

Deacon Council Meeting
November 9, 2018

Members Present: Jerry & Denise Sobrowski, Denis Cohen, Tim & Mary Good, Fr. Mark Nowak, Richard Shewman, Robert Ball, Kevin Kunik, Kathy Papalia (guest).

Opening Prayer: J. Sobrowski

- Presentation by Kathy Papalia regarding enhancement of communication within the deacon community:
 - All deacons currently have access to the diocesan Office 365 programs.
 - Can access these programs (apps) through the MyDioErie link at the bottom of the diocesan home webpage. Once into the MyDioErie page look under “1. Everyone” then select “[Microsoft Office Online \(login required\)](#)”.
 - Microsoft Yammer App
 - Similar to Facebook in appearance and function.
 - Can upload pictures, pin documents, form related groups, can embed into other webpages, has apps for smartphones (download from designated app stores).
 - To use as a member, K. Papalia has to add to the group.
 - Can also send emails to member as new posts received (similar to Facebook).
 - Microsoft Sharepoint App
 - A sharing app that is integrated into Office 365 and is used for collaboration such as organization of groups, documents and communication.
 - It is a more involved system and would take some learning and set up to use.
 - Kathy would help with this set up.
 - Microsoft Stream App
 - Similar to YouTube and would be capable of streaming video such as study days and videos.
 - All of this information is stored on the diocesan OneDrive cloud service.
 - Council discussed aspects of these systems and decided to evaluate the Yammer app within the Council.
 - T. Good will send Council members names to Kathy for her to load into the Yammer app for access.
- Kevin Kunik (Continuing Education) reports that he did talk with Joe Yochim in regard to helping to manage communication efforts such as on Facebook and seemed agreeable to this.
 - Also, Kevin asks the Council to consider discontinuing the annual continuing ed reporting form as there has been low compliance from the deacon community. There have also been some questions as to retention of these forms and disposal of old forms. It was discussed that the Council would recommend offering opportunities for continued formation and information on these opportunities for all in the community. The Council also discussed whether the reporting form is part of our requirements as functioning deacons in the Diocese. The Council will

examine the documents and may modify them to accommodate this change. It was recognized that the community has the expectation of continuing their formational education without the need of the reporting form.

- The Council formally voted on the elimination of the reporting form and was approved unanimously.
- Bob Ball reported on a statement issued by the bishop in regard to the current state of the diaconate in the diocese and the formation program's future.
 - Bob did receive an email from Fr. Chris Singer with the bishop's statement. Bob read the statement to the Council.
 - The statement is copied here:

From: Rev. Chris Singer <cjsinger@eriercd.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 8, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Deacon Robert L. Ball
Cc: Rev. Chris Singer
Subject: Response for Deacon Council Meeting

Bob,

Good afternoon! Below is a summary of Bishop Persico's reply to your questions:

Bishop Persico has decided to pause admitting new candidates into the permanent diaconate formation program for a period of time. This pause is to allow for another review of program (similar to what was done a several years ago). This will allow for an examination of the academic and pastoral components of the program to be sure that future permanent deacons are sufficiently prepared for the types of ministry needs which are envisioned in the future of our diocese. For example, more deacons may be needed to manage parishes or other ministries which in the past have been cared for by priests. Deacons may also be needed in newly emerging roles as the phases of pastoral planning continue to unfold.

Bishop Persico is in no way ending, disbanding, or changing the current body of already-ordained deacons or their assignments. That continues unchanged.

I hope this is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of any other assistance. I wish you well with tomorrow's Deacon Council meeting. Peace and God bless!

Chris

The Rev. Christopher J. Singer, JCL
Chancellor
The Diocese of Erie

<https://outlook.officeapps.com/owa/>

- The Council appreciated the statement and it will be disseminated to the entire community (permission was received from Fr. Chris to so).
- Jerry Sobrowski reported on a communication from deacon Dan Satterlee in regard to the recently received seminarian poster cards from the vocations office. Dan questioned whether there should be a similar effort for those in deacon formation. Council suggested contacting the office (Fr. Mike Polinek) and Kevin Kunik accepted this task. Rich Shewman with talk to the formation classes if this would be acceptable to them.

Next Meeting: January 11, 2019. Meeting Adjourned: 5:00 PM