

**Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
Committee on the Priesthood Report to the 229th Annual Diocesan Convention**

The Committee on the Priesthood oversees the journey of those discerning a call to the priesthood. Its responsibilities include reviewing applications, interviewing nominees, placing nominees in parishes other than their own for further discernment, recommending to the Bishop those who should become postulants and proceed in the process to become priests, and supporting those in the process from beginning steps, through seminary, to being ordained, including the award of diocesan grants for seminary study.

Current Status of Individuals in the Process

- **Ordained to the Priesthood**
 - In June, one candidate was ordained to the transitional diaconate at Trinity, Princeton. Then in January, she was ordained to the priesthood in Pennsylvania at the church where she is serving.
- **Transitional Deacons**
 - In November, one candidate was ordained to the transitional diaconate at Grace Church, Pemberton and is expected to be ordained to the priesthood late spring/early summer. This individual took the General Ordination Examinations (GOEs) in January 2013.
- **Candidates**
 - There are currently three candidates who took their GOEs in January 2013 and who are expected to be ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 8 at the Cathedral. These three candidates required only an Anglican Studies year to qualify for ordination. Since they have not been in the diocesan process very long, a decision was made not to ordain them on the earlier schedule (fall ordination to the transitional diaconate and then early summer ordination to the priesthood). They are expected to be ordained to the priesthood in the fall or early winter 2013.
 - Another candidate is completing Anglican Studies this year.
- **Postulants**
 - There are currently six postulants in seminary. One postulant is in the junior year (first year) and the rest are in various stages of their middler years (second year).
 - It should be noted that two seminarians, one a postulant and the other a candidate are enrolled in the Anglican Studies Program at the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia. This program was approved by the Bishop and the Committee Co-chairs, after an in-depth examination of this program, for students living in southern New Jersey who would be unable to attend another seminary due to their work or family situation.
 - Recently approved (2):
 - There was one nominee to the priesthood in 2012 who was interviewed for further ministry discernment in September 2012. This individual was accepted as a nominee into the process, had a COP liaison appointed for guidance, and was placed in a parish, other than their home parish, for further discernment for six months. This nominee was approved for postulancy in January 2013.
 - One nominee to the priesthood in 2012 is currently attending a non-Episcopalian seminary in the senior year. After an interview with the Committee on Priesthood in September 2013, this individual was accepted as a nominee into the process in September and had a COP liaison appointed for guidance. Given the extensive work of this individual in various Episcopal parishes, no further discernment was deemed required. After an interview with the Committee in January, the individual was recommended for postulancy. This new postulant will begin an Anglican Studies program at an Episcopalian seminary in September.
- **Others in Process**
 - There are other potential applicants in various stages of completing work with their Parish Committees on Ministry.

Visits with Seminarians

Members of the Committee on the Priesthood periodically visit those on this journey at their seminaries. A member of the Committee visited one of the seminarians at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. Other committee members visited with individuals at General Theological Seminary in New York City and at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut.

In June 2012 the COP held its sixth afternoon of fellowship and bible study at St. Matthews in Pennington so that seminarians and members of the COP could get to know each other better and to ensure that there is interaction before the seminarians are interviewed for candidacy. Also attending were several interns from the summer program. All interns from the inception of the program were invited to attend.

Recruitment

The Subcommittee on Recruitment/Development continues to be active in developing new approaches to recruitment. There was the fourth Passion & Purpose Sunday on April 22, 2012. The fifth P & P Sunday will be held on April 14, 2013.

The Recruitment Subcommittee placed two college students in its 8th summer internship program to encourage college students to consider the priesthood. This brings the total number of summer interns supported by the diocese over the eight years to 29. Interns receive \$3,000 each - \$2500 stipend and \$500 for books and materials.

In addition, the Subcommittee continues the Committee on the Priesthood's "Discerning a Call to the Priesthood" workshops with one scheduled on February 23, 2013 at Trinity Church, Princeton.

The Committee undertook the review and revision of the Manual for Lay Ministries which was completed early in 2012. To support these revisions the COP now offers training for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors. The first workshop was offered on October 20, 2012 at St. John's Church, Salem, and the second will be held on April 6 at Grace Church, Plainfield.

On September 13, 2012, members of the COP and other leaders in the Diocese met with The Reverend Canon Anthony Guillen, the Hispanic Missionary of the Episcopal Church to discuss ways to nurture and educate future priests who are Hispanic and African American to serve the people of our diocese more fully. Rev. Guillen introduced attendees to Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) which began at the Seminary of the Southwest. He is developing an Episcopal model of this program. The program does not require a traditional baccalaureate degree, but has on-line education requirements combined with three residency periods at the seminary. Discussion also centered on finding ways to help get financial aid for theological study for Latino and other minority candidates. Further meetings will be held how the Diocese can participate in the program.

Discernment Shepherds

The subcommittee formed to provide guidance and training to Parish Committees on Ministry (PCOM) continued to shepherd discerners and PCOMs. All PCOMs with nominees in the process were trained. This committee also monitors the progress of each nominee at the very early stages.

Financial Aid

With the approval of the Standing Committee, the COP awarded \$97,500 in financial aid to eight postulants attending seminary in the 2012-13 academic year. All postulants who applied for financial aid received assistance.

January 2013

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Canon John Belmont and Canon Constance White
Co-Chairs, Committee on the Priesthood