

## Deacon Council Minutes 10 - 14 - 16

**Attending:** Denis Coan, Tim Good, Dennis Kudlak, Kevin Kunik, Fr. Mark Nowak, Richard Shewman, Dennis Socash via Face Time, Denise & Jerry Sobrowski, Bob Walker, guest Eleanor Walker.

**Opening prayer:** Denis Coan

The minutes from the March 11, 2016 meeting were approved as written.

### Old Business:

1. Richard Shewman mentioned that people reported were that the Deacon Study Day and Deacon William Ditewig's talk on "The Theology of the Permanent Diaconate" was well accepted by all attending. Tim Good and Denis Coan reinforced that opinion, but requested a written copy of his talk. Fr. Mark wants to give a copy of Deacon Ditewig's talk on a disk to all the priests of the diocese.
2. Bob & Eleanor Walker mentioned a recent private discussion they had about the Care & Concern/Brothers & Sisters To Us process mentioned at our March meeting. Is the current mentor program for the most recently ordained deacons enough? Most if not all of the "senior deacon couples" have not experienced the mentor program. Do we need both processes? Is this a duplication of services? Is there something we can do for a more efficient process to better serve the community? We left this open to more discussion at a later date.
3. We entered into a long discussion on the concerns about the nature of postings on social media. Are we to use the USCCB policy? Is it the responsibility of the Council to do anything? Whose responsibility is it to speak to those involved? There is a concern that negative comments reflects on all clergy, and has the potential to cause a public scandal. There were many comments by the entire group, and after much more discussion, Jerry Sobrowski volunteered to compose a letter to our bishop with our concerns.
4. No one had any further comments or corrections to the business from the last meeting, so we moved on to:

### New business: (Around the table)

1. Fr. Mark Nowak mentioned that on November 12, there will be an installation to the order of Acolyte during the morning mass for the fifth year class.
2. Richard Shewman suggested a planning session for identifying needs and asked that we bring new ideas for Diocesan Ministries for deacon appointments.
3. Kevin Kunik asked for suggestions for new topics for Deacon Study Day.
4. Dennis Kudlak spoke of a few speakers he had started to arrange for Study day. He also stated that an official social media update will be coming soon.
5. Jerry Sobrowski mentioned that Ray and Debbie Sobina are the new retreat coordinators. He also heard that Rev. William M. Kuba from St. Eusebius in East Brady, PA is looking for some deacon assistance with Holy Week in 2017.

**Adjournment:** Our next official meeting will be on Friday, January 13, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Wienker room. Having no further business, we adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deacon Robert L. Walker