

Appendix 10: Retirement of Permanent Deacons

The Diocese of Bismarck continues to be blessed with an active permanent diaconate. I remain grateful for the selfless example for our permanent deacons and their families. The following addresses the resignation by deacons from a parish assignment due to age:

1. The deacon may submit his offer of resignation from assignment in a parish due to age anytime between the ages of 70-75. Upon reaching 75 years of age the offer is mandatory, which will ordinarily be accepted. The offer is to be in writing, addressed to me, sent to the Office of Permanent Diaconate, and include the deacon's personal assessment of his capacity. The offer will be reviewed by me, with the consultation from the Vicar for Deacons, the Director of Deacons, and the pastor.
2. If the resignation is accepted, the deacon and his pastor will be informed that he is no longer obligated to provide ministry as previously assigned; the deacon's immediate superior becomes the Vicar for Deacons. If the resignation is denied, the deacon and his pastor will be informed that he is to continue his assignment.
3. If the retired deacon has at least a quasi-domicile in the territory of the Diocese he can be available for ministry on an *ad hoc* basis for any parish in the diocese, with the one-time written permission of the pastor (cf.c.102). The deacon will continue to enjoy all the faculties, unless clearly indicated otherwise. The "Faculties Granted by the Bishop of Bismarck to Permanent Deacons Who Minister in a Parish" will remain under the title "Faculties Granted by the Bishop of Bismarck *ad Libitum* to Permanent Deacons in Retirement."
4. If any deacon is permanently in residence throughout the year outside the territory of the Diocese, he is not to exercise his faculties, excepting those in danger of death. For a singular case of requested ministry inside or outside the territory of the Diocese (i.e. baptism of a grandchild) written permission from the Vicar for Deacons is required beyond the now routine Letter of Good Standing. If any routine ministry is desired he is encouraged to apply for transfer of incardination to the diocese of place of residence.
5. Deacons are reminded that while they are able to witness the marriages of their relatives (with the requisite written delegation in each singular case for validity from the pastor or local ordinary); they are strictly prohibited from preparing relatives for marriage.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.