



## **The Role of Deanery Deans**

*The gifts [God] gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)*

The ministry of the Deanery Dean includes strategic, administrative, liturgical, pastoral, and canonical responsibilities.

### **STRATEGIC**

The Deanery Dean is a partner in ministry of the bishop. The dean is accountable to the bishop and represents the bishop to the deanery and the deanery to the bishop to enable effective two-way communication. The deans as a group partner with the bishop on matters of diocesan mission, policy, and strategy. Each dean will assist the bishop in identifying mission opportunities, places of need, and resources—not only in the dean's own deanery but also in the diocese as a whole.

The Dean will encourage the collaboration and collegiality of clergy, congregations, and schools within the deanery and will also identify, encourage, empower, and recruit members of the deanery for service to the diocese and the wider Church.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

The Dean will call and preside at the regular meetings of the deanery and the Clericus.

The Dean will host the annual diocesan convention when it is assigned to his/her Deanery and will hold and preside at Convocation meetings in the Spring and Fall.

The Dean will attend the monthly zoom meeting of the Deans with the Canon to the Ordinary and the Bishop and provide a brief report on the state of the churches, schools, and special ministries in the deanery.

The Dean will attend Executive Board Meetings and the annual Leadership Retreat.

## PASTORAL

The Dean is an extension of the pastoral ministry of the bishop. The work of the Dean, in part, is to gather the Clericus and deanery regularly and to facilitate the study of scripture and in prayer for the common life of the Church and the world.

On behalf of the Bishop, the Dean will provide pastoral support for clergy and encourage clergy in matters of life-long learning, spiritual development, and self-care.

The Dean will promptly notify the bishop of major crises (i.e., death, serious illness or accident) directly affecting deanery clergy, lay leaders who serve at the diocesan level, and members of clergy families, including spouses of deceased clergy. The Dean will encourage the people of the deanery to advise the Dean of such pastoral emergencies, including when an emergency arises where a congregation's clergyperson is unable to conduct Sunday services.

In consultation with the Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary, the Dean will ensure that clergy who are struggling with personal or vocational problems receive proper support and care.

In coordination with the bishop's staff, the Dean will participate in the welcoming and incorporating of clergy new to the Diocese into the lives of the deanery, Clericus, and Diocese. Deans will also provide appropriate opportunities for closure when clergy leave the Clericus and convocation.

## LITURGICAL

At the liturgy for the Celebration of New Ministry, it is appropriate for the Dean to be involved as a minister in the service by presenting the Constitutions and Canons or some symbol of our common life. On occasion, a Dean may be called upon by the bishop to officiate at a liturgy in the bishop's absence.

**For information on the organization and role of the Deaneries, please refer to Canon IX – Of the Deaneries in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Southeast Florida**