

AED's Archdeacon & Deacon Directors' Conference – February 2019

Deacons & Understanding the Diaconate
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Culture of grouching, whining, dissatisfied deacons. Understanding the value of the diaconate starts with understanding. And that starts with understanding the call to the world. Self-esteem and recognition of deacons has increased. Some increased knowledge among parishes.

Who deacons are. What deacons are called to do and be.

Wanted to communicate that throughout all orders of the church.

<Handout>—all comments below *in addition* to the handout; bullets numbered
Activities listed have been effective.

<4&5>During the Episcopal visit activity, the deacon that is functioning as the Bishop's chaplain has a written announcement about the diaconate. (included on the training video)

<6>Video, Much More Than Sunday, is used in a variety of settings including formation.

<7>Deacon ambassadors are chosen by their strength in preaching. FAQ in handout are given to ambassadors.

<8>Seekin Deacons will have cut out for photos

<9>Entry to discernment and more; display of literature, panel, held in different parish every year; open to all

<11>debunks myths that led to grouching, optional for priests to attend (during free time!), Powerpoint presentation, panel of deacons, discussed deployment (see request for deacon in handout)

Transitional deacons and vocational deacons have an event together to promote conversation to start the understanding early in the priesthood.

Got Bishop Sutton to read Unexpected Consequences; session at deacon retreat on the waves and had Bishop speak on church of the future and his vision.

Question on finances for logo, video, etc.

A: provided in-house

Q: How many did you order?

A: 1000 and more since then

Q: Time commitment of archdeacon?

A: 20 paid hrs/week

Q: Growth of deacons?

A: 11 postulants

Q: How long do deacons stay in a parish in MD?

A: The formula is 3 years; deacons over 72 are called deacon associates and don't move and renew annually (half of the diocesan deacons)

Q: recommendations to change the culture of a diocese around an earlier wave

A: start with your bishop

Discussion around use of request for a deacon.