



FAITH. HOPE. CHARITY

Diocese of Springfield

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

TO: Bishop Rozanski, CEFSC Committee Members, Active and Retired Priests and Deacons
FROM: Fr. Warren J. Savage, Chairperson
DATE: October 31, 2019
RE: Summary Report of the October 29, 2019 Meeting

The Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy met on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bishop Maguire Pastoral Center.

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

The Summary Report of the September 17, 2019 meeting was accepted.

UPDATE: RESTRUCTURING OF DEANERIES

Feedback on the restructuring of the deaneries has been submitted by the following deaneries: Berkshire, Hampden Central, Hampden East, Hampden East, and Hampden West. The committee reviewed and discussed the reports. The chart below lists the recommendations, concerns and suggestions relative the restructuring plan.

Deanery	Recommendation	Other Concerns/Suggestions
Berkshire	Voted in favor of the plan realizing no geographical changes to the deanery other than the addition of the Town of Monroe	Meet four times per year. Deanery Representative on the Presbyteral Council. Term Limits for Deans/Vicars. Deaneries need to articulate purpose . More input on Pastoral Planning Decisions.
Hampden Central	Recognized the need for the restructuring of Hampden Central Deanery Common Concern: The overall size of the proposed Hampden East Deanery of 29 parishes.	Larger Deanery could result in a more significant/relevant meeting. Full Deanery Meeting twice a year.
Hampden East	Deanery structure proposal for Hampden East with 29 parishes/1 chapel was too large.	Minimum four deanery meetings per year. One deanery meeting for all deacons, pastoral ministers, religious educators.

Hampden East (continued)		Presbyteral Council present deanery action topics for deanery agenda. Six-year terms for Deans/Vicars. Deans/Vicars be appointed ex-officio on Presbyteral Council and Clergy Commission.
Hampden East (Palmer, Monson, Brimfield, Three Rivers)	Disagreed with the proposal: The proposed Hampden East Deanery with 29 parishes/1 chapel is not realistic. Proposals for Franklin County, Hampden West are good as proposed. Hampden East should be divided. Chicopee, Springfield, East Longmeadow and Longmeadow should be brought together as a separate deanery. Recommend that Ware, Belchertown, Three Rivers, Palmer, Brimfield, Monson, Hampden, Wilbraham and Ludlow be one deanery.	Need for better clarification of the Dean (appears to be a full-time job).
Hampden West	Leave Hampden West as it is. Hampden East with 29 parishes seems too big.	Pastoral Planning should be ongoing. Consider restructuring of deanery after pastoral planning decisions. What will be the number of priests and parishes in five years? How can a cluster of priests address the needs of a parish/deanery? How do we balance the needs of the people with the well-being of a dwindling number of priests?

UPDATE: NEW PASTORS’ PROGRAM

Fr. Piotr Calik recommended that the priests in the program be divided into two groups” 1.) Those ordained before 2019 (Frs. Furman, Kokoszka, Pease); 2.) Those recently ordained in 2019 (Frs. Duy Le, Norman, and Skowera).

The committee preferred that the priests remain as one group but recommended that Fr. Piotr decided what is best for the priests in light of their human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral needs.

The next meeting of the New Pastors’ Program will be on November 19, 2019. The focus of the meeting will be Diocesan Finances.

The committee recommended that the topic of “Dealing with Staff and Employees” be discussed at a future meeting of the New Pastors’ Program.

UPDATE; CEFSC WEBSITE/ONLINE DIRECTORY OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED DEACONS

The proposed online directory of active and retired deacons is nearing completion. The directory will be a resource for parishes that need information and support on ministries that promote evangelization and the social mission of the church.

UPDATE: PRIESTS' CONVOCATION 2020

Fr. Savage reported that Fr. Stephen Fichter and Dominic Perri, the facilitators for the Cultivating Unity Convocation 2018 have agreed to facilitate the Priests' Convocation scheduled for October 21-23, 2020 at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center, Westford, MA. Information will be sent to the priests in January 2020.

CLERGY DAY SCHEDULE 2020

Committee members were asked to recommend speakers/presenters for the Advent and Lent Clergy Days and the Priests' Annual Retreats (Fall and Spring).

Fr. Savage will ask Stacy Dibbern to reserve the following dates in the Bishop's calendar for upcoming Clergy Days:

- March 10, 2020 – Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection
- October 21 -23, 2020 – Priests' Convocation
- December 8, 2020 – Advent Day of Prayer and Reflection

Other programs recommended by the priests and deacons are still be planned and will be scheduled in light of the Bishop's schedule.

UPDATE: SUBCOMMITTEE FOR RETIRED PRIESTS

Fr. Shea brought forward from discussion with members of the Subcommittee for Retired Priests the need for a system of *continuum of care* to advise and support our diocesan priests on issues of financial planning, retirement plans, health proxy, funeral arrangements, wills, etc. Fr. Savage will invite Sue Wehner, RN, BSN, Clergy Wellness Coordinator, to the next CEFSC meeting to discuss a coordinated *continuum of care* system.

NEW BUSINESS

PARISH ADMINISTRATION AND COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY COURSE FOR DEACONS

Fr. Savage shared with the committee the proposed Parish Administration and Collaborative Ministry Course for Deacons who have a perceived call to be Parish Administrators for parishes without a resident pastor due to the shortage of priests.

At the request of Bishop Rozanski, Fr. Savage and Deacon Carrier, in collaboration with the Office of Permanent Deacons, have designed a course to train deacons to be appointed as Parish Administrators. The description of the three-module course (see below) was shared with the committee for review. Each module is five-weeks in length.

Module One: Parish Administration I

The focus of Pastoral Administration I is Pastoral Leadership and the Ministry of Worship. This module provides an overview of the leadership role, the duties and responsibilities of the Parish Administrator in the pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental life of a parish community.

Module Two: Parish Administration II

The focus of Pastoral Administration II is Pastoral Leadership and the Ministry of Teaching. This module provides an overview of the leadership role, the duties and responsibilities of the Parish Administrator in the lifelong learning, catechetical, and formation programs of a parish community.

Module Three: Parish Administration III

The focus of Pastoral Administration III is Pastoral Leadership and the Ministry of Charity and Justice. This module provides an overview of the leadership role, the duties and responsibilities of the Parish Administrator in the evangelization, outreach services and social ministry programs of a parish community.

The course content will be presented to the CEFSC Committee, the Presbyteral Council and the Diocesan Clergy before the program is initiated.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Fr. Savage introduced the Apostolic Letter Issued "MOTO PROPRIO" by Pope Francis, "*APERUIT ILLIS*" (September 30, 2019) *Instituting The Sunday Of The Word Of God*. The **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.

The various communities will find their own ways to mark this *Sunday* with a certain solemnity. It is important, however, that in the Eucharistic celebration the sacred text be enthroned, in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's word. On this Sunday, it would be particularly appropriate to highlight the proclamation of the word of the Lord and to emphasize in the homily the honour that it is due. Bishops could celebrate the Rite of Installation of Lectors or a similar commissioning of readers, in order to bring out the importance of the proclamation of God's word in the liturgy. In this regard, renewed efforts should be made to provide members of the faithful with the training needed to be genuine proclaimers of the word, as is already the practice in the case of acolytes or extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Pastors can also find ways of giving a Bible, or one of its books, to the entire assembly as a way of showing the importance of learning how to read, appreciate and pray daily with sacred Scripture, especially through the practice of *lectio divina*. (n. 3)

Deacons Briere, McCarthy and Philip will prepare a *parish resource* for priests and deacons to celebrate *Sunday of the Word* in response to the Apostolic Letter.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bishop Marshall Center (following the Advent Clergy Day).