

**Diocese of San Diego**

**POLICY ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND RETIREMENT**

**I. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

For a variety of reasons, deacons may not be able to fulfill their assigned duties for an extended period of time. In such cases, they should confer with their supervisor and then request in writing to the director of the Office for the Permanent Diaconate a leave of absence from assigned ministry.

**II. RETIREMENT**

In accord with the retirement norms for bishops and priests, when deacons reach seventy-five (75) years of age they are asked to submit their resignation from assigned ministry to the bishop who, after considering all the circumstances of person and place, will decide whether to accept or defer the resignation.

For good reason and with permission of the bishop, deacons may retire from assigned ministry at an earlier age.

**III. FACULTIES**

Deacons do not have diocesan faculties for ministry during a leave of absence, when without an assignment or in retirement. In these circumstances, for the exercise of liturgical ministry, deacons need permission from the appropriate pastor (e.g. to function as a deacon at Mass). They need delegation to officiate at weddings.