

SSDCA Meeting – 2/20/24

Attended: Lon Smith, Ed Giblin (ex officio), Don Eggleston, Rick & Bernadette Rall, Dennis Lohouse

Opening Prayer

Secretary's Report: January minutes approved. Don moved to approve. Rick seconded motion.

Financial Report: 9 people paid dues since last report (after letter was sent). Numbers will be reconciled with Diocese – should match - \$5,159 balance; a formal, confidential request was made to the St. Lawrence Fund board

Convocation – March 2, 2024:

8:30 – 9:30 am – Registration

10 am – Mass

11 – 12 pm – presentation by Bishop Matano

12 – 1:15 or 1:30 pm – Lunch

1:15 – 2 pm – State of Diaconate & Zawacki Award deadlines – Ed

Break

2:15 – 3 pm – SSDCA (10 min) & Phoebe's Friends (5 min) and Q & A

3 pm – Evening Prayer

Bernadette will speak for Phoebe's Friends. Don will speak about events for SSDCA and updates to website. Rick will address the need for help, including regional VPs for support groups.

We need one more board meeting and regional VP's can be based on the priestly deanery areas, but with a few more combined areas. Lon will pull together a job description. We will solicit nominations for the Stan Zawacki award through May 15th, and will be awarded at the retreat.

Ed reported 49 people are registered for convocation (usually 100). Between snowbirds out of town and losing 33 deacons since 2017, it isn't helping the attendance numbers. There is 1 deacon receiving 25th anniversary award and 1 for 35th anniversary; music will be a capella; Father White will write intercessions; no formal memorial service will be held during Holy Mass at Convocation since a full service (all deceased deacons and wives since 1982) has been conducted at each of the last two SSDCA retreats. Ed will prepare the program for the mass.

Retreat – September 6-8, 2024:

A letter from Bishop Matano gave us permission to use Fr Bob Werth for the retreat. Dennis has joined the retreat team at Notre Dame – there was a retreat on mercy in January – we can weave some points into our retreat. Below is a tentative agenda:

- Meditation on Psalm 139
- Morning prayer
- Breakfast
- Mass – Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning
- 3 presentations – 1 Saturday morning, 1 Saturday afternoon, 1 Sunday morning

- Exposition
- Benediction – Sunday morning
- Zawacki award – after lunch on Saturday
- Confession – Saturday afternoon
- Business meeting – Saturday evening
- Saturday evening social
- Phoebe’s Friends would like short time in afternoon for wives gathering

Website:

Don has posted letter sent by SSDCA and listed Lon as contact. He also added hyperlink for ½ day retreats. Diocese wants Don’s design ideas and they will meet to discuss.

Phoebe’s Friends Report:

Notes were sent to all deacon wives in December and there was a lot of positive feedback. The group would like more general retreat topics to be inclusive of wives and perhaps one session or discussion that splits men and women. This is in response to feedback from wives and widows who are not attending – not having their spiritual needs met. Phoebe’s Friends will be offering 2 Days of Reflection and Service in October – 1 in Rochester, 1 in the Southern Tier. Would like a table at Convocation.

It was suggested the minutes of the Phoebe’s Friends meetings be sent to Don to post on the website. The group should keep Notre Dame Retreat Center in mind when planning retreats. The SSDCA will only occasionally pay for meeting places, if requested, but shouldn’t be necessary for the future.

Next meeting: March 7, 2024