

Diocesan Clericus

Who should attend? The Diocesan Clericus is composed of all clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of West Missouri. Each year, in the spring, the Bishop of West Missouri convenes a meeting of the Clericus and requires the attendance of all active deacons and priests in the diocese, whether canonically resident or licensed.

How is “active” defined? Good question.

A **priest** is considered active if he or she serves a congregation as Rector, Vicar, Priest-in-Charge, or in any official leadership capacity no matter how titled. Serving regularly as a Guest Presider for parishes, congregations, and regional ministries is to serve in an official leadership capacity. Those who are retired and performing no or only occasional service to a parish or congregation are not active. Call Bishop Field if you are curious whether he considers you “active”.

A **deacon** is active if he or she has not been given permission to retire by the Bishop. If retired, a deacon is considered active if he or she is assigned to a parish or congregation or if he or she serves in a ministry (that requires ordination or endorsement) at non-church or church-related institutions such as a hospice, hospital, social service agency, etc. Call Bishop Field if you are curious whether he considers you “active”.

What if I can't attend? Those who cannot attend all or part of the 2 days of the Clericus' meeting must seek to be **excused**. To be excused, please convey your reason(s) to Bishop Field by e-mail, phone, or post.

What's the cost? Overnight accommodations, meals, beverage service, and meeting space are covered by the following registration fee:

- Strecker - 2 person/room - \$98
- Strecker - 1 person/room - \$113
- Savior Suites - 1 person/room - \$128
- Vianney Suite - queen bed 1 person - \$143
- Vianney Suite - queen bed Couple - \$196
- Those staying off campus - \$53

(The cost of attending this annual meeting has not increased since 2011 as, until this year, the diocese has been able to hold the line on costs, cover any increased fees, and not pass higher charges along to attendees. Unfortunately, the 2019 Plan for Ministry no longer allows this, so cost increases are now being passed along. This is the reason for increases over previous years.)

Single rooms will be assigned as long as there is space available. Once availability is exhausted, those requesting a single room will be doubled up with the person of their choice (if noted on the registration form) or someone at random. **Requests will be handled on a first come, first served basis.**

Who should pay? Just like paying for Diocesan Convention, fees for attending the Clericus' meeting should be paid by the parishes you serve, not from your personal funds. For those not serving a parish or congregation, who are paying their own registration, payment may be made online through PayPal. Payment by check is always accepted as well.

No one should miss this event because of money. Bishop Field will assist those who need scholarship assistance.