



St. Macrina Orthodox Institute

for Renewal of Diakonia and Catechesis in the Midwest

Diocese of the Midwest, Orthodox Church in America, 927 N. LaSalle St. Chicago IL 60610

Fr. Elijah Mueller, Ph.D., Director, 312-714-9775 elijahmueller@sbcglobal.net

The Saint Macrina Institute has helped to oversee the education of potential diaconal candidates and other who help in Church lay, especially educational ministries. We are now established for 6 years in the Diocese, having grown from the long-running Chicago Deanery Program (at least 30 continuous years of diaconal education), at the request of Archbishop Job. We make sure there is a standard course of study, proper instructors are found, and students are assisted in achieving their goals.

Over these years 16 deacons have been ordained after petitioning through St. Macrina Institute, and 7 more petitions will be presented to an upcoming Synod meeting. 32 Catechist certificates have been awarded. Things have become very well-standardized and much smoother than they had been in the past: there is more communication, more of a clear sense of how to fulfil requirements, and what the requirements for study are before one can petition for ordination.

Graduation from our Diocesan St. Macrina Institute—two possible outcomes, diaconal candidates also receive catechist certificates. All diaconal candidates that study within the diocese go through the education for the catechist certificate before applying for ordination. Earlier on, and in some exceptional cases people have had education elsewhere and used the St. Macrina Institute as the diocesan office to check credentials and fill any perceived educational gaps. Some students study only for the catechist certificate, to learn more to support them in a lay ministry, especially in education of children or adults.

We have successfully implemented a yearly conference, for the last 5 years, on themes centered on the diaconate and catechesis. At these conferences, people engage in diaconal and catechetical practica sessions, and bring home valuable insights from the talks they attend. This is also a good way to set up meetings between potential candidates and the diocesan hierarch. We have had approximately 45 individual meetings set, about 9 per each conference over the last 5 years.

Names being proposed at Synod soon

(March?), for diaconate:

Indianapolis 1

Detroit 1

Chicago 1

Cleveland 1

Minneapolis 3

Total, Diocese of Midwest: 7

2018

Ordinations, by Deanery:

Minneapolis: 1

Cleveland: 1

Detroit: 2

Chicago: 1

Total Midwest Diocese: 5

(Bulgarian—3)

Catechist Certificates, By Deanery:

Minneapolis: 1

Cleveland: 5

Detroit: 3

Chicago: 1

Indianapolis: 5

Total Midwest Diocese: 14

(Bulgarian—5)

2013-2017

Ordinations, by Deanery:

Chicago: 7

Indianapolis: 4

Total Diocese Midwest: 11

Catechist Certificates, By Deanery:

Cleveland: 1

Indianapolis: 3

Chicago: 8

KC:6

Total Diocese Midwest 18

Present students, by Deanery

Cleveland (in works, 2 so far)

Chicago: 10

Minneapolis: 3

KC: (2 different regions; SL area in works, 2 so far;

3-4 NE area in stalled cohort)

Total Diocese Midwest: 17-20

Detroit, Indianapolis: awaiting new cohort interest.

Numbers presently down because of large graduating cohorts, and need to reestablish new ones in Deaneries with graduating cohorts.

Conference Attendance 2013-2018: 40-20 each Conference.

Approximately 45 official meetings between Bishop and prospective diaconal Candidates.

We have moved from St. Andrew Center in Detroit to St Iakovos Retreat Center in Wisconsin

PLEASE ENCOURAGE NEW STUDENTS