



The Deacon Society of St. Lawrence of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY

Here is an update of activities involving the deacon community. December 2017

BISHOP LAVALLEY TO MEET WITH COUNCIL OF DEACONS

Bishop Terry LaValley will meet with the Council of Deacons on Saturday, December 9, 2017 in Brzana Hall of St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg. The meeting begins at 10:30 am.

Bishop authorized the formation of the Council in May 2015 at the Diocesan Deacon Assembly. The inaugural meeting of the elected and ex-officio members was held in October 2015.

Following the Fall 2017 election, the following are current members of the Council with **Bishop LaValley** who serves as President:

Deacon Paul White - Essex, Hamilton-Herkimer and Adirondack Deaneries.

Deacon Henry Leader - St. Lawrence Deanery

Deacon Lawrence Ambeau- Jefferson/Lewis Deaneries

Deacon John Drollette - Clinton/Franklin Deaneries

Deacon Thomas Kilian- Full time Diocesan employees, Chaplains, retired and disabled

Mrs. Gayle Frank and

Mrs. Kathleen Mastellon - Deacon wives and widows.

Also serving on the Council ex-officio are:

Rev. Christopher C. Carrara, Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel

Deacon John White, Director of Formation

Deacon Kevin Mastellon, President,
St. Lawrence Society.

If you have specific topics you would like the Council to consider at this or future meetings, please contact your Council representative. (See page 2 of this newsletter for a statement of the Council's purpose.)

CLINTON DEACON COMMUNITY WILL GATHER FOR PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP

Some of the more senior members of our community will recall regular meetings of deacons and spouses in the various "clusters" in the diocese. Those were educational and spiritual opportunities. They also provided a chance for deacons and wives to mingle and swap best practices.

Deacon Dave Clark in Plattsburgh is working to revive the gatherings. Here's Dave's description:

I am currently thinking of a Saturday morning meeting once a month with coffee and donuts. I envision doing Morning Prayer, having one Deacon give a 5-10 minute reflection on the prayers in Morning Prayers, and then just talk amongst ourselves. If there any announcements, we'll have those. I hope this is very informal without minutes. Does this sound appropriate to you?

It sure did to us. Perhaps deacons in the other deaneries will find the idea attractive and organize similar events. The Society will be happy to help you with e-mail addresses and phone numbers. Contact Deacon Kevin at deaconcouncil2015@gmail.com. If you are planning an event, please keep us on your mailing list. Use the same e-mail address.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Thank you Rev. James W. Seymour for your service and support of the deacon community as Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel. On November 15, 2017 Father moved from Morristown to Lowville, NY to become Pastor of St. Peter's and associated parishes.



The Deacon Community joins with our brother clergy in welcoming Rev. Christopher C. Carrara to the Pastoral Personnel position. Fr. Chris is also Pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Morristown and associated parishes. He previously served in Lowville.



*Thank you Deacon Mark Bennett, Plattsburgh (left) and Deacon John Levison, Norwood (right) for your contributions to the Council of Deacons.
Both men retired from the Council this fall.*



HOW DO THE COUNCIL OF DEACONS AND ST. LAWRENCE SOCIETY FIT TOGETHER?

The Council of Deacons and the St. Lawrence Society are not competitors. The Society was formed in the 1980's to address some post-ordination concerns among the few deacons who had then completed formation and been assigned to work in parishes. The major concerns were the lack of spiritual, educational and social opportunities for deacons and their spouses. Over the ensuing years the Society has evolved but the original stated purpose remained.

In 2013 during a meeting with the leadership of the Society, Bishop Terry LaValley proposed an Assembly of all deacons in the Diocese. It was during that Assembly the following May that Bishop suggested the formation of Council to advise him as the existing Council of Priests and Council of Religious do.

A committee was charged with drafting a Constitution and By-laws. The final document, approved May 6, 2015, established a purpose for the Council:

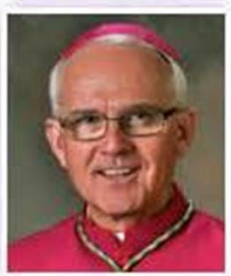
1. To provide a forum for the full and free discussion of all issues pertaining to the pastoral ministry of all deacons of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
2. To aid the Diocesan Bishop and the priests in the pastoral care of the faithful of the Diocese by proposing ways and means for more effective pastoral ministry.
3. To assist the Bishop in planning, coordinating and evaluating the pre-ordination and post-ordination educational and spiritual formation of the deacons.
4. To assist the Bishop in addressing and supporting the unique needs of the deacon family.

The Society has now embraced item three above and, consistent with its own Constitution, is working to coordinate post-ordination educational and spiritual formation of deacons, wives and widows. Deacon John Drollette will chair the education committee. Mrs. Mary Lou Kilian will chair the committee charged with developing a program of prayer and spiritual growth.

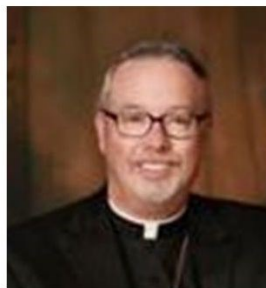
If you are interested in serving on a committee and/or wish to offer your thoughts, please contact the chairs.



The Diocese of Ogdensburg Deacon Assembly 2018



Most Rev. Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop Burlington, VT

May 2 and 3, 2018 Crowne Plaza Lake Placid

Reserve the dates and watch for details coming soon!



Christmas Peace