

Great Events~ With a Little Bit of History

It is with great joy that the Great Waters Region of RCWP-USA announces our upcoming ordinations. Our bishop, Joan Houk, will be ordaining one priest and three deacons within the space of the next two months: Ann Klonowski to the priesthood on September 7 in Cleveland; Paula Hoeffler to the diaconate on October 5 in Cincinnati; and Mary Keldermans and Lillian Lewis to the diaconate on October 26 in St. Louis (at Therese).

The Great Waters Region was formed in November of 2007, immediately after the ordinations of current pastor Elsie and former co-pastor Ree. At that time, the region had seven members, all priests, and all of whom met in St. Louis for their first regional retreat during the summer of 2008 and attended the Therese Mass that weekend. Our active members number 19 at the present time. These include our bishop, ten priests, one deacon (soon to be a priest), and seven candidates (three soon to be deacons). We have had two priests transfer to different regions (Ree being one of them). One priest has retired (Alta) and one priest is deceased (Janine). There is also one candidate who is currently on a leave of absence.

Since 2008, Elsie has been the program coordinator (better known as formation director) for the region, which encompasses ten states. A new coordinator has recently been appointed to assist in the growing responsibilities for the formation of our future priests. These responsibilities include long and careful formation with our applicants, a process that often takes a year or more before a woman is accepted as a candidate in the program of preparation for ordination.
