

## Visiting International Priests – Payment for Retreat or Mission

### **POLICY ON PAYMENT TO FOREIGN VISITORS**

#### **Immigration Issues**

##### Payment to Visiting Foreign Retreat/Mission Leaders

Pastors who invite guests (priests, women religious or lay) from foreign countries to give Lenten Retreats or Missions **MAY NOT PAY THEM DIRECTLY**. This is a violation of Federal law. The stipend must be sent to their home parish/diocese/religious community and that foreign entity can issue the stipend to them. The U.S. Immigration Office now has authority to conduct on-site inspections and can levy heavy fines for these and other types of violations.

##### Outside Mission Groups Visiting Parishes

All outside mission groups requesting to come and make an appeal in parishes must be cleared through the Office of Ministries. These should not be scheduled independently by the pastor. The USCCB has prohibited certain groups from making parish appeals, and the pastor may not be aware of such information. Please contact the Jonathan Baca, Associate Director of Parish Engagement and Mission, if you have any questions: [missionco@cathdal.org](mailto:missionco@cathdal.org) | 214-379-3190.