



# St. Macrina Orthodox Institute

## *for Renewal of Diakonia and Catechesis in the Midwest*

Diocese of the Midwest, *Orthodox Church in America*, 5037 W 83rd St, Burbank, IL 60459

Fr. Elijah Mueller, Ph.D., Director, 312-714-9775 [elijahmueller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elijahmueller@sbcglobal.net)

### SUCSESSES

- Four St. Macrina students have been ordained to the diaconate this last year. We also had many the last 2 years. We will most likely be sending at least two more petitions to an upcoming Synod meeting for approval.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> St. Macrina Summer Diaconal and Catechist Conference continued through an online conference the theme “Healing the Nations,” which dealt with issues around personal and social healing, especially relevant to our present situation of pandemic and social strife.
- Many catechetical certificates have been awarded.
- Currently the program has approximately 30 students, plus some working with the Bulgarian Diocese program, which has branched off from ours, with one of our former instructors, Fr. Silviu Bunta heading it, bringing in the people from the Indianapolis Deanery. There are over 10 in this program, which we would count separately until they do some final work in our diocesan program.
- Chicago continues with a robust cohort of students, some of whom are finishing with this class or the next class. We have had some register from outside the OCA.
- Kansas City program has completed its first year with a very large group, integrating local students and some Missouri students that had started a mostly remote program earlier.
- We have some students who do not have a local cohort, now joining through web connections for some classes-particularly from the Cleveland Deanery., and some newer St. Louis and Chicago Deanery students

### PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- We still need to revive the program in three deaneries: Cleveland, Detroit, Minneapolis. Please send Fr. Elijah Mueller the names of any potential students and interested faculty.

### 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**