

SSDCA Meeting – 3/7/24

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

Opening Prayer

Secretary's Report: February minutes approved.

Financial Report: \$5,459 balance; St. Lawrence Fund - \$15,754; the SSDCA should tithe to the St. Lawrence Fund each year

Retreat: 9/6 – 9/8/24 - if Deacon Patrick attends, the Diocese pays for interpreters; stipend for priest; someone has volunteered to sponsor a couple or a widow for retreat expenses – spread the word and let Lon know if there is a suggestion; Bernadette will mention to Phoebe's Friends; some discussion regarding food at Notre Dame – agreed we would try to get a menu for the weekend of retreat

Phoebe's Friends: group will have a day of retreat in October with a prayer service, presentation, break out groups and a service project; Regarding Widows Luncheon, SSDCA wants to know if Phoebe's Friends wants to be involved and/or do they have a preference for the date? Does Phoebe's Friends want to host the luncheon or have SSDCA host? Bernadette will ask the group.

Convocation Recap: based on limited evaluations, most liked the State of the Diaconate presentation; noted a few issues with food and dietary restrictions – Ed will talk to retreat house; some interest in regional holy hour or benediction

There was discussion regarding whether we can replicate the vocation work by priests for new deacons; noted we have 1-2 deacons in counties such as Wayne, Ontario and Livingston – we need to try and target from counties with fewer deacons; we have to get regional guys set up – a few people might be interested in helping – still working on this.

Discussed regional V.P.'s versus support group – regional guys would convene social gatherings – reviews job description – regional work would include being liaison to SSDCA Board; we need to stir up activity.

Regarding deacon formation lunches, the SSDCA could sponsor one lunch; Lon made motion to allocate \$250 for Ed to use for formation lunch; Rick seconded the motion.

Zawacki Award nominations are due by May 15th – we have 2 nominations so far.

A deacon suggested we have a mass with extended families.

Planning for summer picnic and retreat to continue.

Next meeting: May 7, 2024