



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

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SUCSESSES

- 8 St. Macrina students have been ordained to the diaconate this last year or are scheduled and will be ordained by the end of November this year. We also had many last year.
- The 6th St. Macrina Summer Diaconal and Catechist Conference continued a valued tradition of gathering students from throughout the Diocese for learning and practica in catechesis, Sunday school teaching methods and diaconal liturgical practice.
- The program has resulted in many catechetical certificates being awarded.
- Currently the program has approximately 30 students.
- Chicago continues with a robust cohort of students, and
- Kansas City has recently revived a local cohort of many students, supplemented with some students from further away in Missouri.
- We have some students who do not have a local cohort, joining through web connections for some classes.

PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Enrolment is down a little because of many graduations. We need to revive the program in three deaneries: Cleveland, Detroit and Indianapolis. Please send Fr. Elijah Mueller the names of any potential students. The St. Paul cohort of 3 students has finished, so we are also looking for any potential students to work with an established group of faculty in the Minneapolis Deanery.

REQUESTS

- Please encourage people to engage in learning through this program. People trained as catechists can work with youth, develop Sunday School curriculum that works for your own community's needs, and can help in extending the mission of the Church. Deacons can also be involved in all the above and help in ministry to visit the sick and just ease the liturgical burden of the priest.
- Students work in cohort, so this builds ministerial community in the local Church. People learn together and strengthen bonds between parishes. Please encourage a broader local effort in your area!

Fr. Elijah Mueller, director