



## **THE ROLE OF THE DEAN**

The dean is elected for a two or three-year term (depending on the deanery) of office by the priests in the deanery. The bishop then finalizes the appointment.

The first priority of a dean is to be familiar with the policies of the diocese and to encourage the fulfillment of these policies by word and example. The dean acts out his accountability to the bishop by participating in the regular and/or called meetings of the presbyteral council.

He is responsible for chairing regular meetings of the deanery. At such meetings, the agenda reflects both the concerns of the priests' council and the needs and concerns of the deanery.

The dean is charged with the exercise of some pastoral care in the deanery, seeing that the needs of the people are being cared for. His role is that of a contact person in certain situations that might arise; e.g., if a priest becomes ill or is unable to perform his duties, the dean should make this fact known to the bishop.