



DIACONATE COUNCIL

Archdiocese of Chicago

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Minutes of Council Meeting of Saturday, September 11, 2010

The Diaconate Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago met on Saturday, September 11, 2010 at 9:15 AM. The meeting began with morning community prayer after which a roll call of its members was taken.

I. Roll Call of the members. The following members indicated were present:

Executive members, William Stearns, Chairman, George Kashmar, Vice-Chairman, Sal Lema, Secretary, Charles McFarland, Treasurer, and David Egan, Chair Emeritus.

VDC's present were: Paul Spalla, Giulo Camerini, Joseph Truesdale, and Dan Ragonese.

DDC's present were: Ray Loman, John Lorbach, Chick O'Leary, Ulbaldo Munoz, Frank Beil, Adolpho Lopez, William Pouncy, Rodrigo Silva, John Gaughan, Thomas Coffey, Rich Voytas, Ignacio Alvarez, James Deiters,

Other members present were: Pedro Sedano, Hispanic community; Margaret Colgan and Peggy Virruso, representing the wives of the Diaconate Community.

Absent were: J. Lucas, J. Vazquez, J. LaFleur, D. Wagner, S. Stecker, L. Rybicki, D. Welter, E. O'Leary, J. Gonzalez, C. Virruso, J. Pineda, T. Bartholomew, G. Bartos, J. Cook, T. Knetl and Fr. Mike Ahlstrom.

25 members being present, a quorum existed.

Also present, Dennis Colgan, associate director.

Guests: The chairman recognizes deacons Dave Kalina, (DFP) and Ron Morowczynski, St. Francis Day committee.

II. Approval of Minutes of July 10, 2010

Hearing that a quorum was present, Chairman Bill Stearns called for a review and acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting held on July 10, 2010. After review and changes, motion was made by Dave Egan and seconded by Frank Beil to approve the minutes with the changes. By voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

III. Treasurers Report, Charles McFarland, Treasurer

As of June 30, 2010 the bank balance was \$35,369.93. Since then credits to the account of \$14,012.96 and disbursements of \$8,921.04 leave a current balance as of August 31, 2010 of \$40,461.85. Checks not cleared as of August 31, 2010 included \$1255.97 for the retired deacons and widows luncheons, \$726.70 for the St. Lawrence Day and \$399.99 for the computer for the ID system.

1. **First American Funds.** Treasurer McFarland stated that the monies held by First American were transferred as of August 18, 2010. The \$138,554.04 was divided as follows: \$42,000 in 90 Day CD; \$96, 554.04 in a 12 Month CD. Two officer's signatures will be needed to withdraw money from the accounts.
2. Treasurer McFarland also wished to thank those that participated in the White Sox game venture. They received \$873.50 from the White Sox for the outing.
3. \$625.00 was received for memorials from those using the Deacon Memorial Cards during the period January through August, 2010. Treasurer McFarland hoped that more deacons would consider using these memorials.
4. \$120.00 was received to support Mutual Aid from July, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
5. \$300.00 was received from Knights of Columbus Father CC Boyle Council
6. **Motion to accept Treasurer's report.** Treasurer McFarland stated that his total numbers were not correct but he would send the secretary the correct figures. With no further comments a motion to accept the treasurer's report with the corrections was made by Jim Deiters and seconded by Marge Colgan. By voice vote, the motion was carried by a vote of all the members present.
7. **Motion on Memorial Cards.** Treasurer McFarland suggested that when a deacon or wife dies a memorial card should be sent on behalf of the council. A motion was made by Joseph Truesdale and seconded by Marge Colgan that a memorial card be sent as proposed by Treasurer McFarland. By voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously. If you wish to receive memorial cards please contact Treasurere Chuck McFarland at 815 464-4760.

IV. Report Concerning Diaconate Formation Directive

Our Vicar Father Mike Alstrom and associate director, Denis Colgan met with Bob Puhala, the Director of the Diaconate Formation Program about the formation changes. In Father Mike's absence, Denis Colgan outlined the changes:

1. Eliminating the combined lay ministry and deacon formation classes, deacons will now be trained separately.
2. All deacons will meet at one site, one teacher for uniformity, builds community by all deacons learning together
3. Grades are now given with a minimum passing grade of 70%
4. Wives are not excluded, but encouraged to attend. They do not receive credit and can only audit the class. (They may attend the *Called and Gifted* program that gives a certificate of studies. That would require the wives to attend another night separate from the deacon's class.)
5. At Fr. Mike's suggestion an advisory board for the Diaconate Formation Program should be made up consisting of deacons and priests.
6. The class location is at the new DePaul O'Hare University site.
7. There will be no changes to the Spanish program.
8. The small group meetings still require attendance by both the deacon candidate and his wife.

A discussion about the changes and the concerns of the council ensued. The woman's role and especially the spiritual growth between the men and woman was a main concern. Additionally was the concern of not allowing the women who audit the classes to receive credit. It was also suggested that a wife of a deacon be added to the members of the advisory board when it is established.

The council felt that since they represent and administer the policies and procedures of the deacons of the Archdiocese of Chicago, it was their responsibility to address the Diaconate Formation Program and ask them to strongly contemplate that the changes they have questioned within this policy be reconsidered.

Motion to Send Letter to the Director of the DFP. A Motion was made by Marge Colgan and seconded by Peggy Virruso that the secretary of the council send a letter on behalf of the Diaconate Council with the concerns stated above. By voice vote with 24 yes and one no, the motion carried.

V. Chairman Report William Stearns

Chairman reported that the Policy and Procedures manual was going along well and that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, September 15th. The Changes will be available on-line for review.

VI. DFP Report from the Formation Office

by:

David Kalina, DFP DC Liaison

1. Deacon David Kalina presented the following information.
2. The DFP director regrets that he could not be present for the council meeting as the program is beginning the Aspirancy Path on September 11th, at the DePaul/O'Hare Campus.
3. On August 29, 2010 the DFP's 2010-2011 formation year began with a Mass of the Holy Spirit at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary's Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. Nearly 200 people attended the Mass.
4. The Mass was followed by orientation sessions for all students of the program.
5. The intellectual Dimension of the Candidacy Path began on September 7th, with the kickoff of the ten week fall quarter courses.
6. Also on September 7th, DFP hosted new mentors for a special review session on Theological Reflection.
7. September 9th, two additional courses of Old Testament and Sacraments of Healing began.
8. Vocation Awareness Efforts outlining the basic standards for admission to the program and the ongoing transition to compliance with the directives of the NCCB and *Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States (USCCB 2005)* and *The Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons* (Vatican directory 1998) invites all deacons and their wives to attend two sessions at the new

DePaul campus Wednesday, September 15th from 7-9 pm, and Saturday, September 18th, from 9-11am.

9. The director wrote of his travel duties as a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Diaconate Directors to Columbus, Ohio, for the annual director's meeting in September, and travel of the entire DFP staff to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the Region VII's, fall meeting. Region VII includes 19 Archdioceses and Dioceses in the Midwest.

After hearing the report from Deacon Kalina, a member of the council brought up a fact that out of 43 men that were sent forward by their pastors to DFP for training this year, only 17 were accepted. The question was asked as to why so few applicants were accepted? No answer was given except that attendance to the September 15th or 18th meetings would be the appropriate place to ask the question.

VII. Vicars and Associate Directors Reports, Dennis Colgan

1. In Father Mike's absence, Associate Director, Dennis Colgan gave the report.
2. Secretary, Sal Lema has volunteered as the co-chair for the St. Stephen Symposium. The theme this year is; *Return to Center*. The symposium will be held at Concordia University in River Forest, on October 23, 2010. Most Reverend, John R. Manz, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, will give the keynote address on *Immigration Reform*. In the afternoon, there will be eight speakers, of which all are deacons or wives of deacons from which to select for continuing education workshops in the two available sessions. Cost for the day including breakfast and lunch is \$15.00. The day begins with prayer at 9:30 am and ends at 3:15 pm.
3. The I.D. card system has been received. Dennis asked for volunteers to learn how to operate the system as it will be at the symposium for deacons who still have not received an ID. At the meeting, Tom Coffey and James Deiters volunteered. More volunteers are asked for as it would be good to have one person in each vicariate.
4. March 12, 2011 is the date for the next Convocation. The theme for the day is the New Roman Missal.
5. Motion to Sponsor Continental Breakfast. Associate Director Denis Colgan stated his thanks that each year the council has generously covered the cost of the continental breakfast for the Symposium. Denis then made a motion that the council honors their annual generosity by voting to cover the cost of the continental breakfast for the Saint Stephen Symposium this year held on October 23rd. The motion was seconded by Tom Coffey. Hearing no discussion, and through a voice vote of all members present, the motion was carried unanimously.
6. The last item of the Vicar and associate Directors report was to thank Dan Ragonese for his copies of the Liturgy of the Hours that are used at the beginning of our meetings.

VIII. Reports from VDC's & DDC's

1. Vicariate I: VDC not present.
2. Vicariate II: Paul Spalla gave copies of a pass out that was sent to all deacons within Vicariate II. Among the topics it included information on St. Francis Day and an encouragement to attend their annual meeting with Bishop Kane.
3. Vicariate III VDC not present
4. Vicariate IV John Gaughan stated that Bishop Manz is their acting Bishop. The bishop had requests of the office that were transmitted to associate director Colgan.
5. Vicariate V Joseph Truesdale stated that Bishop Gustavo and the members of Vicariate V were grateful of Father Mike Ahlstrom's attendance to the meeting of September 1st on so short notice. They had originally invited Deacon Bob Puhala to attend but he had to decline the invitation. Father Mike who had facial surgery that day still attended with bandages and apparent pain. The members of Vicariate V are indebted to him for attending.
6. Vicariate VI had no report.

IX. Report from William Pouncy Black Deacon Representative

Deacon Leroy Gill, co-chairman of the Black Catholic Deacons of Chicago, published *Act Now, Silence the Violence*, a call to action on how to prevent youth violence. On August 21, 2010 they sponsored Sunrise Masses and Prayer Services on five south side beaches to pray for an end to violence. They were recognized in the *Catholic New World* with a front page picture and article on Page seven. The Black Catholic Deacons are supported in their efforts by Cardinal Francis George, and Bishop's Manz and Perry. Pedro Sedano, of the Hispanic deacons reported that over 135 people from the Hispanic community also attended. Pedro stated that he wants to promote this more so that the turn out will be bigger next year. The council applauds the efforts of all who participated.

X. Old Business

Saint Lawrence Day. A good time was had by all that attended this year's Saint Lawrence Day gathering. We thank the Hispanic community for their assistance in cooking the food. Dennis Colgan brought up the fact that this outing honors both the new class of deacons and those who have achieved 25 years of ministry. Yet the event was not well attended. Larry Chyba who stepped in for Tom Coffey and chaired the Saint Lawrence Day celebration this year is willing to assist the new chair from Vicariate V next year. A chair is being sought. Also a co-chair from Vicariate VI, who will be the chair in the next year, is needed. Any member of Vicariate V and VI that wishes to volunteer for the two positions are asked to contact Dennis at the Diaconate Office.

XI. New Business

1. Chairman Stearns reminded the VDC's and DDC's of their responsibilities to inform the deacons of their areas about the dates of upcoming events. He passed out a list of events and asked that each VDC and DDC refer to it when they contact a deacon. Stearns intends to give an updated flyer at each council meeting.
2. Deacon Tom Coffey stated that at the age of 75 and after seven years on the Council t he wished to resign as VDC of Vicariate IV Deanery E. His resignation will take affect when a replacement has been selected and accepted. The council thanks him for his generous and dedicated years of service.
3. Regarding the issue of abuse, Barb Manning will be addressing various ways to resource others at the Symposium in October. Marge Colgan emphasized that Barb's workshop is not just for women, but is open to all the diaconate.
4. A request to place the Council Notes which are the unofficial minutes, until ratified, on the website was requested. These published notes are the minutes prior to board acceptance or changes. They will be posted on the website starting with the September, 2010 meeting. Secretary, Sal Lema will send them to Chick O'Leary who will place them on the website. Our thanks to Chick for his assistance.

XII. Next Meeting

Next meeting will held November 13, 2010 at 9:15 AM at the Diaconate office.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn and Closing Prayer

With no further business to come before the council membership a motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Stearns and seconded by Joseph Truesdale. By voice vote, the motion carried. After a closing prayer was invoked by Chairman Stearns, the meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Sal Lema,
Secretary