

First Catechist and Diaconal Vocations Conference

Diocese of the Midwest, OCA

Friday August 8th-Saturday August 9th

At St. Andrew House, Center for Orthodox Christian Studies

23300 Davison Avenue

Detroit, Michigan 48223

THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST announces its first annual conference to gather all Catechist and Diaconal students of the diocese for education, fellowship, and an opportunity to connect to the Bishop and the Diocesan Program. We hope this will provide the opportunity for some to begin discerning a vocation as a catechist or deacon, others to confirm work that they are doing already, and still others to complete the steps necessary to begin petitioning to be ordained to the diaconate.

This Conference is run by the Catechist and Diaconal Vocations Program of the Diocese of the Midwest, our Diocese's approved certification program for Catechist and Diaconal training. Please join us on August 8-9th.

How to Register

Students must sign up for particular classes based on where they are, or whether they are beginners in the program or have been in a non-diocesan diaconal program.

Students who have not taken Diocesan Classes before, or who have taken another diaconal program should sign up for **TRACK A** sessions. All other students should sign up for **TRACK B**.

Students who are interested in eventually petitioning for ordination to the diaconate, and who have not taken the OCA's two required diaconal practica, should sign up for **TRACK D** practicum. Students who have taken the 2 diaconal practica or who are in the program only for the Catechist Certificate, should take **TRACK C** practica.

We will try to record sessions for each Track, and hopefully will be able to repeat popular classes next year.

Friday 10-noon Extra--meetings with individual students. *This an opportunity for potential diaconal Candidates to talk about vocation and any relevant issues with Bishop Alexander, Fr. Paul Gassios, the Diocesan Administrator, and Fr. Elijah Mueller, the Program Director. It will help to make sure everyone is aware of all the candidates and their progress and needs. It will also help to begin to develop a relationship and interaction that will provide the basis for further conversation as the potential Diaconal Candidate moves forward in the program. We will arrange time slots and have them filled by online form in next 2 weeks. If this proves popular, we will allot more time next year and provide other opportunities for this.*

===== CUT HERE and SEND with FEE =====

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Parish:

Pastor (Also Confessor, if different):

Parish Pastor's Signature: _____

Circle One Track in Each Row:

TRACK A or B

TRACK D or C

Registration Fee: Please send check for \$150 (covers lodging and food—at St. Andrew's—and instruction) made out to Diocese of the Midwest, with form by JULY 21st, to:

Diocese of the Midwest

Catechist and Diaconal Vocation Program

927 N. LaSalle St.

Chicago, IL 60610

w/o overnight stay? send \$100 for registration.

In case of financial hardship, please contact Fr. Elijah Mueller, 312-714-9775.

INSTRUCTORS:

Bishop Alexander (Golitzin) of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese of the OCA, Professor Emeritus of Historical Theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Fr. Silviu Bunta Ph.D., Associate Professor, Dayton University, Department of Religion. Specializes in Second Temple Judaism and Christian origins. A priest of the Bulgarian Diocese.

Fr. Steven Frase, is Chaplain to Ohio State OCF; Pastor of St. Gregory's Chapel, Athens, Ohio; & a public school science teacher. He has Masters' degrees in Education and Theology from St. Vladimir's, St. Tikhon's and Ashland University, and a Doctorate of Ministry from Drew University.

Presvytera Rebecca Luft, is from St. Makarios Mission in Chicago, a campus minister at the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. candidate in Biblical Studies at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. She has taught many years in the Catechist and Diaconal Vocations Program both in Chicago and throughout the Diocese.

Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak, Protodeacon and Secretary to the Metropolitan, Director of Alumni and Recruitment for St. Vladimir's Seminary; formerly Protodeacon for Archbishop Job.

Fr. Elijah Mueller, is pastor of St. Makarios Mission in Chicago, OCF Regional Chaplain for the Great Lakes, Director of the Diocese of the Midwest Catechetical and Diaconal Studies Program. He has a Ph.D. in Religion from Marquette University.

Mr. Mark Roosien, Ph.D. Candidate in Liturgical Studies at Notre Dame, choir Director at St. Makarios Mission in Chicago.

Mrs. Anna Strelka, Lay Catechist at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Palatine for 10 years, a graduate and faculty member of the Diocesan Catechist and Diaconal Vocations Program. Serves Holy Resurrection as adult education leader and associate choir director.

SCHEDULE

Friday August 8th

(Optional) 10am-Noon: individual meetings to discuss vocation and work with Bishop Alexander, Fr. Paul Gassios (Administrator) and Fr. Elijah Mueller (Program Director)

Noon-1

Registration

1-2:30

ALL ATTEND—Theology and role of the Diaconate and Catechist within the Orthodox Church:

Mark Roosien, "Deacons and Catechists in the Early Church"

"Deacons and Catechetical Ministries in the Orthodox Church Today," Panel: Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak, Fr. Stephen Frase, and Anna Strelka.

(Breakout Track Sessions):

3-4:30

A. "Prayer and Scripture in Origen and Macarius."

B. "Orthodox Approach to Biblical Studies."

5-6

Dinner

6-7

Vespers

7-9pm

D. Diaconal Practicum, Protodeacon Joe Matusiak

C. Catechetical practices, Anna Strelka & Fr. Stephen Frase

Saturday August 9th

8-9

first Hour, breakfast

9-10:30

A. "Law and Gospel."

B. "The Historical Development of the Divine Liturgy."

11-1

D. Diaconal Practicum, Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak

C. Catechetical Practice, Anna Strelka & Fr. Stephen Frase

1pm Lunch to go