



DEACON NEWS

The Diocesan Centennial Celebration begins Sunday, September 23, 2007

By DN Press

The opening Mass of our Diocese's Centennial Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, September 23, 2007, 2:00 P.M. at the Northern Illinois University Convocation Center, DeKalb. Letters were sent to all deacons of the Diocese of Rockford on August 6 with information for that day. As indicated in the letter, prior to Mass a concert and special video presentation on the history of the Diocese of Rockford is planned.

Included with the letter was a self-addressed, postage paid reply card, necessary for you to fill out and return to the office by August 22, 2007. Your commemorative ticket for entrance to the Mass will be mailed to you in early September upon receipt of the reply card. Many replies have not been received as of Thursday, August 16. If you are planning to attend, please send your card as soon as possible.

We are happy to be a part of this Centennial Celebration and are hopeful your schedule will allow you to participate in this wonderful, historical event for our Diocese.

Annual Deacon and Couple Retreats

Reminder: Space is still available. Monsignor William Schwartz, Director for the Permanent Diaconate, will lead both retreats this year. The Deacon Only retreat is scheduled for September 7—9, 2007 and the Couples retreat is scheduled October 5—7, 2007.

Registration forms for the Deacon Only and Couples retreats were mailed to you in a separate mailing the week of July 16. Deadline for registration for both retreats is Friday, August 31, 2007. You are encouraged to submit your registration as soon as possible as space is limited. Please include your returnable deposit of \$50.00 with your registration. Your deposit will be returned upon check-in at each retreat.

Retreat agenda:

Friday 6:30 – 7:30 PM	Registration / Room Check-in
7:45 PM	Evening Prayer / Chapel
8:00 PM	Session / Discussion
8:45 PM	Social Gathering

Saturday	
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer / Chapel
9:15 AM	Session / Discussion
11:00 AM	Celebration of the Eucharist
12:00 PM	Lunch
	Private Time
3:00 PM	Session / Discussion
5:00 or 5:30 PM	Dinner
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Private Confessions
7:15 PM	Evening Prayer / Chapel
7:30 PM	Session / Discussion
Sunday	
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer / Chapel
9:15 AM	Session / Discussion
11:00 AM	Celebration of the Eucharist
	Departure/Safe Trip Home to All

Updating Ministry Agreements: If a new pastor or administrator has been appointed to your parish as of July 1, 2007, please meet with him and provide this office with a signed Ministry Agreement in the next three (3) months. As a reminder, a new ministry agreement is to be drawn up between you and your pastor when there is a change of pastor or administrator, or every three years.

If you are in need of a new Ministry Agreement, you may download the blank form from the diaconate website (www.opdrfd.org) located in the members section. As a reminder for the members section, the username is rfddeacon and the password is scripture and must be typed in lowercase letters. You may also make copies from page 103 of the Deacon Handbook. These pages will need to be enlarged.

Please send a signed, completed original Ministry Agreement to this office. You and your pastor should also maintain a copy.

Diaconate Calendar 2007 - 2008

Event	Date	Location
Deacon Retreat	September 7 - 9, 2007	Bishop Lane
Priest / Deacon Symposium	September 28 - 29, 2007	Radisson Hotel, Rockford
Couples Retreat	October 5 - 7, 2007	Bishop Lane
Christmas Party	December 2, 2007	SS Peter & Paul, Virgil
Assembly Day	February 23, 2008	Cathedral of St. Peter

Imago Dei: Deeping Our Scientific, Philosophical and Theological Understanding of Our Creation. Symposium for Priests and Deacons:

Registration forms for this symposium were mailed in a separate mailing the week of July 16. The Priest and Deacon Symposium September 28th and 29th will provide an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the Church's teaching on evolution and the origin of life. This seminar will feature three speakers. The keynote speaker is Fr. Ed Oakes, S.J., a professor of Systematic Theology at Mundelein. Fr. Oakes will be joined by Fr. Timothy Doherty, Diocesan Ethicist, and Dr. Nikolaj Zunic from St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, Canada.

Attending this symposium will qualify for preaching recertification in addition to ongoing formation hours. For those attending the symposium, preaching recertification will not be required again until 2010. Attending this symposium is especially important for those needing recertification in 2007. Deadline to register for the symposium is September 21, 2007.

Fall Ongoing Formation Opportunities: The following presentation and courses are currently available for Ongoing Formation.

- Speech - Tuesday's, 9/18,9/25,10/2,10/9,10/16 & 10/23; 6:30 - 9PM. Held at the Cathedral of St. Peter. 15 Credit Hours.
- Psychology of Individual Differences - Monday's, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22 & 10/29; 6 - 8:30 PM. Held at the Cathedral of St. Peter. 15 Credit Hours.

You must attend all class dates for the above courses to receive credit.

The following classes are one day only:

- Servant Leadership - Saturday, 10/20; 9:00—2:30 at the Cathedral of St. Peter. 4.5 Credit Hours.
- Intro. To World Religions - Saturday, 12/1; 9:00—2:30 at St. Bridget in main hall, room A. 4.5 Credit Hours.

Please contact the office to register for the above ongoing formation opportunities. Space is limited.

13th Annual Great Lakes Catholic Men's Conference - Saturday, 10/13, NIU Convocation Center. Inquire with your parish for registration forms.

Birthday and Anniversary Wishes: Bob Anchor, Sam Berard, Mike Boyce, Peter Calgaro, Rich Ekstrom, Maryann Fischer, Valerie Hetzel, Jim Hudzinski, Gary Klocke, Ted Kocol, Patricia Kulpin, Agatha Martin, Mamie Martin, Nina Motyka, Sharon Sims, Sharon Szudarski, Bert Verstynen, Bette Weaver, Barb Woeste, and Mike Zibrun. Special birthday wishes to Lou Barone. Lou turned 80 on August 7!

Marriage Blessings: Peter and Annmarie Calgaro, Jim and Gaye Devona, Walter and Catherine Freund, Dan and Lydia Goetz, Art and Kathleen Holt, Paul and Sandy Iwanski, Patrick and Christina Moynihan, Hank and Linda Orlik, Bob and Mary Jane Plazewski, Fred and Sharon Sims, Norb and Sharon Szudarski, and Bruce and Jody Watermann.

May they be touched by Jesus' healing hands: Pray for Fr. Michael Fuller's mother, Kathleen who went to eternal life Saturday, August 4. We pray for our brother, Joe Phelan who will be having heart surgery September 12, for our brother, Bob Plazewski who is recovering from Quadruple Bypass surgery. Continue to pray for Bob Martin, John Kohler, and Lee Deatherage. Continue also to pray for Mike Zibrun's wife, Carol, for Jack O'Leary's wife, Beverly, for Tom O'Brien's wife, Maria and for Jim Newhouse's wife, Mary.



Necrology: We pray also for our brother deacons wave gone to eternal life: Stanislas Szara [August 6, 1990], Donald Raef [August 10, 1996].

Confirmation 2007: Following is a Confirmation schedule provided to this office for the Fall 2007 schedule. Please contact the office with your willingness to serve wherever possible. Remember, this office cannot assume deacons are always available at their own parish. Deacons still need to contact this office to confirm they are available to assist at their assigned parish. This office communicates the information to the parish no less than 30 days before the scheduled Confirmation. *Please note ????? where deacons are needed, especially the month of September.*

Sept. 9	1:00 PM	St. Rita, Rockford	Bill Dall	???????	???????
Sept. 17	4:00 PM	St. Bernadette, Rockford	Rich Gerdeman	Mike Cristoforo	???????
Oct. 1	4:00 PM	St. Anthony, Rockford	Jim Newhouse	???????	???????
Oct. 7	1:00 PM	St. Charles Borromeo; Hampshire	Tom O'Brien		
Oct. 8	4:00 PM	Cathedral of St. Peter, Rockford	Randy Fast	Marty Czerniewski	
Oct. 14	1:00 PM	St. James, Lee			
	4:00 PM	St. Patrick, Rochelle	Ron Szakatits		
Oct. 28	1:00 PM	St. Laurence, Elgin	Dick Dinneen	Jack Roder	
	4:00 PM	St. Thomas More, Elgin	Jack Roder		
Nov. 18	1:00 PM	St. Mary, Pecatonica	Warren LaMont		
Nov. 19	4:00 PM	St. Patrick, Rockford	Ron Graw		
Dec. 2	1:00 PM	St. Mary, Woodstock	Hans Rokus	Jim Devona	Mike Zibrun
	4:00 PM	St. Mary, Elgin	Jack Roder		
Dec. 9	1:00 PM	St. Joseph, Aurora	Tim White	Norb Szudarski	Rick Martin
	4:00 PM	St. Rita, Aurora	Norb Szudarski	Rick Martin	