consent for a juridic person subject to the Bishop to alienate that juridic person's goods when the value of the goods whose alienation is proposed is within the range of the minimum and maximum amounts determined by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (c. 1292, §1);
- b) In setting the agenda for matters not otherwise provided by the Code of Canon Law, the Bishop shall determine the issues to be treated. Individual Consultors are also free to submit to the Bishop suggestions for the College's agenda.

§1602 MEMBERSHIP

1602.1. Policy. Some priests are to be freely selected by the Bishop from among the members of the Presbyteral Council to constitute a College of Consultors; their number is to be no less than six nor more than twelve; the college is established for a five year term; when the five year term is over, the college continues to exercise its proper functions until a new college is established (Can. 502, §1).

Procedures

- a) The Bishop ordinarily selects as Consultors a cross-section of diocesan and religious priests primarily serving as pastors in parishes of various ethnic and racial compositions. Other priests are also chosen for their special competence or expertise or because they hold significant offices, such as the Chairman of the Presbyteral Council.
- b) If during the College's five-year term, members of the College of Consultors cease to be members of the Presbyteral Council, they do

not automatically cease to be members of the College of Consultors. In such cases, the Bishop may ask them to resign from the College of Consultors, or he may appoint them to continue as members of the Presbyteral Council, or he may simply allow them to remain as members of the College of Consultors without being members of the Presbyteral Council (Cf. AAS 76 [1984] 747).

- c) The Finance Officer (Director of Finance) may attend with voice but not vote upon invitation by the Bishop or his delegate for those portions of meetings dealing with alienation of property or other financial matters.
- d) Others may attend with voice but not vote only upon invitation by the Bishop or his delegate for those portions of meetings dealing with areas of their competence or expertise.

§1603 MEETINGS

1603.1. Policy. The College of Consultors shall meet when legitimately convoked in accord with the norm of law (cf. c. 166).

1603.2. Policy. The Bishop presides over the College of Consultors; if the see is impeded or vacant, the one who takes the place of the Bishop in the interim presides, or, if such a person has not yet been established, the priest who is oldest in ordination among the members of the College of Consultors (c. 502, §2).

1603.3. Policy. When the law determines that the consent or counsel of the College of Consultors is required to place certain acts, for validity it is required that the consent of an absolute majority of those present be obtained or that the counsel of all who are present be sought (c. 127, §1). All whose consent or counsel is required are obliged to offer their opinion sincerely (c. 127, §3).

1603.4. Policy. All those attending meetings of the College of Consultors are required to observe confidentiality regarding the proceedings of the College within the limits and according to the manner determined by the law or by the Bishop (cf. canons 127, §3 and 471, 2°).