

DIOCESE OF EAU CLAIRE
ARCHDEACON'S ANNUAL REPORT

October 25, 2021

The fourteen active vocational deacons in the Diocese of Eau Claire have been integrally involved in the liturgical and pastoral ministries of their congregations throughout the past year. Many of their ministries have followed some novel approaches necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some congregations have tested technological approaches to ministry for the first time, not only maintaining but expanding worship and study opportunities online on Sundays and throughout the week. A variety of methods are being used, including Zoom videoconferencing, and live streaming on Facebook and YouTube. These have proven to be valuable ways for congregations to stay connected while in-person gatherings were curtailed.

Examples of the ministries and programs that have been offered include:

- Daily Office (Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline), offered on Zoom several times a week throughout the diocese.
- Holy Eucharist from most of the churches in the Diocese, live-streamed and/or recorded for later viewing on YouTube or Facebook.
- Weekly Bible studies and book discussion groups on Zoom.
- At least one continuing fellowship group with members from multiple states, evolved from a weekly Evening Prayer gathering.

As congregations move toward returning to in-person gatherings for worship and study, many have determined that they will continue using the online channels because they facilitate connections with people who otherwise could not be in contact with the congregation. Congregations have found unique outreach opportunities and plan to continue to explore them.

Deacons have also used videoconferencing technology to advantage in maintaining collegial connections throughout the diocese. Further options will continue to be explored over the next several months. As Archdeacon I have undertaken a series of personal visits to each of the congregations where deacons serve, and as of this writing have visited five congregations. I anticipate visiting the remaining congregations where deacons serve by the end of 2021 or early in 2022.

As always, my thanks and gratitude to the priests and people of this diocese for their prayers and support for the diaconate.

Faithfully,
(The Ven.) Jo K. Glasser
Archdeacon