

AOD Community Board

Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2021

Meeting Called to order 8:010 am with prayer.

Attendees: Chris Beltowski, Jim Berch, Carol Berch, Perry Clark, Dave Fleming, Kelly Fleming, Bob Gadja, Alan Gwozdz, Dennis Loffreda, Brigid Loffreda, Russ Ortisi, Trish Ortisi, Rick Rhein, Anne Rhein,

First order of business was to thank Trish and Russ for hosting the Welcoming Breakfast last month, welcome new members. Second order of business was update from Chris Beltowski:

Deacon Chris's Clergy & Consecrated Life report:

- Vocation Awareness night on September 14 at Seminary had a really good turnout, about 17 gentlemen attended, are in early stages of discerning. So it was a really good turnout, good advertising through different channels.
- Ordination is October 2, so plan to come and vest. There are three, Charles (Deborah) Dault, Richard (Carol) Kliemann and Michael (Mary) Merlo. The reception was almost canceled; however, masks will be required.
- Convocation is going great, there should be about 125 attendees, team will be meeting next week and everything is coming together nicely.
- 11/07/21 is date for Jubilarians, arrangements are coming along for that as well, not sure at this time if there will be a reception after the Mass.
- All Deacon quarterly meetings is November 10 at 6pm
- Couples retreat is still on for February
- Trying to plan for Wave Two of the families of parishes and assignments. Chris asked if anyone from first wave could share their experiences:
 - Doesn't seem to be any real direction for deacons, nothing seems to be on the web or in the playbook.
 - There's so many different in each family, there really aren't any blueprints for us
 - Everything is moving very slowly, which is good since its go new.
 - One thing we've tried is to in our family is to get the deacons together and put our head together and see what we can do for our family.
 - Family meetings were not as well attended as we hoped, parishioners don't seem to have many questions, but at this stage.
 - The working together that is happening is the faith formation teams trying to get some consistency, from my perspective, it's going to expand opportunities, for example, if each parish provides the same consistent program for faith formation on different nights, people will have more options to attend.
 - One hope is to leverage some of the contracts for maintenance to help with smaller parishes without contracts.

- One of the challenges is the cultures of each parish, people going to other parishes, they normally like to stay within their own parish.
- Working on collaboration on things like young adult ministry, one idea is to bring young adults together at a different parish once a month for Mass and then dinner at a local restaurant.
- As a wife, I see this as another responsibility, another meeting.
- We had three small parishes, one pastor, so we were already working together, added in St. Mary Mystical Rose in family of parishes, that's going well, meetings are well attended, Armada Fair was a helping factor, kept church open during fair, table outside with candles, rosaries, scapulars.
- Chris reminded us that everyone has to look at their time, it may be your time needs to be the same but what you do in your time is different, if you can offer more time, that is something you will have to work out with your moderator and that will go along with the Letter of Understanding.
- Russ mentioned that St. Kiernan has contracted Matt Maher for March 5, 2022 at the Macomb Performing Arts Center, so make sure to keep the date and get your tickets.
- Sexuality Integrity courses online by the seminary are very well done, so if you have a chance, please take advantage.
- Bishop Fisher's invitation to offer the Funeral Mass for the Deacons.

Questions:

We had interviews for Aspirants, do we know how many were accepted? Yes, eight were accepted and at last minute one had to step aside for family issues. So, six couples and one single gentleman.

Could a list be added to the Clergy Newsletter so that we could pray for them entering the formation. Oscar Brown used to send out an email to our class on Formation Saturdays to remind us to pray for the new candidates, and that has been going on since 2009.

Could Erin send out email requesting nominations for community board after the ordination?

Closed with prayer at 9:11am.

Reminders future Diaconate Community Board meetings will be at Sacred Heart Seminary third Saturdays of every other month. **Next meetings are November 20, 2021, and January 15, 2022.**