

Council of Conference of Deacons Meeting

9/25/2010

Holy Angels– South Meriden

In attendance: Deacons: Neil Richter, Joe Ryzewski, Donna Yatcko, Steve Yatcko, Tim Healy, Nick Genovese, Ed Taddei, Ken DosSantos, Joe Guzauckas, Gene Nebiolo

Meeting was called to order at 8:55 AM by Tim and the group shared an opening reflection based on the next day's gospel.

Minutes: The minutes for the 5/22/2010 meeting were read and then accepted.

Treasurer Report: The report submitted by Gene was presented and accepted.

Old Business

- 1. Meeting of Regional Coordinators - TBD**
- 2. Trends - TBD**
- 3. Implementation of Appreciative Inquiry model – TBD**
- 4. Diaconal Mission Goals – Integrate with the Survey items in New Business**
 - Foster Vocations
 - i. Our Roles & Responsibilities
 - ii. Our Identify
 - Minister to People of God
 - i. Our Parish
 - ii. Our World
 - Support
 - i. Our Archbishop
 - ii. Our Priest
 - iii. Each other and our families

New Business

- 1. Invitees –** Tim noted that the COD is an open Forum that all deacons are invited to attend. We need to make sure the newly ordained deacons are invited.
- 2. Survey Results –** We reviewed the data compiled from the survey that profiles what deacons are doing within their parish, ministry and community. (e.g. How often they preach, administer sacraments, minister in social justice related areas, work in prisons and hospitals, teach, etc.) This information can serve as a resource to:
 - a. Tell others what deacons do (e.g. parishes, seminarians, applicants)
 - b. Develop strategies for addressing identified needs (e.g. vocations, support to other actives and retired deacons, their wife and family.)

It was noted that retired deacons have their own special needs vs. active ones. Many little things may be possible to make them know they aren't forgotten. (e.g. An occasional call to 'see how you're doing?', a visit, a card) We also need to remember widowers. Donna noted the challenge of having persons respond to mailed surveys; a personal call is more effective. Tim will be talking further with the Director about how we can better support them and also posting the survey results.

Based upon the Survey the following projects were identified:

1. Develop Vocations – Lead: Steve Yatcko (Team: Joe R. et.al.)
2. Collaboration - Lead: TBD (e.g. Priests, Deacons, Religious, Seminarians, Laity)
3. Ministry to retired deacons and their families - Lead: TBD (Team: Ed, et.al.)
4. Diaconal Spirituality – Lead: TBD (e.g. Nurturing, resources available, direction)

Each project will need a project lead, objective, scope, defined plan and team(s).

3. Other - The Website

Tim noted further development of the website and interest in having homilies, minutes and other materials posted there.

Director's Report w/ Upcoming Events – Bob Pallotti (per email sent by Bob)

I. Recent developments

A. The Deacons will establish a "Courage" chapter for ministering to Gays and Lesbians and their families in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

B. **Convocation** on July 25 at Mary Our Queen and Aqua Turf.

C. **Re-Employment Network:** This has resulted in a group formed in Rocky Hill at St. James Church. There are now 20 members. 50 members have already found jobs. There are a number of groups who are beginning to form along the lines of this group.

D. Demographic Study on the Diaconate in Hartford. Planning for the Future.

II. Continuing Education

A. Cont. Ed. Committee's plans for the coming year

1. March 20—The New Roman Missal, USCCB, Msgr. Sherman, St. James in Rocky Hill. 75 deacons

2. March 24, Clergy Day-*Forgiveness*, Bro. Loughlin Scofield. Holy Family Retreat Center 10-3 p.m. 35 deacons

3. April 24—Scripture and the Death Penalty—Mr. Dale Recinella, St. James Church in Rocky Hill- 29 deacons attended.

4. Two year program on Issues of Human Sexuality and Beginning Life Issues proposal was submitted and accepted by the Archbishop. Our first presentation will be the Fall 2010 with Deacon William Urbine, recommended by the USCCB

on Sept. 18 at St. Thomas. This was a success. There were 80 people, deacons and some of the wives who participated in this program.

5. The Annual Deacon Retreat is Oct. 15-17 at Holy Family Monastery: Msgr. Murphy. *Spirituality of Fasting*.

6. Hyannis Region one Conference, Nov. 13

7. Spirituality Day Dec. 11 at Holy Family Retreat Center, *Mary Through the Ages*.

8. Fr. Paul Check, *Ministry to Gays and Lesbians and Their Families*. April 9, 2011, St. Thomas Seminary 8:30-2 p.m. Lunch Provided

III. Vocations

A. Archbishop is open to having 15-20 men accepted into Aspirancy if they are qualified.

B. Accepted 12 men accept for Year One as Candidates.

C. Class of 2012: 15 men

D. Nine men ordained this June

IV. Newsletter

A. New series on Contemporary Theologians and Spiritual Writers and Deacon Ministry, People of Christian Witness and a series on Religion and Science.

Wives and Widows of Deacons Ministry

Donna noted that 40 persons responded to their survey. They had a day of prayer in June at Rocky Hill, a luncheon for widowers that was well received (Dcn. Pallotti attended) and a retreat at Sacred Heart Caritas Center in September. For the candidates wives there are planned a meet & greet session, a day of prayer & reflection in Advent and in Lent. In 2011 a retreat for the wives of deacons and widows is planned for March at Holy Family. Tim suggested the website is a good resource for posting their calendar. A report from this ministry will be included in the agenda for future COD meetings.

Deanery Report

- Litchfield Deanery Calendar for 2010-2011 established
- East Shore Deanery meetings start October 5th
- Bristol is becoming active again

Closing

Meeting closed with a prayer by Joe G. and adjourned at 10:55 am.

Next meeting is Nov 6th @ 9 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Dcn Joe Ryzewski – Secretary

Report from the Director of the Office for the Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Hartford September 25, 2010

I. Recent developments

- A. The Deacons will establish a “Courage” chapter for ministering to Gays and Lesbians and their families in the Archdiocese of Hartford.
- B. Convocation on July 25 at Mary Our Queen and Aqua Turf.
- C. Re-Employment Network: This has resulted in a group formed in Rocky Hill at St. James Church. There are now 20 members. 50 members have already found jobs. There are a number of groups who are beginning to form along the lines of this group.
- D. Demographic Study on the Diaconate in Hartford. Planning for the Future.

II. Continuing Education

- A. Cont. Ed. Committee’s plans for the coming year
- B. March 20—The New Roman Missal, USCCB, Msgr. Sherman, St. James in Rocky Hill. 75 deacons
- C. March 24, Clergy Day-Forgiveness, Bro. Loughlin Scofield. Holy Family Retreat Center 10-3 p.m. 35 deacons
- D. April 24—Scripture and the Death Penalty—Mr. Dale Recinella, St. James Church in Rocky Hill- 29 deacons attended.
- E. Two year program on Issues of Human Sexuality and Beginning Life Issues proposal was submitted and accepted by the Archbishop. Our first presentation will be the Fall 2010 with Deacon William Urbine, recommended by the USCCB on Sept. 18 at St. Thomas. This was a success. There were 80 people, deacons and some of the wives who participated in this program.

- F. The Annual Deacon Retreat is Oct. 15-17 at Holy Family Monastery: Msgr. Murphy. Spirituality of Fasting.
- G. Hyannis Region one Conference, Nov. 13
- H. Spirituality Day Dec. 11 at Holy Family Retreat Center, Mary Through the Ages.
- I. Fr. Paul Check, Ministry to Gays and Lesbians and Their Families. April 9, 2011, St. Thomas Seminary 8:30-2 p.m. Lunch Provided

III. Vocations

- A. Archbishop is open to having 15-20 men accepted into Aspirancy if they are qualified.
- B. Accepted 12 men accept for Year One as Candidates.
- C. Class of 2012: 15 men
- D. Nine men ordained this June

IV. Newsletter

New series on Contemporary Theologians and Spiritual Writers and Deacon Ministry, People of Christian Witness and a series on Religion and Science.

Respectfully submitted,
Deacon Bob Pallotti, Director

Deanery Report

Deanery: _____ Chair: _____

Current Activities:

Planned Activities:

Other Comments / Concerns: