

Deacon Council Minutes 1 - 19 - 18

Attending: Bob Ball, Tim Good, Dennis Kudlak, Fr. Mark Nowak, Bill Saborsky, Richard Shewman, Denise & Jerry Sobrowski, Bob Walker.

Opening prayer: Jerry Sobrowski

Due to extended period since our last meeting, Jerry jumped into beginning with a few pressing matters:

1. Deacon Anniversary — 50 years in U.S. The window of opportunity for educating our faith communities on the Diaconate is closing fast. It was suggested that we contact Bishop Persico to proceed. Ideas offered were:

- a. Contact Faith Magazine or Faith Life for a monthly article on the Diaconate.
- b. Interview members of the first class about their experiences.
- c. Obtain a letter of recommendation from the bishop to be used as an insert to parish bulletins.
- d. Prayer cards to commemorate our “Year of the Deacon”.
- e. Jerry Sobrowski, Tim Good, and Richard Shewman volunteered to contact Bishop Persico as the first step.

2. It was mentioned that the subject of a list of deacons serving at senior care facilities to be available to the Priests of the diocese. It was recommended that the priests ask for that question to be raised at the next Deanery meetings.

3. Fr. Mark mentioned that Kathy Papalia has training available for an internet survey program that we might be able to use. Also, there are some possible revisions coming for the formation program.

4. Bill Saborsky mentioned the Deacon Personnel Board has not met for a long time, and there may be a greater need for service in parishes because of changes in Feb. 2017.

5. Bob Ball mentioned a need for suggestions for a speaker for the continuing ed program. The 2018 Emmaus schedule will be basically the same as last year.

6. Deacon James Keating will be the speaker for our Deacon Study Day this year.

7. Jerry suggested that we have another picnic this year — could be a part of our 50 year anniversary celebration. Like the “St. Andrew” meetings for possible seminary candidates, we could invite couples from parishes as future formation couples. Jerry also suggested we meet more often for the sake of the council, and the sake of the planned “Year of the Deacon”. (see dates below)

8. Because of the recent numbers of deaths in our community, the question was raised about protocol for deacon funerals. Fr. Mark mentioned that the body of Fred Keck was not vested. Also, some concern was raised about how to communicate sympathy to families of deceased deacons and/or their wives. A card reading “on behalf of the Deacon Community of the Diocese of Erie” or something of that order was suggested. These subjects will be addressed at the next Deacon Council meeting.

Adjournment: Our next official meeting will be on Friday, Feb. 9, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Wienker room. Also, put Friday, March 9, on your calendar as well. Having no further business, we adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deacon Robert L. Walker