

## School for Deacons Report 2013

The School for Deacons is a distinctive institution of theological education and formation for servant ministry and leadership for deacons. Our mission is forming deacons and our primary focus is preparing deacons to serve in the Diocese of California. The form and content of the program, its clarity about *diakonia* in and for the 21<sup>st</sup> church and world and its standards of excellence mean, however, that other dioceses nearby and far continue to look to the school as normative formation for their deacons. This academic year we have students from four dioceses. In the wider church, our experience in diaconal formation is regularly consulted.

The school continues to work closely with the Center for Anglican Leadership and Life [CALL] at CDSP and the Association for Episcopal Deacons [AED] to create and offer online courses and experiential learning opportunities to meet the ongoing learning needs of deacons. In June, another student from The School for Deacons participated in the ‘Panama Project;’ a cross cultural learning immersion experience designed for seminarians of The Episcopal Church.

In the past year three graduates were ordained for the Diocese of California. Each has been placed in a congregation and has begun to make a difference there. Two deacons were ordained for the Diocese of Northern California and one for the Diocese of San Joaquin.

This fall we welcomed a class of twelve students. We also currently have several students enrolled part-time or auditing courses. In addition, several dioceses of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada have enrolled students in the dean’s online courses, “The Diaconate” and “The Diaconal Hermeneutic: The Deacon’s Eyes and Ears.” The board of trustees of the school thanked six members for their years of service and welcomed four new trustees, along with a student trustee selected by his peers to serve a one-year term on the board.

The past year saw the first example of what the Rector of the congregation [The Rev. Melanie Donahoe, Epiphany, San Carlos] named as “trailblazing” in formation for ordained ministry. A third year student from The School for Deacons and a second year student from CDSP were placed together as a learning team for a year-long of field education. Their learning, and that of the leadership of the congregation, was significant. We saw a model that lays the groundwork for optimal collaboration in leadership and ministry between the two orders that will have immense payoff as the students and those who follow them and have mentored them live into the promise we saw so clearly lived. The School for Deacons continues to provide the field education component of the CDSP M.Div. curriculum, which has, in turn, yielded unexpected opportunities for mutual learning. A challenge to implementing this program more broadly is the small number of students available for placement in each of the institutions.

Given the needs of the Bay Area, the number of requests from congregations to have a deacon assigned, and the leadership model for Area Ministry in the Diocese of California we can say we continue to have an *acute* deacon shortage in this diocese. We do want the diocese to know that we have plenty of room for all those, as yet to be discerned, deacons lurking in your congregations. They just need your help in claiming their call — and we stand ready to give it shape and substance.

As with every congregation and diocesan institution, funding is an ongoing challenge. We seek to keep tuition as low as possible so as to exclude no one from becoming the deacon they are called to be. In addition to the critical support provided by the diocese, we are blessed by the support we receive from congregations and the stalwart band of ‘friends’ of the school.

If any one reading this report has any questions, concerns, or curiosities—about the school, the diaconate, some subtle sense of calling of their own—please contact us. We’d love to talk with you.

Respectfully submitted: Roderick B. Dugliss, Ph.D., Dean

#### Goals for 2013-14

- Live more fully into the collaboration between The School for Deacons and CDSP
- Attract more, younger, and more diverse students for the Class of 2017
- Cooperate Imaginatively with those dioceses now requiring training in Community Organizing skills for all their deacons
- Look for more opportunities for joint School for Deacons/CDSP field education placements and all that we can yet learn from them for the diocese and the wider church
- Retain our strong faculty
- Meet our fund-raising goals

#### Officers

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