

Report

The School for Deacons
Annual Report to the Diocesan Convention
September 15, 2016

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 21st century 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 eight graduates were ordained.

This Fall we welcomed a very small class of incoming students. We are beginning the final year of 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 as well as placement, oversight, and intensive seminars for Low Residence M.Div.

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. One element of the school’s capacity is that we can create a customized program for almost any needs dictated by time and availability. For the prospective student’s good and possible ordination, any such program would need the full approval and support of the bishop and the Commission on Ministry.

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 2014-15

- Continue to develop and implement curriculum revisions and improvements
- Continue to grow the collaboration between The School for Deacons and CDSP
- Attract more, and more diverse students for the Class of 2020 and beyond to meet the pressing needs of the church for courageous servant leadership
- Cooperate Imaginatively with those dioceses turning more and more to local formation
- Retain our strong faculty
- Meet our fund-raising goals

Current Officers

The Rt. Rev. Marc H. Andrus	Board Chair
The Rev. Fred Heard	Board President
The Rev. Virginia McNeely	Board Secretary
The Ven. Cookie Clark	Treasurer
Dr. Roderick B. Dugliss	Dean
The Rev. Rebecca Morehouse	Administrator