DECREE OF PROMULGATION

In Nomine Domini

The Archdiocese of Boston ("Archdiocese") has determined that priests who have been accused or determined to have sexually abused a child shall receive any stipend, housing allowance and health insurance due to them from a source other than those designated for retired and sick priests. It is necessary to establish policy regarding the distribution of the funds from this other source (hereafter the "Transition Fund Policy").

Having heard the Presbyteral Council on May 11, 2011 regarding the Transition Fund Policy; having been subject to an extensive review by my vicars and staff; and also subject to a trial period in which the substance of the Transition Fund Policy was implemented; it is now the appropriate time to make The Transition Fund Policy official.

Therefore, in accord with canons 8 §2, 29, 381 §1, and 391 I hereby decree and promulgate as particular law for the Archdiocese of Boston, the Transition Fund Policy.

This Decree and the Transition Fund Policy shall be published and made known to the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston by electronic mail and posted on the RCABCuria.org secure website and the Clergy section of the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust website.

Any policy or particular law of the Archdiocese that is contrary to the Transition Fund is hereby repealed and abrogated.

This Decree shall become effective at 12:01 AM on August 15, 2015.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Boston in Braintree, Massachusetts this 22nd day of July, 2015.

Archbishop of Boston

Chancellor

TRANSITION FUND POLICY

A. Restricted from ministry during a preliminary investigation

1. During a preliminary investigation of a canonical crime of sexual abuse of a minor (*CIC*, cc. 1717-1719) (pursuant to c. 1395 §2), a priest who is lawfully restricted from ministry (*CIC*, c. 1722; *SST* 19; *EN* 9) shall receive a stipend from, and have certain benefits funded by the Transition Fund. The priest's stipend and benefits will be the same as those for which he would otherwise be eligible if he were assigned, as established from time to time by the Archbishop. All payments to the priest will comply with the relevant policies of the Clergy Health and Retirement Fund (the "Clergy Fund"), including those regarding assisted living and nursing homes.

2. During the preliminary investigation, the Transition Fund will be billed by the Clergy Fund for the monthly health insurance assessment made on behalf of the priest who is restricted from ministry.

3. During the preliminary investigation, the Transition Fund will provide a monthly payment directly to the priest equal to the established Archdiocesan monthly housing allowance, as set from time to time by the Archbishop. A priest who is unable to provide for his housing needs with the established allowance may petition the Appeals Committee of the Transition Fund (the "Appeals Committee"). The Appeals Committee shall consist of the Vicar for Clergy (i.e., Episcopal Vicar for Parish Life and Leadership), the Chancellor, and the Assistant to the Moderator of the Curia for Canonical Affairs.

B. Restricted from ministry during a penal process

1. When the preliminary investigation for the canonical crime of sexual abuse of a minor (pursuant to c. 1395 §2) has been closed, and the Archbishop has determined that the allegation at least seems true, a priest who is lawfully restricted from ministry (*CIC*, c. 1722; *SST* 19) shall receive a stipend from, and have certain benefits funded by the Transition Fund. The stipend and benefits will be the same as those for which he would otherwise be eligible if he were assigned, as established from time to time by the Archbishop. All payments to the priest will comply with the relevant policies of the Clergy Fund, including those regarding assisted living and nursing homes.

2. Such stipend received after the close of the investigation shall be reduced to the extent that such priest is the recipient of any income from other sources. Accordingly, the Archbishop may direct the priest to provide the Transition Fund Director with his most recent income tax return, or such portions of the income tax return necessary to establish his total income. This information is to be provided on an annual basis if necessary. The information will be used solely to provide the most effective means of assistance to the priest and the only individuals with access to this information will be the Archbishop, the Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia, and the members of the Board that is established to advise the Transition Fund Director. Such information will otherwise remain confidential.

3. During the penal process, the Transition Fund will be billed by the Clergy Fund for the monthly health insurance assessment made on behalf of the priest who is restricted from ministry.

4. A priest receiving a reduced stipend under this section, B, who feels aggrieved, has the right to petition the Appeals Committee.

5. During the penal process, the Transition Fund will provide a monthly payment directly to the priest equal to the established Archdiocesan monthly housing allowance, as set from time to time by the Archbishop.

6. If state and/or federal benefits (for example, Social Security, Medicare Parts A and B, and Social Security Disability Insurance) are available to the priest, he shall apply for these benefits, with the assistance of Clergy Support staff.

7. Upon reaching the age of sixty-five (65), a priest who is restricted from ministry while on Administrative Leave or during a penal process will be granted "Senior Priest Restricted from Ministry" status. He shall receive the stipend of priests in senior priest status.

C. Restricted from ministry after a penal process

1. Prior to being granted "Senior Priest Restricted from Ministry" status, a priest who remains in the clerical state and is restricted from ministry shall receive a stipend from, and have certain benefits funded by the Transition Fund, as established from time to time by the Archbishop. All payments to the priest will comply with the relevant policies of the Clergy Fund, including those regarding assisted living and nursing homes. The monthly payment/stipend shall be reduced to the extent that such priest is the recipient of any income from other sources. The further provisions of paragraph 2 of Section B of this Policy, "Restricted from ministry during a penal process," pertaining to the requirements of providing income tax information, shall also apply.

2. The Transition Fund will be billed by the Clergy Fund for the monthly health insurance assessment made on behalf of a priest who is permanently restricted from ministry.

3. If state and/or federal benefits (for example, Social Security, Medicare Parts A and B, and Social Security Disability Insurance) are available to the priest, he shall apply for these benefits, with the assistance of Clergy Support staff.

D. Senior priest restricted from ministry

1. A priest who is a "Senior Priest Restricted from Ministry" shall receive the stipend and benefits for priests on Senior Priest/Retirement status, as established from time to time by the Archbishop. All payments to the priest will comply with the relevant policies of the Clergy Fund, including those regarding assisted living and nursing homes.

2. The Transition Fund will be billed by the Clergy Fund for the monthly health insurance

assessment made on behalf of a "senior priest restricted from ministry."

3. A senior priest restricted from ministry shall apply, with the assistance of Clergy Support staff, for all state and/or federal benefits (for example, Social Security, Medicare Parts A and B, and Social Security Disability Insurance).

E. Found Guilty after Penal Process

1. A priest who has been found guilty of sexual abuse of a minor (pursuant to c. 1395 §2) after a penal process, and who appeals the finding of guilt shall be reduced to forty percent (40%) of the full stipend for which he would otherwise be eligible if he were assigned, as established from time to time by the Archbishop; provided, however, such stipend shall be reduced to the extent that such priest is the recipient of any income from other sources. The further provisions of paragraph 2 of Section B of this Policy, "Restricted from ministry during a penal process," pertaining to the requirements of providing income tax information, shall also apply.