

COMMUNITY UPDATE – MARCH 4, 2024

Greetings! I have made a conscious effort to reduce the number of emails that are not time-sensitive, lest you suffer email fatigue. Some messages, for example news of deaths and illnesses in our community, or urgent prayer requests, need to get out in a timely manner, but some information can wait. The downside of waiting, though, is that sometimes a lot of information piles up. Such is the case with this Community Update, so make a cup of tea and bear with me!

EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- March 26, 2024: Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 6:00PM, ***kindly advise me if you plan to attend and vest.***
- May 21, 2024: Gathering of the Ministerium, RIT Inn & Conference Center, details tba by SBSTM
- May 25, 2024: Diaconate Ordination, Sacred Heart Cathedral (transitional deacon only)
- June 29, 2024: Priesthood Ordination, Sacred Heart Cathedral
- August 10, 2024: SSDCA Picnic, Al Lorenz Park, Mt. Morris
- September 6-8, 2024: Annual SSDCA Retreat, Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua
Retreat master is Fr. Bob Werth, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

SSDCA DUES

From SSDCA Treasurer Deacon Don Eggleston: *Our SSDCA dues collection covers a period from July 1 - June 30 of the following year; this coincides with the Diocese of Rochester fiscal year, and we follow that calendar because the Diocese manages the accounts. Ed and/or I will normally send an email, acknowledging your contribution. If you ever have any questions about whether you are current with your dues, please do not hesitate to contact me directly (donald.eggleston@dor.org). Thank you for your support of SSDCA.*

MONROE COUNTY JAIL CHAPLAINCY

Deacon Dan Callan, in addition to his assigned parish ministry at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Greece, serves concurrently as chaplain at the **Monroe County Jail** in Rochester. Dan extends an invitation to anyone who may be interested in jail ministry, and more particularly chaplaincy, to reach out for a conversation. Dan's email address is dan.callan@dor.org, and I can share his cell phone number with you if you are interested. The chaplain position at the Monroe County Jail comes with a stipend.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Please see the following invitation from Deacon John Tomandl, et al to join in the community praying of **Morning Prayer** and **Evening Prayer** via Zoom:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:00 AM
and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings at 5:30 PM
Meeting ID: 891 3323 2740

Meeting PW: 269070

Auto link available, click on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86234003045?pwd=eE5WTDBpbUd6cDA1VkhDZmpDakkzQT09>

Thursday at 8:00 AM
Meeting ID: 891 3323 2740
Meeting PW: 269070

Saturday morning at 8:00 AM
Meeting ID: 362 696 8372
Passcode: John316

Contact John (john.tomandl@dor.org) or Deacon Ray Defendorf (ray.defendorf@dor.org) with any questions.

FORMATION COMMUNITY

On February 17, 2024 Bishop Matano joined the Formation Community at SBSTM to offer Holy Mass and to admit Michael Schoene and Matthew Hall to Candidacy and to institute Rick Burgess to the ministry of Lector. I've attached a photograph of the group to this message. From left to right: Michael Schoene (missing Jennifer); Matthew, Elizabeth and Dominic Hall; Rick and Trish Burgess; Peter Sikora; Mark and Katie Amann.

RECRUITMENT OF DISCERNERS

I've attached an article from the current edition of *The Deacon* magazine, highlighting the challenge of recruiting younger men to discern a vocation to the diaconate. I respectfully renew my request that our community act as the best ambassadors for the diaconate, considering and approaching those men from your parish, your family, or from among your acquaintances who might be open to discerning a diaconal vocation. I always encourage interested fellows who contact me to meet up with the deacon couple(s) in their parish so that they and their wives can get a solid overview of

balancing marriage, family, employment, and formation (and later ordained ministry) from the men and women in our community who have lived, and are living, that experience. With our average age being 68, we can use new blood!

As was noted at this weekend's Convocation, we are moving to accepting a new formation class every two (2) years with the goal of establishing a more robust formation community for mutual support, quality of instruction, etc. A dearth of qualified applicants over the past couple of years has prompted us to make this move, a move that is similarly being made by other dioceses in the region. We can look at a host of different reasons for the declining number of discerners and applicants, some evident to you as you scan the pews at your parish each Sunday, and we are looking to create and maintain a strong human, pastoral, intellectual, and spiritual formation experience for our Aspirants, Candidates, their wives, and their families. It is anticipated that the next formation class will be accepted in Fall 2025, with the proviso that we have a minimum number of acceptable applicants, likely four (4), so we have time to engage with discerners and their families.

That should be enough "news" for now. Thank you for your generous service in the various ministries and apostolates in which you and your families share your time, your talents, and your faith with God's people throughout the diocese.