



FAITH. HOPE. CHARITY

Diocese of Springfield

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

TO: Morgan Eaton

FROM: Fr. Warren J. Savage, Chairperson

DATE: January 27, 2021

RE: DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, MA CHARTER AUDIT REPORT

I am happy to submit this report as part of the interview process regarding my role in the safe environment process.

The report builds upon my interview with the StoneBridge Auditors and the report that I submitted during the interview on December 5, 2017.

As the Chairperson of the Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy in the Diocese of Springfield, one of my responsibilities is to collaborate with the members of the committee to plan and provide programs and services to support human formation in chastity and celibacy for the priests and assist them in living out their vocation in faithful and integral ways by means of Clergy Days, Annual Priests Retreats, Days of Reflection, and Deanery Gatherings.

Please see below a listing of programs, Clergy Days, Annual Priests Retreats, and services offered to the priests and deacons of the diocese to support them in their ongoing human, intellectual, spiritual, and pastoral formation.

These programs can be found on the Continuing Education, Formation, and Support of Clergy (CEFSC) website: www.diospringfieldCEFSC.org. The website was designed to give priests and deacons access to timely information and resources to support them in their ministry.

A listing of the members of the CEFSC Committee can be found at the end of this report.

“Clericalism is crippling the pastoral mission of the church.”

By Father Donald Cozzens

December 2017

Finally, there appears an issue that our divided church can agree on. Catholics of all stripes – conservatives and liberals and in-betweens – are declaring a pox on clericalism. From Pope Francis to the back pew widow, from seminary rectors to lay ecclesial ministers, we agree that clericalism is crippling the pastoral mission of the church. The Dec. 26, 2017 edition of US Catholic magazine posted an essay by Father Donald Cozzens titled “Don’t put priests on a pedestal.” In the article he contends that clericalism is a “cancer crippling the Catholic world—from local communities to Vatican offices—is so deeply embedded in our past and present church fabric that we need a careful pre-surgery examination. So pull on your surgical gloves and join me in the pre-op room.” Father Donald Cozzens is a writer in residence at John Carroll University, where he teaches in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

Pope Francis’ Letter to Bishops of USCCB

Pope Francis

January 2018

Pope Francis’ letter to the US Bishops invites all those connected to the ministerial priesthood to a deep conversion of heart, a reorientation of our life and ministry in the image of Christ “who came not to be served but to serve” (Mk 10:45), and a communal discernment on new ways of accountability and leadership in the church.

“7 Steps to Support the Newly Ordained”

Msgr. Stephen Rossetti - Our Sunday Visitor

March 2018

It is always a source of sadness when a young priest leaves the priesthood. After years of discernment and formation, the exit of a young priest can be a surprising and distressing event. While there are many reasons one may leave the priesthood, the saddest is complications arising from a lack of support. In this article, I will set out seven important steps in nurturing the vocations of the newly ordained. In addition, these steps surely will help all those in priestly ministry to live happier and holier lives.

Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal

August 2018

The USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People Essential Norms, Statement of Episcopal Commitment* (Revised June 2011)

In light of the global attention being given to the grand jury report on the priest sex abuse scandal in PA, it is important that our deacons and priests have access to this document and be encouraged to become familiar with the Charter. From the preamble...with this 2011 revision of [the Charter], “we re-affirm our deep commitment to creating a safe environment within the Church for children and youth. We have listened to the profound pain and suffering of those victimized by sexual abuse and will continue to respond to their cries.”

“Where is Jesus in the midst of the Church’s sex abuse crisis?”

August 2018

You may find this article to be an excellent resource in light of the ongoing priest sex abuse scandal.

Bishop Rozanski's Response to Abuse Allegations

August 2018

Here is a letter that Bishop Rozanski asks you to share with your parish communities. Please consider sharing at all Masses as well as post on your parish websites and social media platforms.

The letter will be publicly available at 10am Saturday, but Bishop wanted you to have it in advance.

If One Member Suffers...

August 2018

His Holiness Pope Francis has written this letter to the People of God in response to the clergy abuse crisis. The Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy is sharing this letter with the deacons and priests of the diocese for personal reading, study, reflection, and discussion at deanery meetings. Pope Francis' letter and Bishop Rozanski's letter of August 17, 2018 are excellent resources for homilies, discussion with parish leaders, pastoral councils, and parish organizations.

Self-Compassion

August 2018

The current situations in the church can be disheartening, disturbing and distressful. This article may be helpful. It is offered to provide our deacons and priests with the resources needed to remain healthy (whole and holy).

Liturgical Resources in Response to Clergy Sexual Abuse

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC)

September 2018

Liturgical Resources in Response to Clergy Sexual Abuse – resource from FDLC “In Every Age, O Lord, You Have Been Our Refuge” – Liturgies and Prayers in Response to Recent Events.

In the wake of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report priests and deacons have asked for resources that will help us and our parishioners to understand and address what is going on in the Church. The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has created a helpful resource for parishes and communities to use in response to clergy sexual abuse, cover-ups, and mismanagement in our Church.

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Heavenly Father,

In every age, you have been our refuge.

Yet again and still, we stand before you asking for your protection on your holy Church.

For the victims of abuse and their families, pour out your healing and your peace.

Clergy Day - “Clergy Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Church”

Pope Francis Preparatory School, Springfield, MA

Presenter: Dr. Francesco Cesareo

October 9, 2018

Dr. Francesco Cesareo is the current *Chairman of the National Review Board*. The purpose of the *National Review Board* is to advise the USCCB in preventing the sexual abuse of minors in the United States by persons in the service of the Church.

Gratitude as a Daily Practice

Steven Alexander, Ph.D. LukeNotes: St. Luke Institute
December 2018

The quality of being grateful is a foundational component of daily social exchange and can carry deep meaning. Giving thanks ... enhances feelings of optimism and well-being in general.

Pope Emeritus Abuse Crisis Essay

Pope emeritus Benedict XVI
April 2019

Since I myself had served in a position of responsibility as shepherd of the Church at the time of the public outbreak of the crisis, and during the run-up to it, I had to ask myself – even though, as emeritus, I am no longer directly responsible – what I could contribute to a new beginning.

Thus, after the meeting of the presidents of the bishops' conferences was announced, I compiled some notes by which I might contribute one or two remarks to assist in this difficult hour.

My work is divided into three parts. In the first part, I aim to present briefly the wider social context of the question...In the second part, I aim to point out the effects of this situation on the formation of priests and on the lives of priests. Finally, in the third part, I would like to develop some perspectives for a proper response on the part of the Church.

Recovery Spirituality Retreat

June 2019

Recovery Spirituality Retreat to be held July 29 – August 2, 2019 at Genesis Spiritual Life Center in Westfield. The Recovery Spirituality Retreat is designed specifically for Priests, Sisters, Brothers, and Pastors who are in recovery from any form of addiction. Anonymity is assured, and the retreat is closed to non-ordained persons. Deacons are also welcome. Retreat leaders are Sr. Madeleine Joy, SP, BSN and Fr. Mark Stelzer. Please see the attachment for details.

Annual Fall Retreat for Priests

Enders Island, 1 Enders Island, P.O. Box 399, Mystic, CT 06355
September 9 – 13, 2019

Director: Deacon Steven DeMartino, Director of Priest Wellness for the Archdiocese of New York, which is a specialty ministry of healing and accompaniment to the Presbyterate.

Habit versus Addiction

Crystal Taylor-Dietz, Psy.D. - St. Luke Institute
September 2019

It is not uncommon to wonder if a behavior we are engaging in or witnessing is a habit or an addiction. This question can become particularly complicated when the behavior does not involve substance use. Understanding what addiction looks like for substances and activities, such as internet usage, is necessary for knowing when therapeutic interventions may be needed.

US Priests Describe Turmoil Amid Sex Abuse Crisis

David Crary, Associated Press (pub: NCR)

December 2019

More than a century ago, waves of Catholic immigrants from Ireland, Poland and Quebec settled in Chicopee and other western Massachusetts mill towns, helping build churches, rectories and schools to accommodate their faith. Today the priests leading those churches are under siege due to stresses, challenges and sex abuse scandals complicating their lives and those of their fellow priests across the United States.

Clergy Day - *Acceptance as Journey Toward Transformation*

Presenters: Don Marks, Psy.D., HSP and Erik Ranstrom, Ph.D.

January 21, 2020

Donald R. Marks, Psy.D., HSP, serves as a professional consultant with the Saint John Vianney Center providing educational workshops to Clergy and Religious. Dr. Marks is assistant professor in the department of Advanced Studies in Psychology at the Nathan Weiss Graduate College of Kean University in Union, NJ. He serves as director of clinical training for Kean's doctoral program in Combined School and Clinical Psychology and as director of Kean Psychological Services, a community-based training clinic.

Dr. Erik Ranstrom serves as a member of the Spiritual Care Department for the Saint John Vianney Center meeting with residents to discuss the spiritual aspects of their lives and ministry.

Dr. Ranstrom holds a doctorate in theology from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Boston College and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Center for Ignatian Spirituality, Fairfield University.

Clergy Day - *Etiology of Addiction and Basic Principles of Prevention*

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

May 19, 2020 (To be rescheduled for 2021)

Dr. Mariette Danilo serves as the Director of Education for the Saint John Vianney Center. Mariette designs educational experiences and oversees the program implementation process for the Consultation, Education and Outreach Department, utilizing a scientific knowledge base that is always, first and foremost, presented through the lens of Faith.

She has lectured extensively on topics in Wellness, Health Psychology and Risk Behavior. Mariette's work has focused on the cognitive, emotional, and psychosocial variables involved in the development and prediction of risk taking and health compromising behaviors.

Sr. Mercedes McCann, RSM, Ph.D., serves as a Psychotherapist for the Saint John Vianney Center and Catholic Clinical Consultants providing multi-dimensional psychotherapy. Before coming to SJVC, Sister Mercedes ministered in several state and county institutions for the mentally ill. She has extensive experience facilitating small and large groups for religious communities including Chapters and Assemblies as well as speaking to groups of religious in the United States, Latin America and the Pacific Rim on various topics concerning religious life such as boundaries in religious life and priesthood, change and transition, emotional development, and the spirituality of aging. Her particular interest is the intersection of spirituality, ministry, community and good mental health in religious life.

Priests and deacons of the diocese can access helpful resources from the following websites.

NFPC.org

The National Federation of Priests' Councils *serves the communion, brotherhood, and solidarity of bishops, presbyterates and priests.*

NOCERCC.org

The National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy... *committed to the Church's mission to promote and support ongoing formation for priests and presbyterates.*

PriestlyFormation.org

... every priest should always feel that he is a disciple on a journey, constantly needing an integrated formation, understood as a continuous configuration to Christ" (Ratio Fundamentalis, 3).

Touchstones for Preaching

Resources to support priests, deacons and lay preachers in developing their preaching skills.

Priestly Life and Ministry

Provides leadership regarding priestly life and ministry and responds to the needs and concerns of priests.

Resources for Presbyteral Unity

A link to some presbyterate resources from the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates based out of St. Meinrad Seminary.

SLIConnect.org

SLIConnect offers resources for Catholic clergy, religious and lay leadership designed by experts in psychological and spiritual health.



The Mission of the Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy (CEFSC): to develop and implement ongoing formation programs that enrich the life and ministry of the deacons and priests of the Diocese of Springfield. The primary foci of the ongoing formation programs are:

- Human Development: Health and Wellness
- Ministry of Word: Scripture and Preaching
- Ministry of Worship: Liturgy and Spirituality
- Ministry of Service: Justice and Catholic Social Teaching

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