



FAITH. HOPE. CHARITY

## Diocese of Springfield

Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy  
www.DioSpringfieldCEFSC.org

**TO:** Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski  
Members of the Committee for the Continuing Education and Support of Clergy

**FROM:** Fr. Warren J. Savage, Chairperson

**DATE:** May 22, 2019

**RE:** Summary Report of the May 21, 2019 Meeting

---

The Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy met on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at the Elms College, Chicopee, MA.

**Members Present:** Fr. Warren Savage, Chairperson, Fr. Mark Stelzer, Deacon Paul Briere, Deacon Roger Carrier, Deacon Kevin McCarthy, Deacon Don Philip, and Deacon Dan Romanello. **Excused Absence:** Fr. Piotr Calik, Fr. Michael Lillpopp, Fr. James Nolte. **Guests:** Dr. Daniel Baillargeon, *Diocesan Superintendent of Schools*, Sue Wehner, RN, BSN, *Clergy Wellness Coordinato*.

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer lead by Deacon Dan Romanello.

The Summary Report of the April 9, 2019 meeting was accepted.

Fr. Savage welcomed Dr. Daniel Baillargeon, *Diocesan Superintendent of Schools*, Sue Wehner, RN, BSN, *Clergy Wellness Coordinator*.

### **NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF RETIRED PRIESTS**

Sue Wehner was invited to share with the committee some of the needs and concerns of our retired priests. Some of the issues facing our retired priests are (a.) finding a place to live upon retirement, (b.) finding transportation for our retired priests to doctor's appointments, and (c.) preparing priests for retirement.

**Action Plan:** Sue is working with the Subcommittee for Retired Priests and diocesan officials to explore vacant properties (rectories) that may be converted into residences for retired priests. A request has been sent to some of the deacons to see if they would be willing to assist with rides for some of our priests, until the transportation issue worked out.

## **THE PATHWAYS TO FAITH REPORT ON THE REVITALIZATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

Dr. Daniel Baillargeon was invited to give the members of the committee an overview of *The Pathways To Faith Report* on the revitalization of Catholic schools in the diocese. The *Pathways To Faith Report* highlights the critical role of the pastors/priests in the process of revitalizing Catholic schools in the Diocese of Springfield. Some of our pastors/priests will need ongoing education, formation and support to undertake this monumental task.

One of the immediate actions mentioned in the report states: *It is very important that the pastors of schools and priests of the Diocese of Springfield are brought into the process of revitalizing our Catholic schools. A meeting with them, therefore, is necessary within the first six months to discuss the role they play and plan for the changes which flow forth from this report.*

In light of Dr. Baillargeon's presentation and the above-stated recommendation, the CEFSC committee recommends that a special *Clergy Day on The Pathways To faith Report* be scheduled for June 11, 2019, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (lunch included) at the Bishop Marshall Center.

The primary purpose of the meeting is to give Dr. Baillargeon an opportunity to share the importance of Catholic schools in the evangelizing mission of the Church and *listen deeply* to the experiences, concerns and wisdom of the priests of the diocese,

**Action Plan: In light of Dr. Baillargeon's presentation and the above-stated recommendation, the CEFSC committee recommended that a special *Clergy Day on The Pathways To faith Report* be scheduled for June 11, 2019, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (lunch included) at the Bishop Marshall Center. The primary purpose of the meeting is to give Dr. Baillargeon an opportunity to share the importance of Catholic schools in the evangelizing mission of the Church and *listen deeply* to the experiences, concerns and wisdom of the priests of the diocese,**

**Fr. Savage will ask Stacy to check the Bishop's schedule to see if he is available to attend. If he is not available, the committee feels that given the importance of the report, the Clergy Day needs to be held to give the priests an opportunity to respond the report. In advance of the meeting, the clergy would need to receive a copy of the report for their review.**

## **UPDATE: CULTIVATING UNITY POST-CONVOCATION REPORTS**

Fr. Savage reported the recommendations from the Focus Group on Deanery/Presbyteral Council were brought forward to the Presbyteral Council for review and discussion. As a consequence of this initiative, Bishop Rozanski has invited the Deans and Episcopal Vicars to review the recommendations on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at the Bishop Marshall Center.

## **UPDATE: NEW PASTORS PROGRAM**

Fr. Piotr Calik submitted the following report to the committee:

### **Action Plan:**

1. Summer After Ordination. (1 day)
  - a) With the Diocesan Tribunal - Fr. Michael Pierz

- b) With Human Resources - Cathi Farr  
[Fr. Piotr will coordinate that Day sometime in August]
- 2. Newly ordained priests: (Fall of the Third year after ordination after Bishop's Approval)  
FIVE-DAY WORKSHOP DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR NEW PASTORS at  
St. Mary's Seminary and University 5400 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21210
  - a) Fall 2020: Frs. Pease; Furman; Kokoszka (Class of 2017 and 2018)
  - b) Fall 2021: Frs. Norman; Duy Le; Skowera (Class of 2019)
- 3. Additional Days (Spring and Fall) just for a social gathering and sharing their struggles in the ministry. These Clergy Days will be for those who were ordained in the last 5 years. The purpose of the day: To help to create an atmosphere of unity and also the opportunity to listen to the wisdom of invited guests. Gathering will take place at the one of designated rectories, with Mass or Prayer, Social, Dinner and Sharing of their struggles.

New Pastors' Program will be coordinated by Fr. Piotr Calik with help from Fr. Jonathan Reardon, Deacon James Marcus

Advisors/Guest Speakers: Deacon Don Philip, Fr. David Raymond, Fr. Francis Reilly, Fr. Daniel Pacholec, Fr. Thomas Shea and Fr. Henry Dorsch.

**UPDATE: PRIESTS' CONVOCATION 2020**

Fr. Savage announced that the next Priests' Convocation which will be held Wednesday, October 21 – Friday, October 23, 2020. The Convocation will be held at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center. More details regarding preparations for the Convocation 2020 will be sent to the presbyterate.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**UPDATE: PREPARATION FOR BALLOT MEASURE ON PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE**

Fr. Savage reported that Deacon Don Philip suggested that in place of a clergy day, materials be prepared for the priests and deacons to help them to educate the people of the ballot measure.

**Action Plan: Deacon Philip and Deacon Romanello will work with diocesan departments and members of the Catholic community to prepare materials.**

**UPCOMING CLERGY DAYS FALL 2019**

The following Clergy Days have been scheduled in collaboration with Bishop Rozanski:

- September 17, 2019 – Focus: Priests' Salaries, Taxes, and Retirement Plans
- October 22, 2019 – Celebration of Priesthood
- November 19, 2019 – Focus: TBA
- December 10, 2019 – Clergy Advent Day of Reflection

Members of the committee were asked to submit names of possible presenters for the Advent Day of Reflection and Priests' Retreats for Spring 2020 and Fall 2020.

## **CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE: *THRIVING IN MINISTRY INITIATIVE***

Fr. Savage asked the priest members of the committee, who are also members of the Presbyteral Council, to share their thoughts on the initiative. The Catholic Leadership Institute *Thriving In Ministry Initiative* is a new service to revolutionize the discernment, appointment, and transitional support of priest assignments in the U.S. Catholic Church.

The benefits of the *Thriving In Ministry Initiative* for the Diocese of Springfield are:

- It will support the work of the Bishop's Clergy Commission and the Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy.
- It will help our pastors, especially new pastors, to build relationships with experienced clergy who can serve as mentors and guide them through key leadership challenges in congregational ministry that is multifaceted and demanding.
- It will transform our current priest placement process and provide transitional support to pastors as they move to new parishes.
- It utilizes technology to better align priests' gifts and skills with the needs of parish communities, equip pastors and their new parishes with individualized, long-term transition plans, and offer targeted roadmaps for self-care and professional development to support pastors through their ministry transitions.

The meeting concluded with a prayer lead by Deacon Don Philip.