

## The School for Deacons Report to the Diocesan Convention 2015

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> century church and world and its standards of excellence mean 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 six graduates were ordained, three in the Diocese of California and one each in the dioceses of El Camino Real, Northern California, and San Joaquin.

This fall we welcomed a very small class of incoming students and we continue to provide the field education curriculum for the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. The dean and the school deacon—the Rev. Katherine Salinaro—together manage placement and oversight while leading seminars for both Introductory and Advanced Field Education. In June we began taking part providing the field education experience for the seminary's new low residence M.Div. The board of trustees also received the complete review of the school's curriculum. It is now being studied by the faculty.

Given the “needs, concerns, and hopes” of the Bay Area and the number of requests from congregations to have a deacon assigned, 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.

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, or 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