

NOCERCC REGION V REPORT ON CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky, 2009

Compiled by Rev. Richard Meredith

CONVOCAATION:

January 12-15, 2009: Presbyteral Convocation at Lake Barkley State Park. Presenter: Fr. George Aschenbrenner, SJ, with focus on the spirituality of the priesthood. Upon his recommendation we obtained copies of his *Quickening the Fire in our Midst—The Challenge of Diocesan Priestly Spirituality* for all the priests prior to the convocation.

PRESBYTERAL DAY WORKSHOPS:

April 23, 2009: Presbyteral Day 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.”

September 10, 2009: Presbyteral Day Dialogue with the Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville.

November 24, 2009: Presbyteral Day Fr. Roberto M. Ike, a priest of the Diocese of Okigwe, Nigeria, Associate Professor of Business Administration, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, presented perspectives on the Catholic Church in Africa with references also to the Second Special Assembly for Africa of the Synod of Bishops.

DIOCESAN PRIESTS RETREAT

October 26-30, 2009: Priests Retreat with Fr. Steve Bossi, CSP, Director of Formation, St. Paul’s College, Washington, DC. Thematic: Pauline perspectives on the gifts of the Holy Spirit

PRIESTS' SOCIAL & SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS:

Lenten Prayer Day for Priests: Msgr. Bernard Powers led the day of prayer and reflection at the Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center (diocesan, in Warren County, KY), Thursday, April 2, 2009.

Priests Social Gathering at St. Paul Parish, Princeton, KY, September 24, 2009, coordinated by Fr. Mike Williams.

CONTINUING EFFORTS & LONG RANGE PLANNING:

Convocation 2010—January 11-14, 2010; Lake Barkley State Resort Park; Fr. Gladstone H. (Bud) Stevens, S.S., Ph.D., academic dean at St. Patrick Seminary & University, Menlo Park, CA, theological and historical reflections on the Catholic priesthood.

Lenten Day of Prayer for Priests—March 11, 2010; at Gasper River.

Presbyteral Day, Thursday, April 15, 2010; CPC; Diocesan Office of Worship—Pastoral preparation for and education about the new edition of the Roman Missal [see: www.usccb.org/liturgy/missalformation].

Presbyteral Day—Thursday, September 9, 2010; CPC; NFPC Program Taxes and Retirement for Priests.

Priests’ Retreat—October 25-29, 2010; MSJ Center; Most Reverend Blase Cupich, Bishop of Rapid City, SD, Retreat for Priests based on the Gospel of Luke.

Presbyteral Day—Tuesday, November 23, 2010; CPC; Rev. Edward J. Griswold, D.Min.(Diocese of Trenton, NJ); Program on Homiletics.

Convocation 2011— January 10-13, 2011; Lake Barkley State Resort Park; Diocesan Office of Worship: Presiding with the revised Roman Missal.

Presbyteral Day, Thursday, May 5, 2011; CPC; Fr. Ken Mikulcik and Dr. James Howard [earth sciences/geology] on Understanding issues of Energy, Food, Fuel, Climate & Stewardship. (Fr. Ken Mikulcik presented the early edition of his work (05/05/11) to the committee which recommended further issues, questions, and clarifications.)

Presbyteral Day, Thursday, September 8, 2011; CPC; Local Implementations of USCCB directives (2008) “Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework for the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age,” and Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living.”

Priests’ Retreat— October 24-28, 2011; MSJ Center; Retreat Master—Archabbot Lambert Reilly, O.S.B.

Presbyteral Day, Tuesday, November 22, 2011; CPC; Fr. Thomas Ryan, USCCB Office of Ecumenism, consideration of ecumenical issues, challenges, opportunities. Fr. Ryan has an on-line course entitled: “Growing Together as Followers of Jesus,”

SUGGESTED PROGRAMS/TOPICS:

[1] Hosting Most Rev. Neil Tiedemann, CP, Bishop of Mandeville, Jamaica, WI, renewing the bonds between our dioceses. [2] Patrology studies for resourcing ministry today. [3] Consideration of participating in the Catholic Leadership Institute.

SABBATICALS:

No priests are on sabbatical at the present time.

CLERICAL LIFE AND MINISTRY GROUP: The group is not functioning in the absence of a bishop.

CHARTER & NORMS 2009 COMPLIANCE REPORT:

The activities for which this office is responsible are lined out in the attached documents [committee minutes and annual NOCERCC reports were attached]. The entire range of our corporate program for the presbyterate may thus be viewed in chronological order. In the last two years prior to the resignation of our bishop, the Most Reverend John McRaith, our work was reviewed and planned not only by the Ongoing Formation of Priests Committee but also by an informal group, the Priestly Life and Ministry Group. The events most closely associated with matters pertaining to the Charter (human sexuality, relationships and boundaries in ministry, and issues of same sex attraction) are the following: **September 19, 2008**—Mr. Christopher West’s presentation for priests on Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body (approx. 49 priests attended); **November 25, 2008**—Professional Ministerial Boundaries and Safe Environment, diocesan presentations by Mrs. Patty Blair, Office for Lay Ministry and Formation, and Mrs. Molly Thompson, Office of Safe Environment, (approx. 53 priests attended); **April 23, 2009**—Fr. John Harvey, OSFS, priest founder of Courage and Encourage, address more specifically on Courage than on the USCCB document, “Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination” (approx. 41 priests attended). As a presbyterate we will

continue to examine issues challenging the Roman Catholic priesthood and our presbyterate specifically, e.g., convocation 2010 with Fr. Gladstone Stevens, SS, on the history of the priesthood and the challenges we face (see documentation). We have roughly 86 priests (including our retired bishop) and three deacons for whom we offer these programs.