

## **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT**

The Commission on Ministry met periodically throughout the year, beginning with the two-day Ministry Conference at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center in January, at which interviews were conducted, discernment group training took place, and we all had a chance to both pray and relax together. We interviewed a number of people seeking holy orders and sent our recommendations to the Bishop. We reviewed the guidelines for those who are COM liaisons to those in seminary, and those liaisons have been in contact with their seminarians. The purpose of the liaisons is to provide an open line of communication so that the COM may provide support or answer questions. Projects on the preparation for the vocational diaconate and spiritual autobiography guidelines have been completed. We have begun to explore the intricacies of the bi-vocational priesthood, the nuances of preparation for such ministry, and the impacts that might have on our diocese, with a tip of the biretta to Canon David Johnson from the Diocese of Mississippi, who has generously shared welcome information and experience. At present, we have four people in seminary preparing for the priesthood, and two preparing for the vocational diaconate through the Iona program. The Diocese of Louisiana is well served by a very hard-working and perceptive Commission on Ministry, and I am grateful to each and every member of the Commission for their ministry among us.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Very Rev'd Paul M. Bailey