

DIACONATE NARRATIVE DREAMS AND REALITY BUDGET

Deacons have the joy of their ministry without compensation for the most part. Most of our deacons in this diocese have the same education background as their priestly brothers and sisters and incur the same educational debt knowing that at the end of their process, there awaits no compensation to pay back those debts. The current system allows mostly older deacons to enter into that particular order following retirement and thus becoming available to give freely of their time. People who are able to be generous in this way are usually white and haven't learned to speak another language. If we wish to raise up deacon leaders from the communities of the diverse and the poor and for them to have longer ministry time, we need to fund their educations. We need a budgetary line item and/ or create a fund for diaconal education. Deacons are our access to communities of people the church will often rarely see. They are the church's hands and hearts held wide open in these communities. The diocese needs another 100 active deacons to cover the diocese. Seminary education for deacons is not a "one size fits all" proposition any more than it is for priests. The stated amount would cover a variety of educational opportunities for over half of the deacons needed. Goal \$300,000.00

It is also noted that on many occasions the budget of a parish is balanced on the back of the deacon who works for free. The free work of that deacon provides the necessary help in parishes where one priest is stretched too far. The presence of a deacon often makes the difference in having to hire another clergy person. Because of the tight budgets in congregations, deacons are often unable to attend clergy conferences, Province 8 deacon's meetings, our diocesan conventions and General Convention. These are considered to be "the councils of the church" that deacons are invited to in their ordination vows and should be present for their voices to be heard. Deacons travel fund would be most helpful so it could cover a flight or a room or food making attendance possible. Goal \$15,00.00 year.

The Archdeacon also needs a travel budget and expense account for travel around the diocese and to the annual Archdeacon's conference as well as Province 8 meetings and triennial meetings. Goal \$7,500.00 a year.

We have no idea what deacons in communities could do if given funds to do the ministry. We have no measure yet of what is possible if provided a budget specific to diaconal ministries. One such diaconal dream is to begin a Thistle Farms Magdala House for women coming out of prison and off the streets. Startup costs would be \$4 million. This amount would provide treatment and care of women for the necessary first two years. We would love someone to donate a 4-6 bedroom home. If not, we will need to buy one. Los Angeles is the nations' number one sight for human trafficking. Right now our Episcopal Church has no response and deacons want to build one. Goal: 4 to 6 Million

Many of our deacons need and want to learn Spanish. Trips to Cuernavaca sponsored by our diocese are cost prohibitive for deacons. We would like funds for 5 deacons a year to go and begin their learning and continue it. \$20,000.00

Deacon's have very little time for rest and spiritual nurture. Having two retreats per year has been very helpful. We meet once a year with the bishop for a day long retreat and both breakfast and lunch are provided. We also meet once in the Spring and always struggle for a location and presenter due to costs. Goal: \$12,000.00 for both.