



VICAR FOR CLERGY
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

16th December 2022

Dear Father,

What follows is an update on two items which have been under discussion for several months. Thank you for your patience and participation in the development of both matters.

1. Priest Personnel Board

Monsignor William Belford and Father Joseph McLafferty were elected to serve as the deans on the Priest Personnel Board. A total of 82 ballots were received from the presbyterate. As previously explained, the Priest Personnel Board now consists of the five episcopal vicars, the vicar general, the two elected deans and the dean of the parish being discussed. Also, the deans of the priests who are being considered will be consulted, along with the priest's pastor if the priest is not a pastor.

2. Permanent Diaconate Survey

A total of 95 responses were received, 18 of which were from priests and 77 from permanent deacons. The areas most indicated for concern are:

- lack of liturgical formation with concomitant overemphasis on liturgical role
- admissions procedures
- need for a Spanish program
- retirement policy
- lack of clarity and, therefore, inconsistency in:
 - expectations
 - relationship with pastor
 - evaluation process
 - role of spouse
 - compensation, if any – relationship of ministerial role/employee function
 - clerical dress

I shall keep you informed as the discussion of the program continues. This information was shared with the Priests' Council on Wednesday and will be sent to the permanent deacons. With my prayers for you and your parish as we approach Christmas,

Fraternally,

Most Reverend Edmund J. Whalen
Vicar for Clergy