



FAITH. HOPE. CHARITY

Diocese of Springfield

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

TO: Bishop William D. Byrne, D.D., Presbyteral Council, CEFSC Committee,
Active and Retired Priests, Deacons and Religious

FROM: Fr. Warren J. Savage, Chairperson

DATE: February 2, 2021

RE Committee Update

The Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy suspended committee meetings in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No official meetings were held due to the appointment of Bishop Rozanski on June 10, 2020 to lead the Archdiocese of St. Louis. This report is an update on the programs that were cancelled and recently held as well as resources offered to the priests and deacons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UPDATE: CLERGY DAYS, CONVOCATION, ANNUAL PRIESTS' RETREATS 2020

May 19, 2020 – Clergy Day

Topic: Etiology of Addiction and Basic Principles of Prevention

Presenters: Mariette Danilo, Ph.D. and Sr. Mercedes McCann, RSM, Ph.D.

The Program was postponed and will be rescheduled in collaboration with the Bishop's Office and St. John Vianney Center.

May 25 - 29, 2020 - Annual Priests' Spring Retreat

Theme: "Priesthood: The Lord's Humble Servant"

Miramar Retreat Center, Duxbury, MA

Retreat Director: Fr Guy Sciacca, Archdiocese of Boston

In consultation with Bishop Rozanski and the Miramar Retreat Center, the retreat was canceled. The retreat will be rescheduled for May 2021.

September 7 - 11, 2020 - Annual Priests' Fall Retreat

Theme: "Ephphata, Be Opened"

Enders Island, Mystic, CT

Retreat Director: Fr. Marc Montminy, Diocese of Manchester, NH

In consultation with Bishop Rozanski and Enders Island, the retreat was cancelled. The retreat will be rescheduled for 2021.

October 21 – 23, 2020 - Priests' Convocation

Westford Inn & Conference Center, Westford, MA

Facilitators: Fr. Stephen Fichter and Dominic Perri

After consultation with Bishop Rozanski, the Vicars and Deans, the Convocation was cancelled. There are no plans for a Convocation at this time.

November 24, 2020 – Clergy Day with Bishop-Elect William D. Byrne

St. Michaels' Cathedral

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Bishop-elect Byrne was the speaker for this special Clergy Day with priests and deacons. This gathering was an opportunity for Bishop-elect Byrne to formally introduce himself to the clergy of the diocese and offer a reflection on the importance of our ministry in a time of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty about the future.

UPDATE: PARISH ADMINISTRATION AND COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY ONGOING FORMATION COURSES

These courses are designed for deacons who desire to participate in the governance of a parish community that does not have the benefit of a resident parish priest. These courses offer participants continuing education, formation, practical skills, strategies, and processes needed to guide and manage a small to middle parish community.

Module I: Parish Administration on Ministry of Worship Virtual Course

Classes were held on May 19, 26, June 2, June 9, and June 16 (via Zoom 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.).

Instructor: Deacon Roger Carrier

The course provided 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 II: Parish Administration on Parish Lifelong Faith Formation Hybrid Course

Classes were held on September 29, October 13, October 20, November 10, and November 17.

DeCicé Hall at the Marian Center Daughters of the Heart of Mary, Holyoke, MA 01040

Instructor: Fr. Warren J. Savage

The course provided 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 III: Parish Administration on the Ministry of Charity and Justice Hybrid Course

Classes will be held on February 23, March 2, March 9, March 16, and March 23, 2021.

DeCicé Hall at the Marian Center Daughters of the Heart of Mary, Holyoke, MA 01040

Instructor: Fr. Warren J. Savage

The course will provide 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 following deacons are enrolled in the Parish Administration courses:

- Deacon Paul F. DeCarlo, Holy Trinity Parish, Greenfield
- Deacon Paul Federici, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Westfield

- Deacon Pedro J. Rivera Morán, Director of the Diocesan Latino Ministry, St. Mary's Parish, Westfield
- Deacon Sean Mulholland, Administrator, Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Sheffield
- Deacon David Picard, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Agawam
- Deacon David Southworth, Administrator, Holy Name Parish, Chicopee

UPDATE: NEW PASTORS FORMATION PROGRAM

The New Pastors' Program originally scheduled for August 31 – September 2, 2020 at the Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT.

In collaboration with Bishop McManus, Apostolic Administrator and Fr. Piotr Calik, Coordinator and Convener, the program was cancelled. Recommendation: That Bishop Byrne meet with Fr. Calik to review and approve the New Pastors Program.

UPDATE: PROGRAMS & RESOURCES OFFERED TO PRIESTS AND DEACONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Free Webinar Programs

- May 14, 2020 (1:00 p.m. EST)
Free Webinar on *Transformative Grief* presented by Emily R. Cash, Psy.D., Saint Luke Institute
- May 19, 2020 (1:00 p.m. CST)
Free Webinar on *Reopening The Parish: A National Conversation* sponsored by Parish CATALYST, A Platform For Pastoral Excellence
- FREE WEBINAR: AVE MARIA PRESS PROFESSIONAL WEBINAR SERIES
Grow Giving During the COVID-19 Crisis
Tuesday, June 2, 2020 (3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT)

The COVID-19 crisis has many parish leaders scrambling for funds so that they can keep their doors open and fulfill their mission. In this webinar, Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran, bestselling authors of *Rebuilt and ChurchMoney*, will share immediate action steps and long-term strategies to fund your mission to make disciples. White and Corcoran will reveal key opportunities to increase giving in the midst of the pandemic.

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3967274754943835662?utm_source=bronto&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Sign+Up&utm_content=FREE+WEBINAR:+Parish+Giving+in+the+Midst+of+the+

- THE LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC THOUGHT
Christians in times of Catastrophe: Augustine's "City of God"
Tuesday, June 9, 2020 (1:00 p.m. CDT)
A conversation with Jennifer Frey (University of South Carolina), Russell Hittinger (Lumen Christi Institute), and Fr. Michael Sherwin, OP (University of Fribourg).
<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eh2zchge25646f45&oseq=&c=&c>

Mental and Spiritual Health Resources

- Resources from the Saint John Vianney Center were sent to active/retired priests and deacons. Priests and deacons could call 888-993-885 with any particular need or question 24/7.
- Saint Luke Institute Mental Health Helpline for Clergy & Religious 888-526-9357
- Free Course on *Managing Anxiety: How Fear Keeps Us Alive* offered by SLIconnect (Saint Luke Institute) <https://www.sliconnect.org/product/managing-anxiety/>
- Free Resource for Building Resiliency and Managing Emotional and Spiritual Health: Video on *Managing Coronavirus Anxiety*. <https://www.sliconnect.org/managing-coronavirus-anxiety/>

UPDATE: CEFSC WEBSITE

The following guidelines and resources have been posted on the website: www.diospringfieldCEFSC.org.

- Bishop Rozanski's Directives for Reopening of Parishes (Posted May 18, 2020)
- Cleaning Protocol
- Preparing to Reopen
- Mass Reservation Software
- *A Synopsis of Pastoral Considerations for Reopening of Churches and the Resumption of Public Masses* from the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC)

Resources for the New Pastors Program (Posted September 30, 2020)

- <https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/priestly-life-and-ministry>
- [SLI Connect \(Educational Platform of St. Luke Institute\)](#)
- [St. John Vianney Treatment Center - Living Chaste Love](#)
- [Institute for Priestly Formation at Creighton University - Formation in Chaste Love](#)

Resources and Programs on Racism

- BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO US *U.S. Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter on Racism (1979)*
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/african-american/brothers-and-sisters-to-us.cfm>
- OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS THE ENDURING CALL TO LOVE *A Pastoral Letter Against Racism (USCCB 2018)*
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/open-wide-our-hearts.pdf>
- COMBATING RACISM – PARISH RESOURCES
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/parish-resources-on-racism.cfm#backgrounders>
- *Georgetown University Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life*
“Racism in Our Streets and Structures - A Test of Faith, A Crisis for Our Nation”
<https://catholicsocialthought.georgetown.edu/events/racism-in-our-streets-and-structures>

UPCOMING PROGRAM

- Annual Lenten Clergy Day of Reflection 2021 (TBA)
The CEFSC Committee will coordinate with the Bishop's Office for a date. Please send recommendations for a speaker to wsavage@westfield.ma.edu.