

Deacon Council Meeting

January 12, 2023

Peggy Jacquell opened the meeting with a prayer.

Attendance: Very Rev. Nicholas Rouch, Deacon Thomas McAraw, Deacon Richard O'Polka, Deacon Richard Brogdon, Deacon Frank Luciani, Eleanor Walker, and Peggy Jacquell were present. Deacon Raymond Sobina, and Deacon Martin Aubel were absent.

The minutes of the November 10, 2022, meeting were reviewed and approved except for the spelling of Fr. Rouch last name.

Deacon Tom McAraw gave Deacon Council an update of Deacons and family members who were ill.

Deacon Tom informed the Deacon Council that meetings continue to be held concerning the Deacon Formation program with good progress being made.

Deacon Dick O'Polka let Deacon Council know that the Committee to Revise the Deacon Policy Manual has been meeting under their Chairperson Deacon Richard Winschel. He reported that the Committee is halfway through the document making revisions as appropriate.

Deacon Richard Brogdon informed Deacon Council that Deacon Kevin Harmon and his wife Jeanne have volunteered for the Deacon Website Review Committee. Deacon Richard informed us that the committee will begin to work on the project in February.

Deacon Tom McAraw let Deacon Council know he has been working on a replacement for Deacon Kevin Kunik to take over study days. He informed Council that Doug Konzal has volunteered. Deacon Tom let Deacon Council know that a Deacon Study Day has been planned for Lent on the "Spirituality of Aging" with Deacon Richard Shewman presenting.

Deacon Tom McAraw informed Council that the Deacon Retirement Letters have been sent out in compliance with Diocesan Retirement policy.

Deacon Tom encouraged Deacon Council to encourage Deacons to attend funerals of Diocesan Clergy.

Deacon Tom and Fr, Nick told Deacon Council that a meeting with priests concerning working with Deacons was held. It was noted that there was a very good turnout with good positive sharing.

Deacon Tom informed the Council of a new Distance Learning option for Continuing Education for our Deacons. The Center for Continuing Formation at St Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore is offering a distance learning option. It will begin with a six-week pilot starting in the first week of February. It will consist of 2 one-hour weekly courses. The Course topics will be "Living a Balanced Life" and "Preparing and Delivering Engaging Homilies." Participants will have the option of accessing the courses actually or online at a more convenient time. The courses will be offered to our deacons at the very reasonable fee of \$350. Deacon Tom said that the Diocese strongly encourages support for this initiative. For more information or to register, visit http://www.stmarys.edu/the-center-for-continuing-formation/cepilot/cepilotdesc/cepilot_deacons/ and use code CEpilot.

Very Rev. Nicholas Rouch ended the meeting with a prayer.