



ROMAN CATHOLIC
**DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON**

OFFICE OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON
Deacon, Consecrated Men and Women and Lay Spiritual Director
Covenants

In consideration of the undersigned being permitted to engage in spiritual direction within the Diocese of Charleston and to receive referrals from the Diocese and its parishes or other diocesan organizations, the undersigned spiritual director covenants and agrees as follows:

1. I am:
 - a. certified by a program approved by the Diocese of Charleston to be a spiritual director; and
 - b. a Roman Catholic parishioner in good standing with my Roman Catholic parish in the Diocese of Charleston.
2. By signing this covenant, I certify that I will:
 - a. always strive to be obedient to the official teachings of the Roman Catholic faith;
 - b. not give any advice or spiritual guidance contradictory to the official teachings of the Catholic Church and Magisterium of the Church; and
 - c. not use any technique involving physical contact with the directee, utilize the enneagram system of personality typing or any other method or practice contrary to Church's teachings, beliefs or practices.
3. I also agree to the following:
 - a. I shall not practice beyond the limits of my competence in any ministry situation and shall refer directees to other professionals when appropriate.
 - b. I shall work ethically within the framework of the teaching of the ordinary and universal Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church.
 - c. I shall take responsibility for and commit to my own spiritual development by ongoing meetings with my own spiritual director, regular participation in peer supervision, education, and training. I will also commit to attending the annual retreat provided by the Office of Spiritual Directors. Absence must be approved by the Coordinator on an individual basis.
 - d. I shall assume the responsibility to establish and maintain clear and appropriate physical and psychological boundaries in all spiritual ministry sessions and ministry related relationships.
 - e. I will adhere to the provisions of the Diocese's Policy Concerning the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults from Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel and related Code of Conduct (the "Policy and Code of Conduct").
 - f. I will avoid physical contact of any kind with the directee. Such actions may be misconstrued and must be avoided.

- g. I will carefully consider the potential negative consequences before accepting a directee with whom I have a pre-existing relationship.
 - h. I will not audiotape or videotape or otherwise record sessions.
 - i. I will not engage in inappropriate communications with directees on social media or other electronic or video technology platforms.
 - j. I will conduct all spiritual direction sessions in appropriate settings at appropriate times. Ministry sessions are not to be held in places or at times that would tend to cause confusion about the nature of the relationship with the directee. Sessions shall not be held in the director's or directee's home or residence. It is acceptable to conduct virtual (Zoom, Google Meet, etc.) sessions from the director's residence.
 - k. I will keep all information disclosed by the directee during the ministry session in the strictest confidence, except as may be required by law or diocesan policy regarding suspected or known abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult.
 - l. I will not accept payment, stipends or other contributions for spiritual direction.
4. I understand that any action inconsistent with the within covenants, or failure to take action mandated by these covenants, may result in the loss of referrals by the Diocese of Charleston, the parish or other diocesan organization, AND, if I am using parish or diocesan office space, may result in the termination of the use of such space. In addition, any action inconsistent with this covenant that also violates the Policy and Code of Conduct may result in the loss of my approval to volunteer for the parish and Diocese of Charleston.
5. I further understand that the Diocese of Charleston, parish or other diocesan organization may cease the referral of directees to me and my use of their office space at any time, for any reason or no reason.

Print Spiritual Director's Name

Spiritual Director's Parish

Spiritual Director's Signature

Signature of Pastor/Administrator of
Spiritual Director's Parish

Date: (Renewal required when there
is a pastor change or every 5 years)

Date

Spiritual Director's Contact Information

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Work Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Home Telephone: _____