

REACHING OUT WEDNESDAYS

Topic: Diocesan Vocation Councils

Diocese of Wilmington: We have a “Diocesan Vocations Board” that consists of the vocation director and eight other priests. Once the candidate has reached a certain stage in the application process, presuming that all has gone well, he is interviewed by the Board, which then votes whether or not to accept him. This is an advisory vote to the Vocations Director, who then makes a recommendation to the Bishop. We’ve worked hard to have a broad variety of diocesan priests on the Board.

Diocese of Orlando: We have a Diocesan Vocations Service Committee. It is an ad hoc committee that stemmed from our Synod held several years ago. It is a committee of about 10-12 lay people plus the Vocation Dir and the Assoc. Voc. Dir. They originally went around to all parishes and held workshops that helped the parishes start vocation committees. They had a kit of information they gave to each parish. We have 80 parishes and over half now have vocation committees, or are in the process of forming one. Some parishes don’t have committees, but promote vocations thru prayer after Mass and other activities. They hold an annual workshop and the committees in parishes and those interested come to hear speakers and share ideas of what other parishes are doing. It is a 9 to 3 Workshop starting with Mass by Bishop and closes approx 3pm. Approx 125-150 have attended. From this committee, a suggestion and attempt to organize a Serran organization failed, but some of those men interested in promoting vocations formed a Diocesan Vocation Council, It is approx 10 men. This committee was formed mid year 2010 and spent some time coming up with a mission statement and ideas of how they could assist the Voc. Dir. They so far have had a luncheon at the Chancery to meet the staff and talk a little of their vocation and seminary life. They meet with the Voc. Dir and are coming up with plans/idea of how to assist.

Diocese of Wichita: We do have a vocations “team.” I am the director, so I have full time responsibility for all areas of the office: formation of seminarians, application, recruiting and promotions. I do have 3 assistants who work with me in each of the areas. Someone could read more at: <http://catholicdioceseofwichita.org/contact>