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### **Are You An “Inactive” Organization?**

Religious organizations, unlike most other entities incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota, do not have to file an annual registration with the Secretary of State (SOS) to retain their status as a corporation of “good standing.” Unfortunately, the software currently being used by the State to record the status of corporations does not flag this exception. This means that many parishes and schools are shown as “inactive” with the Office of the SOS. While “inactive” status may not affect your organization on a day-to-day basis, if you have reason to need a certificate of good standing (such as to complete a loan closing), the status will need to be corrected before a certificate can be issued.

You can find out your status by accessing the SOS website at: <http://online.sos.state.mn.us/>

Click on “search” (shown in the left margin), then “corporate file (free)” and then enter the name of your organization. Be sure to put a checkmark by “check to include inactive records” before you send your search request. Call the Office of the SOS, noting your designation as a religious organization, to get your status corrected.

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