

Report, 9<sup>rd</sup> of September 2014

## **St. Macrina Orthodox Institute**

***For Renewal of Diakonia and Catechesis in the Midwest***  
*(formerly the Catechist and Diaconal Vocations Program)*

Fr. Elijah Mueller, Director  
1100 E. 55<sup>th</sup> St.  
Chicago, IL 60615  
312-714-9775  
[elijahmueller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elijahmueller@sbcglobal.net)

The diocesan Catechist and Diaconal Vocations Program has been renamed by vote of the faculty and with the approval of Bishop Alexander, as the ***St. Macrina Orthodox Institute***, under the patronage of St. Macrina the Great, the sister and teacher of St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory of Nyssa.

Two big accomplishments stand out this year. Firstly, the Kansas City Program began with around 11 students, taking a sequence of courses developed and adapted in dialogue with the diocesan program, following a master class with the diocesan faculty and Bishop Alexander. Secondly, the diocesan program ran a First Annual Conference with 43 people in attendance at St. Andrew's House in Detroit. The Conference provided an opportunity for educational talks, diaconal and catechetical practica, student fellowship, faculty meetings and appointments for potential diaconal candidates to meet with the Bishop, Administrator and Institute Director to discuss moving toward petitioning for ordination. This conference helped us to build communication and accountability for vocations as well as providing very fine talks and practica. In addition present and potential students in the Detroit area met with a local instructor, Dr. Justin Jackson, to set up a Church History and Patristics course in the Detroit area. A very positive "esprit de corps" was evident among the students from all over the Diocese and from the Bulgarian Diocese. The Conference will be repeated yearly, and should be a regularly scheduled opportunity for students and instructors to gather and to meet with the diocesan hierarch in order to learn together and communicate. The Conference was so well attended, that it paid for itself.

The ***St. Macrina Orthodox Institute*** still needs to develop more local Deanery programs under its umbrella. Fr. Elijah is working to contact and come out to visit local deaneries to set up faculties and replicate or adapt the study curriculum from the diocese in cooperation with local instructors, or potential instructors. This is a cooperative work within the Diocese to increase accountability and build up a rigorous educational framework for those who want to work and minister within the parishes of the Diocese.

**Balance Sheet for Catechist & Diaconal Vocations Program**  
**Prepared in advance of the Diocesan Assembly – September 9, 2014**

**Classes**

<b>Greek (2014)</b>	
Tuition received:	700.00
Stipends paid:	-700.00
Balance:	0.00
<b>New Testament (2013-2014)</b>	
Tuition received:	1600.00
Stipends paid:	-1700.00
Balance:	-100.00
<b>Old Testament &amp; Spirituality (2012-2013)</b>	
Tuition received:	8220.00
Stipends paid:	-7770.00
Balance:	450.00
<b>Diaconal Practicum (2012-2013)</b>	
Tuition received:	1175.00
Stipends paid:	-300.00
Other expenses:	-627.52
Balance:	247.48
Total Balance for Classes:	597.48

**Travel, Scholarships, & Conference (2014)**

Budgeted:	6000.00
Conference registrations:	3345.00
Conference stipends paid:	-1400.00
Conference other expenses:	-1600.00
Director travel:	-607.42
Balance:	5737.58

**Other Authorized but Unbudgeted Expenses (2013)**

Three Psych Tests:	-1900.00
Director travel (Kansas City):	-562.79
Balance:	-2462.79