

NORM 48

Norm Description: The Bishop is to establish an atmosphere of open and honest communication, fostering discussion and collaboration among existing diocesan offices, parishes, diocesan commissions, and agencies.

Department or Office with Primary Responsibility: Office of the Vicar General

Departments or Offices with Secondary Responsibility: Department of Diocesan Planning

Person Submitting Plan: Rev. Msgr. William Benwell, VG

Goal: The Vicar General, in his role of assisting the Bishop in the governance of the Diocese, is to establish and coordinate methods by which diocesan offices, commissions and agencies work closely with each other and with parishes so that the aims of the Diocese are arrived at collaboratively, and understood and communicated clearly.

Objectives:

1. The Vicar General will continue to convene monthly meetings of diocesan executive directors (among whom are all those who bear responsibility for the various diocesan offices, commissions, and agencies). The purpose of these “curia” meetings will be to:
 - a. Insure that the diocesan curia is working together to advance the Bishop’s overall pastoral priorities for the Diocese.
 - b. Share information on the work of their respective departments.
 - c. Discuss ways that departments can work together on common issues and concerns.
 - d. Bring to the attention of executive directors issues and areas of concern about which they may not be aware, but are likely to have implications for their department.

2. By June, 2009, the curia will develop a strategy (e.g., distribution of minutes, a newsletter, departmental outreach to deaneries) by which it will, generally, demonstrate its commitment to consistent communication and open and honest dialogue with parish leadership, and will specifically:
 - a. Inform parishes of its deliberations and the pastoral plan of the various departments;
 - b. Solicit feedback from parish leadership concerning: the diocesan mission, ideas for future curial discussion, and local and regional challenges facing parishes.