

**POLICY REGARDING CHANGES OF MARITAL STATUS  
FOR ALL CLERGY  
AND ALL PERSONS IN FORMATION FOR ORDINATION**

Every priest, deacon, aspirant, nominee, postulant and candidate in the Diocese of Louisiana must immediately notify the Bishop in writing when his or her marital status has changed (informal separation, legal separation, divorce, etc.), as well as when there is an intent to marry. Upon notifying the Bishop, an appointment will be made for a pastoral consultation with him.

It is the policy of the Bishop of Louisiana that any priest or deacon who undergoes a significant change in marital status, such as legal separation or divorce, must consult with the Bishop as to the possible appropriateness of resigning his or her current cure. Similarly, the ordination process of aspirants, nominees, postulants and candidates will be suspended for a period of time to be determined by the Bishop. Arrangements for professional counseling may be discussed with the Bishop at any time during this process.