



FAITH. HOPE. CLARITY

Diocese of Springfield

Committee for the Continuing Education, Formation and Support of Clergy

www.diospringfieldCEFSC.org

TO: Presbyteral Council and CEFSC Committee

FROM: Fr. Warren J. Savage, Chairperson

DATE: April 6, 2021

RE: Summary Report of the March 23, 2021 Virtual Meeting

The committee met virtually on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. **Members Present:** Fr. Warren Savage, Chairperson, Fr. Piotr Calik, Vicar General, Fr. Michael Lillpopp, Fr. James Nolte, Deacon Paul Briere, Deacon Roger Carrier, Deacon Kevin McCarthy, Deacon Don Phillip, Deacon David Picard, Deacon Daniel Romanello. **Excused Absence:** Fr. Mark Stelzer. **Guest:** Jeff Trant, MSW, LCSW, CPRP, Director, Office of Safe Environment and Victim Assistance.

NEW PASTORS ONGOING FORMATION PROGRAM

At the request of Bishop Byrne, Fr. Calik presented the schedule and list of presenters for the next program for priests ordained in the last few years and those recently appointed as Parish Administrators. The program is scheduled for **Monday, May 10, 2021**, at the Bishop Marshall Center.

Schedule and Presenters:

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| 9:00 a.m. | Opening Prayer, Fr. Piotr Calik, Vicar General |
| 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. | Jeff Trant, Director, Office of Safe Environment and Victim Assistance |
| 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. | Bill LaBroad, Office of Finance |
| 11:30 - 12:15 p.m. | Cathi Farr, Human Resource |

A program for the newly ordained priests is scheduled for **Monday, June 7, 2021**, at the Bishop Marshall Center from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cathi Farr will be presenter.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION AND COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY COURSE

Fr. Savage reported that the Parish Administration and Collaborative Ministry Course (15 Weeks) ends on Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

This program was offered to deacons interested in being appointed by the bishop as a Parish Administrator 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.

The following deacons completed the course: Deacon Paul DeCarlo, Deacon Paul Federici, Deacon David Picard, Deacon Pedro J. Rivera Morán, and Deacon David Southworth.

Fr. Shea suggested that we ask those priests nearing retirement if they would like to remain as the canonical pastor of parish with an appointed parish administrator to administrate the parish.

CEFSC WEBSITE

Deacon Carrier reported that the website platform has not been changed. The following information has been uploaded to the website:

- Presbyteral Council Meeting Minutes February 2, 2021
- CEFSC Presbyteral Council Update March 2, 2021
- Letter to Priests from Sue Wehner, RN, BSN, Clergy Wellness Coordinator
- Holy Hour for Priests
- YouTube of the *Annual Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection* March 16, 2021
- Article: "State of the Diaconate" by Deacon James Keating in *The Deacon* (March/April 2021)

Fr. Lillpopp will assume responsibilities for the upkeep and updating of the website. The committee thanked Deacon Carrier for his oversight of the design, posting of information, and maintenance of the website.

Deacon Carrier has moved to Woodsboro, MD and granted faculties in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and awaiting to be appointed to a parish community. He will continue to work with Deacon David Picard, the newly appointed Director of the Office of Permanent Deacons, and Deacon James Marcus, the Director of the Diaconate Formation Program.

ANNUAL LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR PRIESTS AND DEACONS

Committee members offered positive feedback on the *Annual Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection* that was held on March 16, 2021 at St. Michael's Cathedral. Those who attended were pleased with the time frame of the program and format of the day with a Holy Hour, topic and speaker, and opportunity for priests and deacons to come together.

Members suggested that lunch be included as part of upcoming Clergy Days and encourage the priests and deacons from Berkshires to attend. Some Clergy Days ought to be held in the Berkshires so that the priests and deacons in that region of the diocese can attend.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON MANDATORY REPORTING OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Jeffrey J. Trant, MSW, LCSW, CPRP, Director, Office of Safe Environment and Victim Assistance, presented an overview of the mission and work of the Independent Task Force to develop a Strategic Plan with recommendations, initiatives, and procedures for the diocese to respond more efficiently, effectively, and professionally to allegations of sexual abuse.

The Task Force retained the services of an independent organization to conduct interviews with the priests of the diocese. Over 70% of the priests participated in the interview process.

Some themes emerged from the interviews such as the need for better communication, support, and professional training to address the sexual abuse crisis in the church.

Jeff spoke about the need for priests and deacons of the diocese to have a clear understanding of the law, diocesan policy, and guidance in the area of Mandatory Reporting. To this end, he would like to meet with priests and deacons to provide training, support, and best practices around mandated reporting.

The committee recommended that meeting with priests and deacons in their deaneries would be more effective and productive than a single Clergy Day. Fr. Savage will work with Jeff to schedule deanery meetings to discuss the important issue of Mandatory Reporting.

CLERGY DAY ON PROMOTING VOCATIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

Fr. Savage reported that he is working with Fr. Jon Reardon, Vocation Recruiter, and Fr. David Aufiero, Committee on Priests Spirituality, to plan a Clergy Day on Promoting Vocations in the Diocese of Springfield. The program is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 18, 2021** at 2:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral. The presenter will be Fr. Mark Ivany, Director of Priests Vocations, Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Additional information will be sent out later.

Members of the committee would like to know if deacons will be invited to attend the clergy day on promoting vocations. Fr. Savage will discuss this with Fr. Jon Reardon and report back to the committee.

HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS

As noted above, the schedule of Holy Hours for Priests has been posted on the CEFSC Website. Priests are encouraged to gather for a Eucharistic Holy Hour with Daytime/Evening Prayer, reflection, and confession.

ANNUAL SPRING RETREAT FOR PRIESTS

"Priesthood: Icons of Christ, The Lord's Humble Servants"

The *Annual Spring Retreat for Priests* is scheduled for **May 31 - June 4, 2021, at** Miramar Retreat Center, 121 Parks Street, Duxbury, MA 02332. The Retreat Director will be Fr. Guy Sciacca.

Fr. Guy Sciacca was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston on May 22, 2010. He is currently the Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, East Boston, MA. He has worked with the Office for Health and Support for Clergy and is a licensed Alcohol and Drug Rehab Counselor. He is also on the Board of Advisors at Guest House, Lake Orion, MI.

DEACONS MINISTRY PROFILES

Deacon Romanello will resume work on creating profiles of the ministry of deacons in the diocese to be added to the webpage for the Diaconate. The purpose of the profiles is to provide the parishes with the names of deacons who could assist the parishes in carrying out the social mission of the church.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.