

DEACON COUNCIL MINUTES 2-9-18

Attending: Bob Ball, Richard Brogdan, Denis Coan, Tim Good, Dennis Kudlak, Fr. Mark Nowak, Richard Shewman, Denise and Jerry Sobrowski, Bob Walker, Steve and Vicky Washek.

Opening prayer: Steve Washek

Old Business:

Correction: Item #2 from 1-19-18 minutes, second sentence, should read: It was recommended that the priests ask at their next Deanery meeting for that question to be raised at the next Diocesan Presbyteral Council meeting.

New Business:

It was reported that the Bishop approved our plans for The 50 Year Anniversary of the Diaconate in the U.S. He just cautioned us to be aware of copyright laws with our printed matter. He also asked for an alternative date for a Mass, as he is not available in June this year. 10:00 am on August 4, 18, or 25 were suggested, at the St. Mark CC Chapel.

Deacon Couple Retreat Dates were mentioned: August 9 - 12 at Villa Maria and September 20-23 at Bethany.

Bill Saborsky was unable to attend, but was contacted via telephone. He suggested we should publish something about the changes of the "Many Faces of the Deacon" such as Deacons Tony Alleruzzo and Jerry Sobrowski and their current positions. Bill also mentioned he and his wife were considering attending the Deacon Conference in New Orleans this year.

We need to better communicate what a Catholic Deacon is and does. We need a well thought-out presentation on this. People still need a better understanding of the role of the Deacon. Perhaps other electronic communications such as Face book and Twitter could help us clarify this. Jerry Sobrowski suggested a book "101 Questions and Answers on Deacons" by Deacon William Ditewig would be helpful. Denis Coan volunteered to look into this. We need real-life examples of what & who we are and are not. Denis will e-mail us some ideas.

We entered into a short discussion on the moratorium on new Deacon Formation classes. Some additional training on "Pastoral Life" in parishes is needed, as well as post ordination training. It refers to how everyone addresses the current and future needs of the Diocese of Erie. Groups such as this council are challenged to help face these issues.

Subjects for next meeting (March 9, 2018):

- A. Bringing in couples to mentor candidates
- B. How to approach the "Year of the Deacon" at Emmaus this year.

Respectfully submitted by Deacon Robert L. Walker

