

Deacon Council Meeting

March 27, 2023

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

Attendance: Very Rev. Nicholas Rouch, Deacon Thomas McAraw, Deacon Richard O'Polka, Deacon Richard Brogdon, Deacon Frank Luciani, Deacon Raymond Sobina, Deacon Martin Aubel, Eleanor Walker, and Peggy Jacquell were present. No one was absent.

The minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as read.

Deacon Richards Brogdon informed Deacon Council that Diocesan Deacon Website was about to be updated and asked for suggestions. Council members made suggestions concerning what should be revised, eliminated, or added. Fr. Rouch suggested that the final product be good, basic, and fresh.

Deacon Richard O'Polka informed Deacon Council that good progress continued to be made on revising the Deacon Policy Manual. He mentioned that the committee was over halfway through the process.

Deacon Tom McAraw stated that we got a lot of good comments concerning the March 4 Deacon Study Day/Day of Recollection. As a result Deacon Richard Shewman suggested the possibility of developing a series of study guides, maybe once a quarter that could be available to the deacon community as a resource. The study guides wouldn't need to be associated with a study day/day of recollection but just be available as a continuing education resource. Topic areas could be suggested by the Deacon Council, so that the study guides would reflect felt needs of the community. Council thought this was a good idea. Deacon Tom also stated that he thought Deacon Doug Konzel did a good job of organizing the Study Day/Day of Recollection. Deacon Council agreed.

Deacon Ray Sobina told council that the upcoming Deacon Retreats for 2023 were all set. The topic would be Eucharistic Revival. Fr. Jeff Noble is going to lead the August 6 to 9 Retreat at Notre Dame Retreat Center. Fr. Ben Dagher is leading the September 14 to 17 Retreat at Bethany.

Deacon Tom McAraw informed Council of the changes in Deacon status due to retirement, health, or other reasons. He told Deacon Council of the need for chaplains to fill vacancies at Quehanna Boot Camp, Marienville, Houtzdale, and George Junior Republic. He informed Council that four Deacons had returned their funeral plan sheets and he was hoping other Deacons would complete theirs and turn them in. Deacon Tom gave Deacon Council a copy of the current Widows list. He informed Council that they were currently planning for masses for the Emmaus due to be held for Deacons June 21 to 23.

Deacon Ray Sobina told Deacon Council that good progress continued to be made on the Deacon Formation Program.

Deacon Richard O'Polka reminded Council that future Council meetings were May 11, September 14, and November 9.

Deacon Martin Aubel ended the meeting with a prayer.