

St. George Church Framingham, MA

February 15, 2006

MINUTES FROM DEACONS' MEETING WEST REGION

A list of the 15 deacons who attended the West Region meeting on February 15, 2006 at St. George in Framingham is attached.

We gathered at 6:30 p.m., shared evening prayer, and then shared a meal and each other's company.

There was an update on matters covered at the Deacon's Council Meeting held with Archbishop Sean on December 6, 2005. The minutes of that meeting are available on the Diaconate website.

Dick Delio, who is now our representative in the office of Clergy Support and Ongoing Formation, spoke about his role and the role of the office. This generated an informative and candid discussion of the relationship between, on the one hand, deacons and pastors at individual parishes, and, on the other hand, the bishops and archdiocesan officials. Money, and the lack of it, was also a recurring topic of discussion.

The benefit of regular gatherings of deacons was also discussed. This was the second meeting of the deacons in the West Region, and we agree that such meetings help us get to know each other better, let us compare notes on life in our respective parishes, are an opportunity to pray together, and provide a place to talk about our concerns.

A concern was expressed about the lack of attendance at these meetings. We hear from about half of the 50 deacons in the region. It is recognized that people are busy, but perhaps there is some other reason. It was suggested that we could poll people and find out what they think of our efforts to meet. Perhaps those that read these minutes could send thoughts to Bill Koffel (bill@koffel.org) or Guy Spiri (dgspiri@verizon.net). Is time of day, location, day of the week, content, other, problematical? Let us know your thoughts!

A suggestion was made by a deacon and his wife to have an annual gathering of deacons and wives with the regional bishop. This was something that use to occur in the South region. The format included dinner, a guest speaker and an opportunity to gather

to share experiences and support one another. There was general agreement that this is a great idea and will be addressed in future meetings.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday May 3, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist in Wellesley.

Minutes prepared by Deacon Bill Koffel

Attendees Deacon Meeting (West Region)					
St. George Parish					
February 15, 2006					
First	Last	Wife	City	Phone (H)	E-mail
Richard	Bilotta	Rosella	Burlington	781-273-1248	deacondick358@msn.com
Laurence	Bloom	Julia	Auburndale	617- 916-5343	DCNLARRY@AOL.COM
Richard	Brennan	Patricia	Walpole	508-668-8145	richiepattib@verizon.net
James	Callahan	Joann	Newtonville	617-527-8035	Callahan15@comcast.net
Paul	Cloonan	Kathleen	Wellsley	781-237-0755	MyPalAlly@aol.com
Charles	Cornell	Elizabeth	Stow	978-562-7447	CAC@MMCOM.COM
Eugene	Counihan	Irene	Acton	978-263-2139	ENEGC@comcast.net
James	Crump	Lee	Natick	508-653-6216	W1EWN@TIAC.NET
Richard	Delio	Carleen	Franklin	508-528-5605	DDELIO@YAHOO.COM
William	Koffel	Dorothy	Framingham	508-877-6839	bill@koffel.org
Leo	LaBrache	Frances	Waltham	781-891-4215	NONE
John	Nicholson	Claire	Marlborough	508-481-3667	JDNICHOLSON@COMCAST.NET
Thomas	Smith	Mary	Wellesley	(781) 235-6442	SMITHUM@AOL.COM
Guy	Spiri	Barbara	Framingham	(508) 877-3185	dgspiri@verizon.net
Richard	Vaughn	Janice	Medfield	(508) 359-8323	BEARSBIG@AOL.COM