



April 2, 2019

Dear Fathers/Monsignors:

Office of the Vicar General

Each January, diocesan priests and/or extern priests who have been serving in the diocese, receive from their source of salary an installment for their social security.

Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that some of our priests – although having received these yearly installments - have not been paying into their social security or have opted out of this benefit. These unfortunate cases create problems for the priests when they prepare for retirement.

Priests are viewed as self-employed for social security purposes. Because of this, social security is not withheld nor matched by their source of salary. Thus, on your W2 form, you will not see an amount deducted. You are however, expected to pay both employer and employee portions of Social Security and Medicare while preparing annual tax returns. Please let your tax preparer know this.

***Extern priests*** who have not been paying their social security for at least ten years (40 quarters) may not be eligible for Medicare B at the time of their full retirement. In each of their cases, the diocese is unable to fulfill the obligation to financially assist the extern priests and thus, they are expected to return to their home dioceses. If you are over age 55 and you have not been paying into social security, please contact my office as soon as possible.

For ***diocesan priests***, the diocesan's financial burden of covering expenses beyond Medicare B is appropriate. However, if the diocesan priest has not been paying into his social security for at least ten years (40 quarters) before retirement, the diocese is unfortunately expected to cover the heavy medical costs regardless. In order to help reduce the financial burden on the diocese, we ask that you consult your tax preparer. Again, if you are over the age of 55 and you have not been paying into social security, please contact me.

Knowing that most of you have already prepared your taxes for this year, I encourage you to check with your tax preparer and make sure that you are paying into social security in the future.

With many best wishes for you in this Lent, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. John P. Dolan  
Vicar General