

POLICY No. 14

CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF CHURCHES

1. Term definitions

Church: a sacred building to which the faithful have access for the public exercise of divine worship. Such sacred places shall be appropriately designated by the Bishop. Canonically these places of worship may be deemed a church, a chapel, or an oratory.

2. Intent of the directive

To ensure that building projects for new churches or renovation projects are undertaken only after appropriate study and consultation, showing that there is indeed a need for a new building or for the renovations proposed.

To ensure that applicable civil and canonical legislation is observed before major building projects are undertaken.

3. Policy

- a. Since the church is intended to be used for the celebration of the liturgy, particular care must be taken, in its construction, renovation or maintenance, so that it be suitable for carrying out the liturgy appropriately and for the participation of the faithful.
- b. The witness of poverty is to inspire the construction, renovation and ornamentation of churches, respecting true artistic value.
- c. The cost of new construction or renovation will be limited to the financial resources of a parish and will take into account the religious, pastoral and economic trends. Issues relating to environmental impact shall also be kept in mind when determining the construction or renovation costs.
- d. A construction or renovation project requiring a loan will be reviewed and subject to the approval of the board of the parish assistance fund.
- e. Since the construction or renovation of churches involve many considerations, such as its liturgical, artistic, financial, technical and legal aspects, several meetings with the parish building committee, parish finance committee, diocese financial administration office, and parish assistance fund may occur.
- f. No contracts shall be entered into with architects and planners without prior written authorization of the diocesan financial administrator.
- g. Following Canon 1215, §1, the express and written permission of the Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie is required for the building of a new church. Such consent is not given until the Bishop has consulted the presbyteral council and the pastors of neighbouring churches (see Canon 1215, §2).

Revision # : 2.0	Revision Date : SEPT 8, 2016	Original Issue Date: OCT 2003
------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------