

Commission on Ministry Report to 2009 Diocesan Convention

Major Initiatives in 2009

Completed:

- Licensed Lay Ministries Program developed and published on diocesan website.
- Eucharistic Visitor training standardized throughout diocese with deacons providing regular opportunities for training across the regions.
- Compiled extensive acronym glossary for COM work, especially ordination-related activities.
- COM members received continuing education for their work by reading and discussing several books and documents regarding the status of the Church in North America, as well as including several guest speakers on the topic during regular meetings.
- The chair attended the Province VI COM Network meeting in June so that ideas and methods could be shared with nearby dioceses.
- Board of Examining Chaplains certified the completion of the academic studies of the three diaconal candidates to be ordained in November.

Initiated:

- Congregational Discernment Committee Working Group reviewed the Congregational Discernment program and encourages the inclusion of all the baptized to discover their gifts, not just those considering ordained ministry. Enhancements to be made to the process and training where appropriate.
- Clergy Compensation Committee identified the unfavorable discrepancy between national median priest compensation and Colorado actual compensation. Committee will continue to work on refining the plan to get Colorado to the national median, as well as name resources to assist parishes in finding methods to facilitate an increase of compensation.

Priorities for 2010

- Clergy Compensation—continue work as indicated above
- Congregational Discernment—continue work as indicated above
- Continuing Education—finalize diaconate resources and tracking; initiate priest resources and tracking; initiate compiling lay resources; continue COM exposure and discussion of present and future ministry needs
- Diaconal Formation—refine homiletics, field work, and practicum materials
- Licensed Lay Ministries—further marketing and refine as feedback is received
- Board of Examining Chaplains—continuing to provide guidance and educational supervision to all in the holy orders process to become deacons or priests

Commission on Ministry (continued)

Statistics as of 9/30/09

- ♦ Aspirants—about 20
- ♦ BACOM-Diaconate (May 2009)
 - Attendees—2
 - Staff—8
- ♦ Diaconate-Postulants & Candidates—8
- ♦ Ordinations to the Vocational Diaconate (November 2008)—2
- ♦ BACOM-Priesthood (November 2008)
 - Attendees—4
 - Staff—10
- ♦ Priesthood-Postulants & Candidates—7
- ♦ Ordinations to the Transitional/Vocational Diaconate (May 2009)—3
- ♦ Ordinations to the Priesthood (January 2009)—4
- ♦ Holy Orders Retreat Attendees (July 2009)—26
- ♦ Trainings held for Congregational Discernment Committees—7

Notes:

* BACOM is the Bishop Advisory Committee for Ordained Ministry. Each BACOM retreat is a three-day event where aspirants meet with the Bishop and other staff members regarding the individual's call to ordination. Staff members cover diverse topics such as medical, psychological, financial, spiritual and educational aspects of the person's life. At the conclusion of the retreat, the staff meets with the Bishop to converse about these matters and makes observations to the Bishop regarding the aspirant's readiness for postulancy. The Bishop alone makes the final decision whether the individual is made a postulant.

* Holy Orders Retreat is a two-day event when all persons in the Holy Orders process plus Commission on Ministry members, Board of Examining Chaplains members, Standing Committee members and the Bishop gather for prayer, reflection and fellowship.