

NOCERCC REGION V REPORT ON CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, 2008

Compiled by Rev. Richard Meredith

CONVOCATION:

January 7-10, 2008: Presbyteral Convocation at Lake Barkley State Park with double program: [1] The Sister Diocese Relationship of Owensboro, KY, & Mandeville, Jamaica-- we welcomed Msgr. Michael Palud, the Delegated Administrator of the Diocese of Mandeville, and others from our diocese to explore the history and the future of our interrelationship. [2] Sr. Kathryn Pierce, IHM, on the understanding of culture and cultural differences regarding our welcoming and ministering with International Priests in America.

PRESBYTERAL DAY WORKSHOPS:

April 10, 2008: Presbyteral Day on the Health & Wellness of Priests, CPC, 10:30am-4:30pm. Fr. Darrell Venters worked with Owensboro Medical Health System to present this health fair and screening. A composite report on the health of our members was reported.

September 19-20, 2008: Presbyteral Day (Friday, September 19, 10:30am-4:30pm) with Mr. Christopher West, on Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, CPC. This was followed by Mr. West's presentation Friday evening and Saturday 9:00am-3:30pm conference, "Created and Redeemed," for the public at Brescia University.

November 25, 2008: Presbyteral Day: The program will focus on professional ministerial boundaries and diocesan safe environment policies. Mrs. Patty Blair (Office for Lay Ministry & Formation), Mrs. Molly Thompson (Coordinator, Office of Safe Environment), and Fr. Richard Meredith (OFP) will lead the various segments of the program day, 10:30am-4:30pm, CPC. Luncheon will be provided by the Serra Club.

DIOCESAN PRIESTS RETREAT

October 27-31, 2008: Priests Retreat with Woodstock Theological Center lectionary based retreat led by Fr. Ray Kemp (Senior Fellow, WTC) and Ms. Mary Ellen O'Driscoll (Program Officer, Porticus North America Foundation—formerly Humanitas Foundation).

PRIESTS' SOCIAL & SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS:

Lenten Prayer Day for Priests: We were to have had a prayer day led by Fr. Dennis Robinson, OSB, St. Meinrad, at the Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center (diocesan, in Warren County, KY), Thursday, February 21, 2008, but the event was cancelled due to a winter ice storm.

Priests Social Gathering at Gasper River, September 25, 2008, coordinated by Fr. Mike Williams.

CONTINUING EFFORTS & LONG RANGE PLANNING:

Convocation 2009: Our next convocation will be the second week of January 2009 (January 12-15, 2009) at Lake Barkley with Fr. George Aschenbrenner, SJ, with focus on

the spirituality of the priesthood. Upon his recommendation we will be obtaining copies of his *Quickenning the Fire in our Midst—The Challenge of Diocesan Priestly Spirituality*. These will be made available about a month prior to the convocation, cost covered by the convocation fee.

Presbyteral Day, April 23, 2009: Fr. John F. Harvey, OSFS, founder of *Courage* and author of *Homosexuality and the Catholic Church*, to address the presbyterate on the USCCB “Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care.” This is expected to be a prelude to starting a “Courage” and “Encourage” ministry in the diocese.

Presbyteral Day, September 17, 2009: Topic not yet set.

Priests’ Retreat October 26-30, 2009: Not yet staffed.

Presbyteral Day, November 24, 2009: Fr. David Touns, STD, USCCB Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, author of *Reclaiming Our Priestly Character*, to present and lead reflection on the topic of his book.

Convocation 2010, January 11-14: [In Preparation] Fr. Howard Bleichner, SS, author of *View from the Altar*, and *In the Circle of Mysteries* (Crossroad), to present and lead reflection on the history of presbyteral ministry and present day challenges.

Suggested Programs/Topics:

[1] Hosting Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville, in 2009, as Bishop John McRaith prepares to retire following his 75th birthday, December 2009. [2] Presentation on and consideration of the work following from the 2008 Synod of Bishops on the Bible. [3] Hosting Most Rev. Neil Tiedemann, CP, Bishop of Mandeville, Jamaica, WI, renewing the bonds between our dioceses. [4] Global environmental stewardship issues of food, fuel/energy, and labor. [5] Patrology studies for resourcing ministry today. [6] Consideration of participating in the Catholic Leadership Institute. [7] At some ever closer point in the future, implementing the new Roman Missal.

Sabbaticals:

At the present time two of our diocesan priests are on sabbatical/further study leaves.

Clerical Life and Ministry Group:

Following our work with “Cultivating Unity” and “Intentional Presbyterates,” we have formed the Clerical Life and Ministry Group for improving communication and coordination among those responsible for matters affecting presbyteral life in the diocese. It is made up of: Rev. Jerry Calhoun [Vicar General/Personnel], Rev. Darrell Venters [Vicar of Clergy/Personnel], Rev. Bruce McCarty [Chair, Priests’ Council], Rev. Michael Williams [past Chair, Priests’ Council], Rev. Andy Garner [Vocations Office/Personnel], Rev. John Thomas [Diaconate Program/Consultor], and Rev. Richard Meredith [Ongoing Formation of Priests].

Charter & Norms Compliance Report:

No report was requested of the Office for Ongoing Formation of Priests this year. We could, nonetheless report our September Presbyteral Day with Mr. Christopher West on “Theology of the Body,” and the November Presbyteral Day on the revised Diocesan Safe Environment policies and professional boundaries in ministry.