


Memorandum

TO: All Priests
Diocese of Tyler

FROM: Bishop Corrada 

DATE: June 30, 2003

REF: Policy Clarification

1.) **Residency:**

A priest under any circumstance cannot take up residence outside the rectory provided by the parish or mission without the written permission of the Bishop. This includes apartments that may be rented by the priest from his personal funds or residences owned by the priest from his personal funds or owned by a family member or non related member of the laity that may be given to the priest for his personal use. The residence of priests who are retired will be decided between the priest and the Bishop.

2.) **Medical conditions:**

In case of illness where home health care is needed by the priest it will be the responsibility of each priest to contact his Dean, who will immediately contact the Bishop. Together with the priest and appropriate medical advisers the Bishop, Dean and priest will discuss the best available options. Priests are not allowed to reside in the home of a member of the laity during the period of recovery from a medical condition or accident without the specific written permission of the Bishop.

3.) **Access to priest living quarters:**

Except as noted in number 2 above for medical conditions where home health care is needed and approved by the Bishop in writing access to the private bedroom and living quarters of a priest by the laity is prohibited. Housekeeping services are allowed when the priest is not using the private quarters.

4.) **Accommodations while traveling:**

a) Priests are not to have over night lodging with members of the laity on over night trips, parish sponsored trips, group tours or vacations without the written permission of the Bishop.

b) A priest who is traveling on vacation or ministry with their family members (mother, father, grandparents, brothers, sisters, niece, nephew, grandniece, and grandnephew) may lodge with them. Care must be taken to respect the privacy of the priest. Prudent sleeping accommodations must be observed in relation to minors.

5.) **Pastoral Manual considerations:**

The current Pastoral Manual has additional issues addressed, pages A-14 section VIII and page C-11 section XI sub section B.

Section A deals with members of the laity living in rectories. This section specifically prohibits lay persons living in the rectory under any conditions unless a particular written permission is granted by the Bishop.

Section C deals with issue of youth in the rectory and this section and the Policy on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry must be followed in its entirety.

Any priest that violates this policy will be sanctioned according to our diocesan policies and applicable Canons under the Code of Canon Law.



Office of the Bishop

Memo

To: To All Priests

From: Most Reverend Alvaro Corrada del Rio, S.J.

Date: 12/11/2003

Re: In regards to Policy.

Points for clarification:

- 1) Priests are not to take up residence outside the rectory without permission of the Bishop.
- 2) In case of sickness we are to contact the Dean of the Deanery. If care is needed for the Priest, consult the Dean. Priests are not permitted to reside with any Lay people for recovery. Access to private quarters of a Priest is forbidden to the Laity except for maintenance.
- 3) A Priest is not permitted over night lodging with parishioners.
- 4) In your Pastoral Manual special attention should be given to pages:
A-14 VIII
C-11 XI B