



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

May 1, 2012
Liturgical Memorial of
St. Joseph the Worker

Dear Monsignor/Father,

I write to provide you with a copy of the newly revised "Guidelines for Ongoing Priestly Formation" of the Diocese of Worcester. I thank Father Ronald G. Falco, Director, Office of Ongoing Priestly Formation and its Ongoing Priestly Formation Committee for preparing the revisions.

Personal ongoing priestly formation is integral to the life and ministry of the priest. As the late Blessed John Paul II expressed it in his seminal Pastores Dabo Vobis, "...permanent formation is a requirement of the priest's own faithfulness to his ministry, to his very being ... it (ongoing formation) is also an act of love for the people of God, at whose service the priest is placed." (70)

By means of this letter, I am promulgating these revised "Guidelines for Ongoing Priestly Formation" as our diocesan policy concerning ongoing priestly formation. These guidelines will be placed on our Diocesan Website.

My fervent hope is that the ongoing formation of our priests will be an important part of the New Evangelization that is so necessary for the renewal of our beloved Church.

Given at the Chancery on May 1, 2012, the Liturgical Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.
Bishop of Worcester