

Boston Diaconate Community Board Meeting

May 28, 2009

Minutes

Present: Fr. Bill Kelly, Deacons Pat Guerrini, Joe Belmonte, Guy Spiri, John Nicholson, Bill Koffel, John Whipple, John Mannion, Al Shanahan, Cliff King, Brendan Fitzgerald, Mrs. Eileen Menz

Updating Clergy Data Base

Pat Guerrini noted that there have been ongoing problems getting all deacons to respond in a timely fashion to requests for information that is needed to update the Clergy Data Base. The Clergy Personnel Office has been working to update the Clergy Data Base. Each deacon has been requested to fill out a form that includes "Personal Information" (including current contact information), "Work Information," and "Parish Assignment History." Any deacon who has not yet completed such a form should obtain one from his Regional Representative or DeaconPatrick_Guerrini@rcab.org.

Completing CORI Forms

Deacons need to complete CORI forms on an annual basis. These forms cover the fiscal year that runs from July 1 through June 30. They are mailed to each deacon and need to be filed with the Office of Clergy Support. If you have not yet completed and returned a form for the year ending June 30, 2009 please contact Ann Lally in the Office for Background Screening promptly. Forms for 2010 were recently mailed and are now due.

Deacon Photo Directory

All deacons are expected to arrange for the inclusion of a picture of themselves and, if they are married, of their wives, in the Deacon Photo Directory that is presently being compiled by Olan Mills. Deacon Pat has sent out a number of emails on this topic, and full participation is important.

Annual Retreats

Deacons are reminded of the obligation to make an annual retreat. Al Shanahan is the Retreat Coordinator for Deacons, and each deacon should let Al know when they have completed a retreat. Al's email address is: ashanahn@mitre.org. Al reports that about two dozen deacons attended the retreat that Brother Paul

Feeney conducted this year. Brother Paul has agreed to do a retreat for deacons again next year.

A couples' retreat is being planned. John Jennette was looking at Miramar for the weekend of January 15, 2010. The price may be around \$280 per couple.

Formation

Dan Burns reports that things are going well with the formation program. This fall there will be a new class starting at the Pastoral Center with approximately 12 aspirants.

Dan is working on ways to reinvigorate the formation program for Spanish-speaking men, as well as for others for whom English is not their first language.

Pat mentioned a need to review the process for assigning newly-ordained deacons. There are a number of deacons who are seeking to be reassigned.

NADD National Convention

Dan Burns and Pat Guerrini attended a conference in Chicago for Directors of diaconate formation programs from around the country. The presenters were wonderful and it provided a good opportunity to network and see what others are doing.

Dan attended a good workshop on mentoring, which is something that he and Cardinal Sean see as an important thing to do in the Boston Archdiocese. This is a work in progress. There is a particular desire to have mentors for those who are in formation so that they can observe deacons engaged in various aspects of ministry and then reflect on what they've seen.

Pat attended a workshop on deacons as "parish life coordinators." Some deacons are serving in this role, but only in "pockets" around the country. The workshop included a statistical survey of what is happening in this regard, including information about salaries for those who serve in this role. Where deacons are employed in this capacity, most receive the same salary as women religious who serve in this role. It seems as if bishops typically choose the person they believe is most qualified to serve as a "parish life coordinator," regardless of whether or not that person is a deacon.

Lecture on St. Paul for Priests and Deacons

Of the 30 or so people who attended Fr. Frank Santilli's lecture on St. Paul, Pat reports that more than half were deacons.

Preaching Workshops at Boston College

These workshops have been opened to deacons. Watch for announcements from Pat. They are part of the Church in the 21st Century program that Boston College runs.

Annual Convocation

The annual convocation for deacons in the Archdiocese will be held on February 20, 2010, at St. Patrick's in Stoneham. Ideas for speakers and/or workshops would be appreciated. It was suggested that the workshop for women be repeated.

Day of Recollection for Women

Sr. Mary Reardon has arranged for a day of recollection for women in the diaconate community for September 12, 2009. Mary Ann McLaughlin will be the presenter.

Holy Hour for Life

This event has been scheduled for January 21, 2010. All deacons are encouraged to participate. Try to make it more of a parish event. Involve other ministries if possible.

Deacons for Life Training

Watch for announcements about times for scheduled training sessions. Linda Thayer is now scheduled to speak on human sexuality on September 23rd at 7 p.m. at the Pastoral Center.

Dr. Paul Carpentier, President of "In His Image," is scheduled to speak on November 18th at 7 p.m. about in vitro fertilization at the Master of Arts in Ministry (MAM) building at 149 Washington Street in Brighton.

Diaconate Community Board Meetings 2009-2010

All meetings will be in the Flatley Room at the Pastoral Center on Mondays starting at 7 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m. The dates are:

September 14, 2009

November 9, 2009

February 1, 2010

May 2, 2010

Policy Handbooks for Candidates and Deacons

These are in process. Examples from other dioceses are being collected and reviewed.

Regional Outreach to Non-Compliant Deacons

Pat expressed concern about deacons who are not participating in any events of the diaconate community and who do not respond to mailings from his office and other offices in the diocese. Regional representatives were encouraged to assist Pat in reaching out to all deacons in their region to encourage them to participate in the life of the community.

Outreach to Widows – Memorial Mass

Eileen Menz gave a moving report about the outreach she has been engaged in to the widows of deacons. There are about 60 widows of deacons in the Archdiocese. There are another 30 or so deacons who have lost their wives.

Eileen asks that she be informed about any deaths so that she can be in touch with the spouse who has experienced a loss.

There was a strong sense that the practice of holding a Memorial Mass for deceased members of the diaconate community should be restored, and it was suggested that a date in November be considered with the Pastoral Center as a possible location.

Regional Reports

Members reported briefly on meetings and other activities in their regions. All regions are encouraged to meet two or three times per year.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Koffel