

St. Francis Friends,

I hope you are having a good week so far, even though it is very cold for this time of year.

There are a few things I want to share with you:

1. The Annual Convention of our diocese is the weekend. Joey Broussard and Richard Walker are the delegates representing us. It will be held in Alexandria. Pray that we have safe travels. Carol will be an exhibitor displaying the Navajo weaving and jewelry she shared last Sunday during the pot luck. Also, I will be appointed the Dean of the West Richmond Region. There are some new responsibilities for me. I am attaching them to this message.

2. Please take note of the upcoming events- Manakin Market is on the morning of December 7th. Advent Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday, December 15th. Aspire Dance Academy will be here on December 22nd bringing a dance interpretation to Joy to the World. Keep checking the Sunday morning bulletin for details. Those of you who want to be involved in Christmas Mother please see Janice Nelson.

Here is the description of responsibilities for Deans in the Diocese of Virginia:

Regional Deans in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia A summary of Hopes and Expectations

First and foremost, I thank you for saying yes to this ministry. Your yes makes us partners in ministry in ways that will strengthen our Diocese and our Regions. May our partnership be a blessing to all.

The roles of a Dean include:

1. Gathering the clergy of the Region regularly for prayer, conversation, sharing of information and other kinds of community building. Many Clericus groups gather for a meal. "Regularly" in most Regions means once a month, except perhaps in the summer. There is variation about frequency of gathering from Region to Region.
2. Working with the President of the Region to ensure that there are Regional Council meetings, according to the Canons of the Diocese of Virginia. (Canon 8, sections 4 and 5)
3. Supporting the clergy of the Region, ensuring that those who need pastoral care are receiving it. In some circumstances, you might be the pastoral caregiver yourself, in other circumstances it will be someone else. In all circumstances, please let one of the Bishops know of pastoral needs in your Region so that we can hold the clergy and their families in prayer and offer other practical support.
4. Attending and participating in scheduled gatherings of Deans with the Bishop. Plan to bring to those gatherings the concerns of your Region, and to take back to the Region the information you are invited to share.
5. Presiding at Celebrations of New Ministry in the Region.
6. Performing other functions as may be assigned to you from time to time, or that are part of the unique culture of your Region.

In addition to these, I hope that you will be a kind of council of advice and support for me, as the Deans have been for Bishops in the past. You have eyes and ears much closer to many of our congregations than I do. I will depend on you to help me stay in tune. Above all, I will depend on you to speak truth to me. It is a sad reality in our hierarchical structure that many people are reluctant to speak frankly with their Bishop. In fact, there is a standing and not so funny joke that the last time anyone ever tells the truth to a Bishop is the night before his/her consecration. I count on the team of Deans to work together with me to keep us far from that trap for the sake of the ministry to which Christ has called us.

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff
May 16, 2019

For those of you who may have missed it here is the chart of our new statement of values for St. Francis:



St. Francis Episcopal Church

We highly value:

Engaging with God in *worship*

Engaging with each other in *fellowship*

Engaging with God in the *world*

Have a great week!

John

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