

DEACON COUNCIL MINUTES 10-12-18

Attending: Bob Ball, Denis Coan, Mary Good, Tim Good, Kevin Kunik, Fr. Mark Nowak, Richard Shewman, Denise and Jerry Sobrowski, Bob Walker, guest Steve Frezza.

Opening prayer: Tim Good

New Business:

1. Jerry Sobrowski Introduced Deacon Steve Frezza:
 - Much of the free time conversation at the Villa Maria retreat this summer revolved around communication or the lack of, to the larger deacon community. Steve was invited as someone interested, and who may be able to provide some suggestions to us in this regard. He suggested that most of the younger deacons would be more inclined to use electronic communication rather than paper. He offered his help and support, but his schedule would not allow this until January.
 - This led to a discussion around the table as to who do we need to communicate information to, and how to better get the word out. Although much info is posted on the Diocesan web-site, many don't check it often enough, and when they do, it's often misunderstood. Rumors also creep in and contribute to the confusion. Although it is usually talked about and explained by Bishop Persico at Emmaus, there are always some who do not or cannot attend the Emmaus convocation.
 - The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Diaconate was mentioned as an example of good communication. The "save the date" e-mail was a great idea, and the follow-up on that with a number of other e-mails seemed to get the word out.
 - There seems to be a need for a better sense of communication in our deacon community. Our own Facebook page? Other social media? My Parish App? Tim Good said he will ask Kathy Papalia to come to our next meeting to explain more about this.
 - It was asked if Bishop Persico could give us some kind of report on what direction he wants go and what is the current status of the deacon program in our diocese? Bob Ball will follow up with Msgr. Lohse on this.
2. Steve Frezza had to leave. We then proceeded to go around the table for various reports:
 - Kevin Kunik reported that we now have 35 to 40 registrations for Deacon Study Day on Saturday, October 20th.
 - Bob Ball spoke favorably about the retreat at Bethany in September.
 - Denis Coan asked for prayers for his family in Panama Beach in the path of Hurricane Michael, so we took a minute and prayed.
 - Fr. Mark had some DVD's to hand out on the last Deacon Study Day.

Our next meeting will be on November 9, same time & place, when we will again talk more on communication and community. Meanwhile, we are each asked to brainstorm on the above information and come prepared to talk about 2 or 3 of the items. As we closed, taking the council meeting out around the diocese was suggested, so others could participate in person rather than on Face Time or Skype. Tabled until the weather improves in the spring.

Respectfully submitted by Deacon Robert L. Walker