



Office of the Vicar General

May 1, 2020

Dear Brother Priests,

During this week's Presbyteral Council meeting, the members discussed the question of priests' salaries for the coming year. Bishop McElroy stated that the Diocesan Pastoral Center and many parishes are freezing all salaries, and thus he felt there should be no increase in the salary or benefits for priests during the 2020-2021 fiscal year. He also stated that while a number of other dioceses in California were imposing significant salary reductions for the priests during the coming year in solidarity with all these suffering economic hardship during the pandemic, he knows that many priests generously assist members of their families with their salaries and that for this reason he felt an across-the-board reduction should not occur.

In the council discussion, a consensus emerged that the salary and benefits should be frozen. Each priest is encouraged to reflect upon his financial position and determine if he is able to make a voluntary sacrifice in the coming months for the benefit of his parish. Those who can do so are encouraged either to make a direct charitable contribution to their parish by check, or to reduce the stipend income from their parishes. This is a time of solidarity and suffering, and Bishop McElroy and I thank you in advance for any sacrifice that you are able to make at this time.

For budgeting purposes, priests in full-time assignments are entitled to the following:

- Base Pay:

Pastors	\$28,440 annually	\$2,370.00 monthly (approximately)
Associate Pastors	\$27,840 annually	\$2,320.00 monthly (approximately)
Priests in Special Ministry	\$28,140 annually	\$2,345.00 monthly (approximately)

- The policy on stole fees, stipends, and benefits will remain the same.
- In addition, the policy for the compensation for supply priests will remain the same.

While priests may decide to reduce their own pay, stipends, or stole fees, they are not obliged to do so. Should a priest choose to refrain from receiving stipends for the new fiscal year, he would need to address this with his parish business manager.

Grateful to you for your constant care to the people of God in your assignments, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. John P. Dolan
Vicar General