

**Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey**  
**Committee on the Priesthood**  
**Report to the 225<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention – 2008-09**

**Current Status of Individuals in the Process**

- Ordained to the Priesthood
  - Of the three transitional deacons ordained to the diaconate in June 2008:
    - Four were ordained to the priesthood in December 2008.
    - The fifth has additional work to complete before being ordained.
- Postulants and Candidates
  - There are currently six postulants and candidates at various stages:
    - Juniors or middlers in seminary (5): Five postulants are attending seminary full-time – one junior and three middlers. One of these middler seminarians is attending part-time.
    - Senior in seminary (1) – One postulant was approved for candidacy in the spring of 2008. This individual will take her GOEs in January 2009.
- Others in Process
  - Recently approved (2) – There were two applicants to the priesthood in 2008 who was interviewed for further ministry discernment in September 2008. These individuals were accepted as nominees into the process, had COP liaisons appointed for guidance, and were placed in a parish, other than their home parish, for further discernment. These nominees will be interviewed for postulancy in late January 2009.
  - There are other potential applicants in various stages of completing work with their Parish Committees on Ministry.
  - There are also four clergy from other denominations seeking ordination in The Episcopal Church through the Diocese.

**Visits with Seminarians**

Members of the Committee on the Priesthood periodically visited our seminarians at General Theological Seminary in New York City. The GTS seminarians joined Bishop Romero, the Canon for Ministry Development and Deployment, and the Co-Chairs of the COP for individual conversations and then lunch in December 2008. One of the Co-Chairs visited seminarians at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, in February 2008.

In June 2008 the COP held its second 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 invited to attend were the summer interns from the inception of the summer program.

## **Recruitment**

The Subcommittee on Recruitment/Development of Clergy of Diverse Racial and Cultural Backgrounds and the Recruitment Subcommittee were combined under the leadership of The Rev. Greg Bezilla into the new Subcommittee on Recruitment. The new subcommittee has been quite active in developing new approaches to recruitment, including supporting Passion and Purpose Sunday, planning a retreat for young adults for May 2009, connecting more frequently with summer interns during the year, and developing a video aimed at attracting more young adults to the priesthood.

The Recruitment Subcommittee placed four college students in its 5<sup>th</sup> 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 five years to 19. Funding to support this effort was obtained from members of the COP, the Girl's Friendly Society, churches, rectors, and individual donors. Interns receive \$3,000 each - \$2500 stipend and \$500 for books and materials.

## **Discernment Shepherds**

The subcommittee formed to provide guidance and training to Parish Committees on Ministry continued to shepherd discerners and PCOMs. All PCOMs with nominees in the process have been 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 \$81,000 in financial aid to six postulants attending seminary in the 2008-09 academic year. All postulants who applied for financial aid received assistance.

January 2009

Submitted by  
The Rev. John Belmont and Ms. Constance White  
Co-Chairs, Committee on the Priesthood