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Diocese of Springfield

Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy

<http://diospringfieldcefsc.org>

TO: Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski and CEFSC Committee Members

FROM: Fr. Warren J. Savage, Chairperson

DATE: September 18, 2019

RE: Summary Report of the September 17, 2019 Meeting

The Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy met on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bishop Marshall Center.

Members Present: Fr. Warren Savage, Chairperson, Fr. Piotr Calik, Fr. James Nolte, Deacon Paul Briere, Deacon Roger Carrier, and Deacon Dan Romanello. **Excused Absence:** Fr. Michael Lillpopp, Deacon Kevin McCarthy, Fr. Mark Stelzer, and Deacon Don Philip.

The Summary Report of the May 21, 2019 meeting was accepted.

RESTRUCTURING OF DEANERIES

- Fr. Savage stressed the importance of upcoming deanery meeting to discuss the proposed plan for the restructuring of the deaneries. Feedback from the meetings must be submitted by September 30th to Louise Sinico-MacDonalad, chancellor@diospringfield.org, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Chancellor.

NEW PASTORS' PROGRAM [Summary of Report Submitted by Fr. Piotr Calik]

- A program on *Theology of Marriage and Human Resources* was held on Monday, July 8, 2019 at the Pastoral Center. The presenters for the day were Msgr. John Bonzagni, Judicial Vicar, Cathi Farr, Director, Human Resources and Jeffrey Trant, Director, Office of Safe Environment and Victim Assistance. Topics covered on Marriage included: Pre-Cana/Marriage Preparation, PMI, Liturgical Planning, Canonical Issues – Nihil Obstat, Annulments, Mixed Marriage, Disparity of Cult, Second Marriage, Dispensation from Place, Dispensation from Form, etc. Topics covered on Human Resources included: Lay Employee Handbook, Management Skills, Treatment of Employees, etc.
- A *Social Gathering with a Pastoral Panel on Priestly Life and Ministry* was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at Holy Family Church, South Deerfield, MA. Fr. Jonatan Reardon hosted the meeting that included prayer, dinner and discussion. The invited panelists were Deacon Don Philip, Fr. Francis Reilly, and Father Jeffrey Ballou.

The panelists shared their experience of ministry on Maintenance of Buildings, How to work with parish staff, and the Role of the Deacons as Parish Administrators.

- *A Program on Fiscal Affairs* is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at the Pastoral Center. Bill LaBroad, Diocesan Finance Officer will be the presenter. Topics to be covered include: Fiscal Affairs Parish Budgets, Diocesan Annual Report, Diocesan Billing, Finance Councils, Investments, Payroll Services, Intacct Training, 403b, etc.
- *A Social Gathering* will be scheduled for May 2020 in Pittsfield or Lee.
- A Program for the Newly Ordained 2020 with Msgr. Bonzagni and Cathi Farr will be scheduled for July 2020.
- The newly ordained priests (3-5 years with the Bishop's approval) will attend the New Pastors' Program, FIVE-DAY WORKSHOP DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR NEW PASTORS at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore in the fall of 2020.
- *Future Topics/ Concerns:*
 - Issues around Financial Management / Temporal Goods
 - The Relationship between Pastors, Deacons, Parish Administrators, Lay Leaders, etc.
 - How the population factor is going to play a role of our ministry?
 - The Closure of Parishes in the Future
 - Diocesan Policies

CEFSC Website: <http://diospringfieldcefsc.org> [Summary of Report and Materials Submitted by Deacon Roger Carrier]

- Deacon Roger provided a brief update on some changes being made to the diaconate website resulting from some opportunities raised by the diaconate office and the CEFSC.
- The Office of the Diaconate, in cooperation with the diocesan Committee for Education, Formation and Support of Clergy is embarking on an exciting project to help increase visibility regarding the contribution of deacons in the Diocese of Springfield. The project begins by creating an updated and expanded Online Directory of the active and retired deacons in the diocese. The new directory will include a profile of the deacon that focusses on his unique ministries.
- In addition to providing easy access to a deacon's home address or parish assignment, the power of the new directory is as a resource that helps people learn about *diaconal* service and find deacons involved in a particular type of ministry (Examples: Campus Ministry, Charismatic Renewal, JustFaith, Prison Ministry, Pre-Can, St. Vincent de Paul, Tribunal, Take and Eat).
- The Online Directory will enable parishes interested in learning more about a specific ministry find and contact deacons for information, parish presentations and getting parishioners involved in the Works of Mercy.

PRIESTS' CONVOCATION 2020

- Fr. Savage reported that the focus of the Priests' Convocation 2020 is on *Ideological/Theological/Generational Differences* in the Presbyterate. The Convocation will be held October 21 – 23, 2020 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center. The facilitators will be Fr. Stephen Fichter and Dominic Perri.

PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE [Report Submitted by Deacon Donald Philip]

- The work that has to be done is *End of Life Education* at the parish or at least the deanery level. It has to live somewhere as a pro-life priority. The Archdiocese of Boston will provide training if deaneries can identify lay/religious/clergy with some background and the heart for it.

ONGOING EDUCATION AND FORMATION: PARISH ADMINISTRATORS / BUSINESS MANAGERS

- Fr. Savage reported that Bishop Rozanski in collaboration with the Office of Permanent Deacons has approved the training of deacons to be Parish Administrators/Business. Fr. Savage and Deacon Carrier are in the process of creating the training program to be reviewed by the Diaconate Formation Board and the CEFSC Committee and submitted to the Bishop for approval.
- *The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons* states: Deacons who have parochial administrative training and experience may be entrusted, under a canonically appointed pastor or priest supervisor, to assist in the pastoral care of a parish or to temporarily guide a parish that lacks, because of a shortage, the immediate benefit of a resident pastor. (n. 49)

CLERGY DAYS 2020

- Fr. Savage asked the members of the committee to suggest topics and speakers for Clergy Days to be scheduled for 2020. The tentative schedule for 2020 was presented for review and discussion:
 - January: Addiction and Recovery (Speaker TBA)
 - February: Topic and Speaker (TBA)
 - March: Lenten Clergy Day of Prayer and Reflection (Speaker TBA)
 - April: Chrism Mass
 - May: Topic and Speaker (TBA)
 - June: Annual Spring Priests' Retreat @ Miramar Retreat Center (Retreat Director TBA)
 - September: Annual Fall Priests' Retreat @ Enders Island (Retreat Director TBA)
 - October 21 – 23: Priests' Convocation @ Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center
 - December: Advent Clergy Day of Prayer and Reflection (Speaker TBA)