

## Standing Committee Charge to the Transition Committee

*“Pray regularly for God’s guidance in the work of this committee, and exercise conscientious personal decision-making within an overall accountability, individually, and collectively, to the Holy Spirit and the people of the diocese.”*

The primary role of the Transition Committee is to oversee a smooth transition between the Assisting Bishop, Standing Committee, and the new bishop. This responsibility extends to support for both bishops and their families, support for diocesan staff, handling public relations during the entire process, and the oversight and administration of the ordination. They will also prepare the “Chamber of Commerce” portion of the profile.

The Transition Committee needs to work closely with the Search Committee during the search phase and communicate the process to the diocese, the national church and the media as necessary. Public relations are an important piece of this process. The Transition Committee should create a Public Relations Subcommittee that would not only respond to inquiries but create appropriate vehicles for communication (i.e., press releases, interviews, etc.). The Transition Committee would be responsible for ensuring that the diocesan web site is updated.

The Transition Committee is also charged with planning the electing convention (with assistance of the Standing Committee). Following this event they are responsible for welcoming the new bishop into our diocese. The Transition Committee (with the help of the diocesan staff) creates a housing plan, assists the bishop-elect’s partner and children with job searches and schooling, familiarizes the family with the area, if necessary, and arranges for introductory gatherings. They will also assist in planning a celebration of ministry for Bishop Romero and Eva.

The other major event the Transition Committee must organize is the ordination service. A venue must be selected and secured, and a liturgy must be prepared and printed. The canons require at least three bishops present to consecrate the new bishop. In addition, a comprehensive guest list must be prepared and invitations sent.

Following the consecration, the work of the Transition Committee will continue through the first year of the new bishop’s tenure, assisting as needed with transitional issues for all involved, including the bishop’s family and diocesan staff, as well as on-going public relations.