

## Council of Permanent Deacons Meeting

Meeting Date: January 31, 2008

Attendees: Joe Yandoli, Joe Mantineo, Jim Tobin, Luis Lorza, Daniel O'Neill, Joseph Caporaso, Asterio Velasco and Bill McDermott

### Meeting Summary:

The meeting began with the introduction of the new members of the Council and a review of the meeting dates for 2008.

Deacon Convocation 2007 was discussed. The consensus was that the event was very successful. The facility was impressive. Bishop Edgar deCunha's participation was outstanding and added so much to the day. A comment was made that it was unfortunate that circumstances did not permit the planned evaluation period, which would have been a source of valuable feedback. Although the attendance was quite good, efforts will need to be made to make attendance even greater next time the Convocation is held. The outlook is that it is likely to take place every other year in turn with the region's bi-annual conference.

The need for support group meetings was emphasized. It was agreed that the lack of interest in attending such meetings and what might be done to increase participation will be discussed at the next meeting.

The recent fund raising effort for the Deacon St. Lawrence Fund resulted in contributions totaling \$5700.

The subject of Continuing Education was discussed. The comment was made that often educational classes scheduled by the Archdiocese are at times that do not favor attendance by deacons since the majority work during the day. The need to make it convenient for deacons to take advantage of continuing education was stressed. A suggestion was made that having fewer topics presented more frequently, on a repeating/rolling schedule, would be helpful. Topics suggested for future classes included Church History, Biblical Theology, Sacraments, Homiletics as well as others that are emphasized in the Directory. The need for specific training in administrative procedures was mentioned also.

Mentoring of members of the current class after ordination was brought up. It has been said that only priests will be chosen as mentors. It was mentioned that a proposal will be made that deacons should be chosen as mentors. The qualifications may include three years experience as a deacon, living within five miles of the mentored, prior experience as a mentor and a recommendation from the Director of Deacon Personnel.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 28.

Submitted by Bill McDermott.