

**Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
Committee on the Priesthood
Annual Report – 2006-07**

John Noecker, a long standing devoted member of the Committee on Priesthood and the coordinator of the Discernment Shepherds, was called to God's larger life this year. We deeply appreciate his labor of love as a vital member and leader. We will miss him.

Current Status of Individuals in the Process

- ∞ Ordained to the Priesthood
 - Of the three transitional deacons ordained to the diaconate in June 2006,
 - One was ordained to the priesthood in December 2006.
 - The other two transitional deacons were ordained to the priesthood in January 2007.

- ∞ Postulants
 - There are currently 13 postulants at various stages:
 - Recently approved (4) – Interviews for ministry discernment to the priesthood were held in September 2006. Four individuals were accepted as nominees into the process, had a COP liaison appointed to assist them, and were placed in parishes, other than their home parish, for further discernment. These four nominees were interviewed for postulancy in January 2007. All four were approved for postulancy.
 - Juniors or middlers in seminary (6): Five postulants are attending seminary full-time – four middlers and one junior. One junior is attending part-time.
 - Seniors in seminary (3) – Three postulants were approved for candidacy in the spring of 2006. These individuals took their GOEs in January 2007.

- ∞ Nominees in Process
 - There are seven nominees in various stages of completing work with their Parish Committees on Ministry.

Visits with Seminarians

Members of the Committee on the Priesthood visited our seminarians at General Theological Seminary in New York City, the Episcopal Divinity School in Massachusetts and the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. The GTS senior seminarians joined the Bishop and Co-Chairs of the COP for lunch in New Jersey, prior to their candidacy interviews in April 2006. In 2007, members of the Committee plan to visit seminarians at other seminaries where possible.

Recruitment

The COP Recruitment Subcommittee, chaired by The Rev. Ronald Pollack, placed four college students in its summer internship to encourage college students to consider the priesthood. Funding to support this effort was obtained from members of the COP, the Girl's Friendly Society, churches, rectors, and individual donors. Interns receive \$3,000 each for their participation in the program.

The Subcommittee on Recruitment/Development of Clergy of Diverse Racial and Cultural Backgrounds, under its chair, The Rev. Haroldean Ashton, has been exploring ways to increase the diversity of clergy in the diocese and are collaborating with the Union of Black Episcopalians in discussing recruiting Blacks for the priesthood at the Absalom Jones event on February 11.

Discernment Shepherds

The sub-committee formed to provide guidance and training to Parish Committees on Ministry continued to shepherd discerners and PCOMs. All PCOMs with nominees in the process have been trained. This committee also monitors the progress of each nominee at the very early stages.

Financial Aid

With the approval of the Standing Committee, the COP awarded \$62,800 in financial aid to six postulants attending seminary in the 2006-07 academic year. All postulants who applied for financial aid received assistance.

February 2007

Submitted by
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