



Deacon News

Diocese of Davenport

Mid - Winter 2020

From the Diaconate Office:

Deacon Michael Snyder, Director of the Diaconate

Hello Diaconate Community, and Candidates

This issue of Deacon News is mostly about the Deacon Council and it's work to increase fellowship, community and fraternity within the diaconate and diocese. As a reminder, deacon wives and widows are full members, and voting members of the Deacon Council.

The purpose of the Deacon Council includes aiding the bishop and deacons to insure that the pastoral welfare of the People of God may continue. This includes caring for deacons and their families; who better to care for deacon families, than other deacon families?!?

In the January Deacon Council meeting, the Council created a Social Committee, an Outreach Committee, Area Leaders, and Deanery Meeting Deacon Representatives. The purpose is to get us together more often, both as a whole diaconate and in regional areas, to develop more fellowship, community and fraternity within the diaconate. The Executive Committee is looking for volunteers to get engaged with each of these committees and positions. Any member, wives or deacons can fill any of these except the Deacon Rep to the Deanery meetings. Each are described further in this newsletter. Contact any of the Deacon Council officers; Chuck Metzger, Dan Freeman, Joe Welter and Chris Kabat, or myself if you have questions or would like to get involved.

Deacon Michael Snyder



Heavenly Father, since the time of the Apostles you have inspired the Church to commission certain members to assist in a special way in the pastoral mission of Christ. Bless the deacons and all other ordained and non-ordained ministers that they may be humble and faith-inspired in their service. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chrism Mass — Monday, April 6, 2020 at 2:30 PM

- Includes Deacon Family Social Event afterward (details to be determined)

Spring Retreat — April 25-26, 2020 - Benet Retreat House, Rock Island

- Will include a Deacon Council Meeting

Deacon and Priest Ordination - Saturday June 6, 10:00 AM at Sacred Heart Cathedral

- Includes Deacon Family Social Event afterward (details to be determined)

Virtual Deacon Council Meeting - July 12, 2020 5:30 PM (call-in instructions to come later)

Fall Convocation October 17-18, 2020; Pt this date on your calendar now.

Deacon Council Social Committee

At the January Deacon Council meeting, a Social Committee was established. The purpose of this committee is to plan social events for the entire Davenport Diaconate family. This committee will work with the Director of Diaconate to plan:

- Gathering after the Chrism Mass each year
- Gathering after the Ordination Mass each year
- Planning the social hour at the Spring Retreat and the Fall Convocation

The target size of the committee is 4 persons or more; one to lead each event, with the help of the others. Any member (wives or deacons) can be a member of this committee.

If you are interested, let a Council Officer or Director know (Chuck Metzger, Dan Freeman, Chris Kabat, Joe Welter or Mike Snyder).

Deacon Council Outreach Committee

At the January Deacon Council meeting, an Outreach Committee was established. The purpose of this committee is to send cards and or flowers to deacon families at times of bereavement or major illness, and send greetings at times of congratulations. This committee will work closely with the Council Treasurer for payment of expenses, and will have some autonomy to decide what all they do and how they do it. The committee will receive information from the Area Leaders, Officers, Director and other sources.

The size of the committee is flexible; several members would reduce the amount of time and work for any person. Any member (wives or deacons) can be a member of this committee.

If you are interested, let a Council Officer or Director know (Chuck Metzger, Dan Freeman, Chris Kabat, Joe Welter or Mike Snyder).

Diocese and Deanery Deacon Population

Clinton Deanery: 4 active, 1 retired, 2 candidates

Davenport Deanery: 15 active, 6 retired, 1 candidate

Grinnell Deanery: 5 active, 0 retired, 0 candidates

Iowa City Deanery: 10 active, 3 retired, 2 candidates

Keokuk Deanery: 3 active, 1 retired, 3 candidates

Ottumwa Deanery: 3 active, 0 retired, 0 candidates

Total Deacons *in the Diocese*: 40 active, 11 retired, 8 candidates in Class 8

Deacon Council Area Leader

At the January Deacon Council meeting, Area Leaders were established (in meeting discussion, this role was referred to as a Deanery Representative). The responsibilities of the Area Leader is to:

1. Plan and organize social events periodically within the regional (deanery) area
2. Check in with deacon families within the deanery periodically to monitor health and prayer needs, and communicate with the Deacon Director and Council, as well as the Outreach Committee.
3. Share best practices with other Area Reps within an Area Rep Committee.

Any member (wives or deacons) can be an Area Leader. Any Deanery could have Area Co-Leaders if it is desirable.

If you are interested, let a Council Officer or Director know (Chuck Metzger, Dan Freeman, Chris Kabat, Joe Welter or Mike Snyder).

Deacon Representative to Deanery Meetings

There was discussion in the Council meeting about having Deanery Representatives attend the Deanery meetings, to improve communication between deacons and the Deanery meetings.

After discussing with the Deacon Council Officers, and consulting the Presbyterial Council, Deacon Deanery Meeting Representatives will be established to attend Deanery Meetings and represent the deacons in that deanery. Other deacons may attend the Deanery Meeting if invited (not all deaneries invite deacons to the deanery meetings). This Deacon Deanery Meeting Representative should be a deacon.

The responsibility of the Deacon rep to the Deanery Meetings is to collect input from deacons based on the agenda topics, and represent those in the Deanery Meeting. Likewise, he would communicate the content and outcome of the Deanery meetings to the deacons in that deanery. Essentially, he would be a conduit of communication both from and to the deacons. If the Deacon Rep cannot attend a Deanery Meeting, he should ask another deacon to attend and sub for him.

If you are interested in representing the deacons in your deanery at the Deanery Meetings, let a Council Officer or Director know (Chuck Metzger, Dan Freeman, Chris Kabat, Joe Welter or Mike Snyder). The Deacon representative to Deanery Meetings has no Council responsibilities, but the Council Officers are coordinating to find volunteers to fill this role.

Plan to attend the 2020 Deacon Retreat 25-26 April 2020

The Spring Retreat will be held at the Benet House at St. Mary Monetary in Rock Island. All deacons and wives are invited. Registration information will be sent in early April.

The topic will be fraternity and community within the diaconate ,and how we care for each other.

Plan to attend the 2020 Convocation 17-18 October 2020

Planning for the Fall Deacon Convocation has begun. Several deacons have asked to learn more about Spiritual Direction. We have all impromptu conversations with people who have a problem or issue they are dealing with. Your conversation with them is partly pastoral care, and partly spiritual direction. How do you best handle this conversation? How do you do spiritual direction, even in these ad hoc conversations? Do you ever second-guess afterward, and wonder if you handled it the best way?

The Fall Convocation will focus on Spiritual Direction, for our own spiritual development, and providing information for handling the conversations that come up. It will also help us know how to work with our own Spiritual Directors to optimize our spirituality.

More information will be available by the Spring Retreat.

Phone Numbers and Email Addresses Needed

To improve communication during emergency situations, the Diaconate office would like to have cell phone numbers for all deacons and deacon wives. Not everybody has a cell phone, but most do.

In order to send text messages through a new Chancery email tool, we also need to know your cell phone provider. Messages would include short text, like prayer requests and emergency notifications. If you already gave your cell phone number, please write to tell us the name of your cell provider.

If you have not already, please send your cell phone number, and provider name, to Mike Snyder. Simply reply to the email with this newsletter, or send it to: Snyder@davenportdiocese.org

For Deacon Council and Newsletter mailing, email addresses for deacon wives are needed. If you have not already, please send your email address to: Snyder@davenportdiocese.org.

Thank you

Prayer and Help Requests

Please let us know if you have any needs; either for prayer or otherwise.

Call Mike Snyder at 563-726-5426, or send email to: snyder@davenportdiocese.org

Save the Date!

All deacon families will gather socially after the Chrism Mass.

The Chrism Mass is at **2:30 PM on Monday April 6, 2020**

Time and location to be announced

Save the Date!

Spring Deacon Retreat **April 25-26, 2020**

For Deacons and Wives

Held at the Benet Retreat House, Rock Island, IL

Save the Date!

All deacon families will gather socially after the Ordination.

The Ordination is 10:00 AM on **Saturday, June 6, 2020**

Time and location to be announced

Save the Date!

Fall Deacon Convocation/Retreat on Spirituality and Spiritual Direction

Saturday - Sunday, October 17-18, 2020

For Deacons and Wives

This event will be held jointly with the Dubuque Archdiocese Diaconate