MEMORANDUM

Priest In Residence in the Diocese of Newark

For the past few years, our diocese has recognized the need to more clearly define the ministry of those clergy who provide ministry to congregations beyond the celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays. We have adopted the term “priest in residence” in the Diocese of Newark to refer to clergy who have agreed to provide to a congregation:

(1) Sunday worship/liturgical ministry for an extended period of time, and
(2) Limited additional ministry services during the week (normally 10 hours or less).

Often, this ministry is bi-vocational in nature, that is, the clergy is engaged in other significant secular/religious employment in addition to his/her responsibilities as a priest-in-residence. Retired clergy also have discovered that this is an opportunity to exercise ministry without having to take on the full ministry responsibility of a clergy in charge.

In an effort to clearly define clergy terminology in our diocese, the term, “Extended Supply Clergy” is used to describe those clergy whose ministry is devoted solely to leading Sunday celebration of worship for an extended period of time.

Also, a priest in residence is not a priest-in-charge nor does he/she have authority to discharge any of the duties or responsibilities of a rector or a priest-in-charge (e.g., presiding at vestry and annual meetings) as set forth in the canons of the Episcopal Church or the statutes of New Jersey. Rather, it is expected that the scope of the clergy’s engagement and responsibilities will be fully and carefully set out in a letter of agreement which is reviewed and approved by the Bishop’s Office.

The most common areas of ministry in which a priest in residence might be expected to engage beyond the ministry normally offered by supply clergy or extended supply clergy are:

- Pastoral ministry (including visitation of sick shut-in, and /or oversight for pastoral ministry)
- Parish administration
- Christian formation
- Maintaining the regular schedule of weekday worship
- Liturgy planning
- Congregational growth and development planning
- Perform other pastoral offices (funerals, weddings, baptisms) as required

Compensation for the priest in residence is to be based on the total number of hours the clergy is expected to work each week, including Sunday.