

Deacon Council Meeting

May 16, 2024

Deacon Martin Aubel 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, and Peggy Jacquiel were present. Eleanor Walker was absent.

The minutes of the March 14, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved as read.

Deacon Tom McAraw mentioned that he was going to recommend to the Bishop that he place Deb Sobina on the Deacon Council to help develop a program for Deacon wives, families, and widows.

Deacon Richard O'Polka made recommendations for selection of policy documents to be placed on the Deacon website. He suggested that in the future documents for placement on the website be sent to Deacon Tom McAraw for review.

Deacon Tom stated that Deacon Richard Winschel had replaced Deacon Kevin Kunek as Director of Pastoral Formation.

Deacon Tom said that currently 11 couples have applications for Formation Training. Applications are due by September 2. He stated the next meeting would be on May 23.

Deacon Tom asked for recommendations for food vendors for Deacon Formation Training.

Deacon Tom and Very Rev. Rouch stated that letters will be sent to the Deacons, who will be affected by the Erie County Pastoral changes, requesting comments regarding their thoughts about their assignments.

Deacon Tom mentioned he will be sending a letter to all those who will be attending Emaus. The letter will request questions, that anyone might have for the bishop's response during Emaus, be submitted to himself prior to the start of Emaus.

Deacon Tom stated that during Thursday morning of Emaus Fr. Chris Singer and he will be presenting training on the Funeral Rite. Fr. Chris will concentrate on the liturgy and he will concentrate on the practical implications. Deacons will be asked to bring a copy of the Funeral Rite book as well as anything they might use for Vigil services, committals, etc. Deacon Tom mentioned, that during Thursday afternoon, Dr. Jan Satterlee will present a program entitled, "Who Heals the Healer from a Spiritual Perspective".

Deacon O'Polka offered July 13 or July 20 as possible dates for a picnic at his cottage. A survey will be sent to the Deacons requesting their input.

Deacon Richard Brogdon showed examples of possibilities for the new website. The Deacons in attendance were impressed. Deacon Tom talked about Deacon Brogdon presenting possibilities at the Emaus or at the fall training session with input requested.

Deacon O'Polka stated that the next meeting will be on September 26, 2024. It was decided that it would be zoomed.