



Archdeacon and Deacon Director's Conference Spring 2015 Open Space Notes

Archdeacons'/Formation Directors Conference

San Antonio 3/21/15

Open Space

Reaching the Marginalized

Roxanne Klingensmith - facilitator

Cathy Halford -scribe

This group was focused on the "others": homeless, those in addiction recovery, those who have been incarcerated, those who have physical issues.

Questions: Are there any deacons who have been in prison? Are there any deacons who have been homeless? Are there any deacons who are in recovery from alcohol or drugs? Are there any deacons who are blind or deaf?

Much of the conversation included ideas on helping people who might have a problem getting through all the material that is required and how to help when in discernment.

How can you adapt competencies to help those without a lot of academic skills to be successful in classes? How can one assess without using conventional ways?

- deacons to tutor or mentor
- video person for portfolio doing what they have learned instead of struggling to write
- different learning styles
- use what has been learned in New Testament class and bring it back to discuss instead of writing it down

What about discernment?

- Diocese of the Rio Grande - A Vocational Day takes place to help those discern in all areas.
- Use those who come into the soup kitchen or breakfast as helpers in the program. Begin a conversation with them. What is their passion?

Denise La Vetter -Ecclesia Ministries of NY -Outdoor ministry (e.g. park) -Altar on Wheels

-especially for homeless. Afterwards, each person is given a healthy bag lunch. Deacons with priests celebrate the Eucharist around 2:00 or 2:30 in the afternoon. Many have been baptized. Perhaps discernment may take place.

As we know, a person doesn't have to be a deacon to be diaconal, but think of how much the "others" can make a difference in so many lives. They have walked the walk. They understand too well those to whom we are ministering.