



Archdeacon and Deacon Director's Conference Spring 2013 Open Space Notes

ASSOCIATE TO THE ORDER OF DEACONS - If there were such, what might it look like?

GENESIS FOR QUESTION:

1. One of our deacons in our diocese wishes that there were something available that might be an opening or entry to the formation for the diaconate which would attract young adults who lives are centered around working in agriculture in the fields
2. It might be a way for a young adult to shadow a deacon as a way of discerning whether they are experiencing a call to the diaconate
3. Living out their diakonia while exploring/discerning a call

HERE FOLLOWS THE INPUT FROM OUR DISCUSSION HISTORY

At the Annual Retreat for the Community of Deacons with our bishop, our discussion during the retreat was framed by "Either metaphorically or realistically, what threshold have you crossed or been crossing, and why? How did you feel and/or experience God's presence. "

BRAINSTORM COMMENTS:

Could be folded into licensed lay missionaries

Might shadow a deacon and call may go into a priestly call

Discernment role for holy orders

Individual becomes an apprentice

Bob Gallagher involved with Congregational Development - there is a precedence for an order.

Because this question came out of an area where many of the individuals are not documented, we need to be sensitive to what this might mean. Two books were offered as places to learn:

Ripe fields - Juan Oliver

Best Practices for Latino

Need to make sure they are documented before beginning their journey

If they are of hispanic descent we must be able to break the language barrier so that we all understand

Associate to the order Deacons - if there were such what might it look like?

Possibility of a Spanish piece of The Seven

Using one of monastic orders as a foundation being sure that a rule of life is developed. - for example Associate to Holy Cross (Veronica from AZ)

Question becomes who is holding "me" accountable

Hold monthly meetings with those who are participating

Order of Urban Missioners - have a cross they wear, where a brown rope

It almost sounds like a creation of subdeacons

RESOURCES (offered which might help with development)

Carmen Guerrero - Diocesan Missioner for Hispanic Ministries, Sudanese
Former Jubilee officer from NY
Parishoner from Hispanic congregations volunteer for institutional theology training
Four major subjects, biblical, church history, theology, liturgy
Takes about a year and a half
Once completed it is up to the individual if they feel a call to be more involved in liturgies
When they do get more involved they serve in multiple roles: acolyte, eucharistic ministers all the way to a subdeacon role filling in what is missing in service.
Do everything from diaconal side except proclaim the Gospel and give the dismissal.

Ema Rosero-Nordalm - deacon in Mass., Hispanic missioner for diocese of massachusetts
diomassleads.org - leadership development initiatives - community organizing

For the order of Urban Missioners - - they recommit each year, identify what they are going to do.

SYMBOLISM/SOME PRACTICALITIES:

Symbol could be a rock or stone
Symbol could also be a small wood cross could be engraved with the word "diakonia"
Make sure those participating have a good foundational understanding of the story of Stephen (Acts)
Concept of any of these orders is "community"
Rule of life is developed at the very beginning of the year - who is going to help hold me accountable.
Rule of life is in place and in practice before becoming an associate
They should have a deacon mentor walking with him
Question: Could this be tied to an existing community, for example, Associate to the Order of Holy Cross (Veronica - from Phoenix, AZ)

As a final comment, this group provided as many more questions as they did insight and resources. It is a concept that I believe is worth continuing the discussion on as I do not believe this should happen at a Diocesan level but would be better suited for AED to consider what this might look like and could be offered across the church. Of course, this can raise additional questions of such things should this go to General Convention as a resolution for a change to the Canons.