

Open Space Group on Informing and Training Priests/Bishops/ /COM's

Is training an event or a process? No. California hoped discernment booklet would help.

Agreement that people need to understand a deacon is not an assistant. Where do we start?

American Churches in Europe: Start with lay people. Bishop may have to jump on the train.

Atlanta: Diocesan Journal raised hope for deacons in parishes. The entire issue was devoted to who deacons are in the diocese and what they're about.

Olympia: On visitations with bishop, attend vestry Parish meetings and talk about the diaconate. Make visits on own – offer to preach and attend adult education programs.

C. PA: Archdeacon visits parishes.

Indianapolis: Powerpoint presentation on DVD – on website and given to every parish.

Clergy ember day – teaching on diaconate.

“Deacon's Voice”

Best education is letting people see deacons in action.

S. Ohio: getting congregations to write a proposal of what they want do and how they would use a deacon. Same in Oregon. Would that work where deacons stay in home parish?  
Same in NC.

Use document on Diakonia of all Believers.

Long Island: go back and forth between ordination and baptismal covenant to hear echoes.

CPA: priests need to know theology of the diaconate – why they do what they do. “Icon” picture on postcard.

Atlanta: Formation assignment answer – why do we need a deacon (to be addressed in an adult ed class.)

NWPA: Seminary class on diaconate.

Put the diakonia statement to use – asking the right questions.

Symbolic actions: Priest gathers; deacon scatters.

Said at one diocesan convention: “We don't need deacons to make the altar more beautiful; but to make the world more beautiful.”

When rectors leave, deacon is not to be parish leader – another opportunity for education.

Long Island: always leave home parish and if rector leaves, deacon is moved.

Get priests who will be getting newly ordained deacons together to discuss the ministry of the deacon. (Or to talk about partnership in ministry – typist's prerogative editorial statement)

In formation have a priest and a deacon discuss how they are working together, how they became comfortable with that.

Make sure there are good letters of agreement.

Ask the bishop to tell priests they cannot request a deacon until they have attended training on diaconate.

Recommendations:

Presentations everyone can use, including info, reading list, handouts

AED – collect resources and make available on web site.

Use Diakonia document

Create an updated presentation/DVD "So you want to have a deacon..."

Workshops at diocesan conventions.