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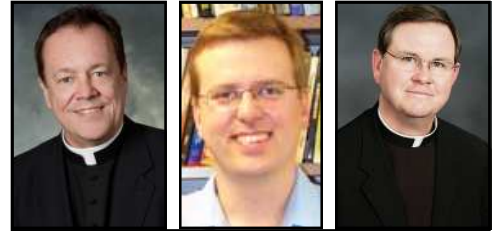
Deepening Our Scientific, Philosophical and Theological Understanding of Creation

By DN Press

Registration forms for this symposium were mailed to you 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.

This symposium aims to explore our position in the universe as a divinely created being from a variety of different perspectives. In a predominantly secular age, under the pervasive influence of a scientific and technological culture which increasingly reduces life to a purely physical order, it is necessary to recapture an authentic understanding of human nature as imbued with a spiritual dimension and a value which transcends the categories of profit and utility. The speakers will address topics which elucidate what it means to be created in the image of God and will expose the challenges which a Christian-inspired anthropology faces in our day. For the preacher, this symposium will provide an intellectual engagement with and greater insight into issues that deal with human dignity and the human being's place in God's creation.

As in the past, attending this symposium will qualify for preaching recertification in addition to ongoing formation hours. For those attending this symposium, preaching recertification will not be required again until 2010.



Presenters: left to right, Keynote Speaker, Fr. Edward T. Oakes, S.J., Ph.D., Mundelein, Dr. Nikolaj Zunic, Asst. Prof. of Phil., St. Jerome's University, and Fr. Timothy Doherty, STL, Ph.D., Diocesan Ethicist.

Welcome:

We welcome Deacon Jose Falcón and Deacon Louis Farinella to the Diocese of Rockford.



Deacon Jose Falcón

Deacon Jose and Mrs. Esther Falcón come to us from the Archdiocese of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

He and Esther reside in Aurora and serve at Sacred Heart Parish in Aurora.

Deacon Louis and Karen Farinella come to us from the Archdiocese of Chicago. He and

Karen reside in Huntley and serve at St. Mary Parish, Huntley.



Deacon Louis Farinella

Parish Appointment:

Deacon Greg Duffey was appointed as deacon to St. Joseph Parish in Richmond, July 17, 2007.

Keep them all in your prayers as they begin their ministry in their new parishes.



Fall Ongoing Formation Opportunities:

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

- * **Speech** - Monday, 9/17,9/24,10/1,10/8,10/15 & 10/22; 6:30 - 9PM. Held at the Cathedral of St. Peter. 15 Credit Hours.
- * **Psychology of Individual Differences** - Monday, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22 & 10/29; 6 - 8:30 PM. Location TBA. 15 Credit Hours.
- **You must attend all class dates for the above courses to receive credit.**

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

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

Updating Ministry Agreements:

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

If you are in need of a new Ministry Agreement, you may download the 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.

Annual Deacon and Couple Retreats:

Registration forms for the Deacon Only and Couples retreats were mailed to you in a separate mailing the week of July 16, which also included registration forms for the Priest / Deacon Symposium. Monsignor William Schwartz, Director for the Permanent Diaconate will lead both retreats. The Deacon Only retreat is scheduled for September 7—9, 2007 and the Couples retreat is scheduled October 5—7, 2007.

Deadline for registration for both retreats is Friday, August 30,

2007, however, you are encouraged to submit your registration as soon as possible. Please include your returnable deposit of \$50.00 with your registration. Your deposit will be returned upon check-in at each retreat. Please note: **check-in for each retreat is Friday evening 6:30—7:30 with the first session beginning at 8:00 PM and will conclude Sunday AM following the final session. There will be no lunch Sunday.** Space is limited and you are encouraged to attend. As a reminder, to stay in compliance, you are required to attend one retreat annually.



Arlene Brandenburg, wife of Deacon Bob Brandenburg, entered eternal life at home Wednesday, July 4, 2007 after a long illness. She was 73. Visitation for Arlene was Monday, July 9. The funeral was Tuesday, July 10 at St. Patrick Church in Dixon with Father James Keenan officiating. Arlene is survived by her husband Bob of almost 54 years, 5 sons, 2 daughters, 17 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Continue to pray for Bob and his family.

Birthday and Anniversary Wishes: Sherrill Berard, Bob Brandenburg, Lois Bronzi, Doris Drees, Karen Farinella, Rich Gerdeman, Mike Giambalvo, Sally Kellen, Bob Martin, Linda Martin, Christina Moynihan, Maria O'Brien, Tom O'Brien, Harold Poss, Mark Raz, Bill Rees, Jack Roder, Norb Szudarski, Bob Sweeney, Jim Valesano, Jody Watermann, and Carol Zibrun. Special birthday wishes to Dick Dinneen. Dick turned 75 July 13! **Marriage:** Bill and Lois Bronzi, Randy and Carol Fast, Mike and Maria Frazier, John and Pat Kulpin, Jim and Mary Newhouse, Bob and Kay Smits, Greg and Beverly Urban, Ray and Bette Weaver, Ron and Barb Williams and Mike and Carol Zibrun. Special anniversary wishes to Dick and Frances Groom and Tom and Joleen Petit. The Groom's are celebrating 55 years of marriage July 26 and the Petit's celebrated 40 years of marriage July 1.

May they be touched by Jesus' healing hands: We pray for our brother's, Bob Martin and John Kohler. Pray also Mike Zibrun's wife, Carol, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Continue to pray for Jack O'Leary's wife, Beverly and Tom O'Brien's wife, Maria. Continue also to pray for our brother, Lee Deatherage and for our Bishop, Thomas G. Doran. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for Mary Newhouse. At the time she was to undergo surgery for cancer, all previous signs of the cancer had disappeared.

Necrology: We pray also for our brother deacons who have gone to eternal life: Alexander Becker [July 31, 1981], James Keip [June 5, 1995], Dale Washburn [July 31, 2000], Jerry Savercool [July 15, 2005].



Confirmation 2007: Following is a Confirmation schedule provided to this office for the Fall 2007 schedule. This schedule reflects dates where three deacons are needed to assist for each Confirmation. 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. Deacons receive a copy for their records as well. Calendar is subject to change.

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| Sept. 9 | 1:00 PM | St. Rita; Rockford | |
| Sept. 17 | 4:00 PM | St. Bernadette; Rockford | |
| Oct. 1 | 4:00 PM | St. Anthony; Rockford | |
| Oct. 7 | 1:00 PM | St. Charles Borromeo; Hampshire | |
| Oct. 8 | 4:00 PM | Cathedral of St. Peter; Rockford | |
| Oct. 14 | 1:00 PM | St. James; Lee | |
| | 4:00 PM | St. Patrick; Rochelle | |
| Oct. 28 | 1:00 PM | St. Laurence; Elgin | Dick Dinneen |
| | 4:00 PM | St. Thomas More; Elgin | |
| Nov. 18 | 1:00 PM | St. Mary; Pecatonica | |
| Nov. 19 | 4:00 PM | St. Patrick; Rockford | |
| Dec. 2 | 1:00 PM | St. Mary; Woodstock | |
| | 4:00 PM | St. Mary; Elgin | |
| Dec. 9 | 1:00 PM | St. Joseph; Aurora | |
| | 4:00 PM | St. Rita; Aurora | |