

Conference of Deacon Meeting

1/12/2013

Holy Angels– South Meriden

In attendance: Deacons: Jim Tanguay, Steve Yatchko, Bob Pallotti, Joe Ryzewski, John O'Donovan and Donna Yatchko

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 am by Steve and an opening prayer was offered by him.

Minutes: The minutes for the 11/10/12 meeting were read and then accepted.

Treasurer Report: No Report.

Wives and Widows of Deacons Ministry: Donna reported that she had met with several wives during the past summer. They made up a phone tree and email list. A Retreat is scheduled for Feb 22-24, 2013 at Our Lady of Calvary.

Old Business:

1. Contemplative Prayer – Tim Healy provided a report that the group is meeting at night on the last Tuesday of the month; they are also considering a day session. The next meeting is Jan. 29, 2013 at Holy Cross Rectory Basement – New Britain.
2. Deanery Revitalization – This Initiative has been somewhat in limbo given the anticipated changes in our Archbishop's tenure. Bob is considering the assembly of a small, ad-hoc group of Deacons to address the Deanery topic before the next meeting and have it reported on in March.
3. Vocations – Joe provided an update of Project 'DVD'. Pairs of Deacons have volunteered to cover eight weekend Retreats being held at Holy Family Monastery – West Hartford between January and March. The Office will also be reminding Deacons to follow-up with potential candidates they are aware of within their Parishes and distributing bulletin announcements about the Inquiry sessions to be held at St. Thomas Seminary on March 10 & 24, 2013.

New Business: - None

Deanery Report:

1. Hamden/ North Haven:
 - a. Jack noted that in the past at the Annual Convocation there had been a collection for special groups /a needy cause (i.e. Hole in the Wall Gang). Bob noted that 2/4/13 is the 40th Anniversary of the Diaconate in the Archdiocese. There will be a new photo Directory assembled this year and a collection made at the Convocation this year.
 - b. Jack also noted the St. Stephen Mass on 12/26/13 at the Lady of Mt. Carmel church in Hamden.

2. East Shore:

- a. Joe noted that on 1/28/13, Rev. Bonita Grubbs, Director of Christian Community Action – New Haven, will be speaking at St. Aedan/St. Brendan School 7 p.m. sponsored by their Social Action Committee. She had spoken at the East Shore Deanery meeting last Fall. Bob said he will also post on Deacon website to advertise it.

Director’s Report w/ Upcoming Events – Bob Pallotti (Refer to email sent by Bob)

There are 10 candidates for 2014 and 11 for the class of 2016. Bob noted their commitment and enthusiasm.

Upcoming Events include:

- April 27, 2013 –“Ministry to First Responders” by Dcn. Tony Surozenski
- October 18-20, 2013 Retreat: Fr. William Sheehan on “Centering Prayer and Contemplation”
- Other topics in consideration by the Continued Education Committee:
 - Interreligious understanding and action
 - “We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah”
 - Near Death Experience” by Dr. Eben Alexander
 - “Ministry to Those with Addictions”
 - Workshop of “Jesus” during this Year of Faith

Open Discussion

- We should create and maintain a Long Range Plan that aligns with our Mission/Ministry.
- Meetings: There needs to be better communication of upcoming COD Meetings, the dates, time, location and a means for others to call in. (There are free services available. Contact Tim Healy)

Closing

Meeting closed with a prayer by Steve and adjourned at 10:35 am.

Next meeting is March 9, 2013 @ 9 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Dcn Joe Ryzewski – Secretary