



Deacon Marty Czerniewski assists Monsignor Eric Barr at the Assembly Day Mass.

Deacon Assembly Day

By Deacon Dan Goetz

Undeterred by the threatening winter weather, 86 Permanent Deacons, 44 wives, 10 candidates and four of their wives, and guests gathered on Saturday February 24, 2007 at the Cathedral of St. Peter for Deacon Assembly Day. The day began with Mass celebrated by Monsignor Barr, Vicar of Clergy, followed by a day filled with information, spiritual guidance, and direction.

Director for the Permanent Diaconate, Deacon Patrick Moynihan welcomed all in attendance and the program began with a broad range of topics by Monsignor Barr. Monsignor's comments included the importance of the Diaconate as clergy, competency of deacons, the liturgy and purification of the sacred vessels, and a question and answer session. Monsignor Barr concluded by thanking the deacons and their wives for their service to the diocese.

Cedi Cover, manager for OSF Hospice gave an overview and history of OSF. Cedi shared her thoughts on how OSF Hospice follows the mission of the founding Franciscan Sisters to care for those they serve and invited deacons to utilize OSF as a resource.

Father Michael Fuller, Spiritual Director for the Permanent Diaconate followed, sharing thoughts on the topic of "Spirituality for the Community Servant." Reflecting on the life of St. Jerome, Father Fuller guided participants with practical steps to spiritual formation which will help to enter deeper into holiness. He opened his talk commenting, "This is a big group."

Following lunch, John Sentovich, Director of Planned Giving and Dave Hougan, Director for Stewardship Development, discussed financial stewardship and how the diaconal community can participate and educate others to support the future of our parishes and the diocese. Deacon Moynihan wrapped up the day by inspiring and challenging deacons to understand the institutional aspect of the Church, cultivate the diaconal community, radically change our environments, and to evangelize beyond the pews to the world.

Anger is no stranger to anyone of us

By Deacon Patrick Moynihan

We are no strangers to anger. We have felt it in ourselves and observed it in others in grocery stores and at sporting events. Uncontrolled, anger can take on killer proportion, manifesting itself as road rage, drive by shootings, hate crimes, and even civil war. Less talked about is how *misplaced* anger impacts our Christian community.



Archbishop Dolan touches tangentially on this concern in his recent speech at the North American College titled "*Factors to Consider When Preaching*". You might remember reading about

his speech in the *Observer*. The main theme of his talk was keeping our preaching filled with Christ's agenda, not our own. To make his point about personal agendas clear, he sadly recounted, "For some preachers it seems obligatory to criticize the church in their homilies. They claim she is hopelessly outmoded, patriarchal, oppressive, insensitive, corrupt, unenlightened—all of which really translates: unwilling to do what they want!" Certainly, homilies marked with this type of misplaced anger tend to disperse rather than gather the flock.

Do not read my quoting Archbishop Dolan as a suggestion that the preaching of our priests or deacons contains this problem or these themes. This has not been my experience in the Rockford Diocese. My point for quoting this passage is to demonstrate an example of *misplaced* anger and its likely effect. *Continued on page 2*

Of Interest: Dick Kunnert will present *Interpersonal Skills*, a six week course. Dates for this course are Tuesday March 6, 13, 27, April 3, 17 and May 1. It will be held at the Cathedral of St. Peter, Rm. 110; 6:30 - 9:00 PM.

On Saturday, April 28, two single event opportunities are available at St. Bridget Church in the main hall. Police Chief, Chet Epperson will present "Gangs - What Can the Church Do" 10:00 - 12:00 AM. Mike Gallagher will present a wellness class 1:00 - 2:30 PM. You may attend one or both classes on April 28th.

Participation of *Interpersonal Skills* qualifies for 15 credit hours. Participation April 28 qualifies for 3.5, 2 or 1.5 hours of ongoing formation credit. Register with the office to attend the above opportunities.

It's a First: The office held two information meetings during January for those interested in applying for Aspirancy, the first step in Diaconal Formation. Over sixty couples and several single men attended. Due date for applications for the Class of 2012 is April 15th. Several Pre-Aspirancy meetings start in May and will continue through August.

Final selection of new aspirants will be made in August. Once this group begins, there will be three groups participating in formation simultaneously: Candidacy III, Candidacy I and Aspirancy I. This is a first. Please continue to pray for those involved in formation and for our office as we make the final step in implementing the Five Year Formation Program announced by Bishop Doran July, 2002.

Confirmation: As you have read in Deacon News and the *Observer*, Bishop Doran has appointed four delegates to provide Confirmation during his recuperation. Until Bishop Doran resumes Confirmations, Confirmations will not require the assignment of three deacons by this office. Noting that there are up to six confirmations per weekend, the celebrants appointed by Bishop Doran have decided that it is not necessary to assign deacons from outside of the parish. Deacons of the parish hosting and/or having Confirmation should discuss their participation with their pastor. All pastors and deacons previously assigned have been notified of this temporary change in practice by letter or a personal call. If there are any questions, please contact the office.

Anger is no stranger to anyone of us

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We are familiar with misplaced anger. It rears its ugly head when a parent trapped waiting in a long line with too little time lets a child have both barrels at the grocery store for asking persistently for a candy bar. We hear its ugly voice when an inadvertent minor driving error earns us a verbal berating worthy of an R rating. And, unfortunately, we give life to it ourselves when we, forgetting to leave the frustration of our last encounter behind, react with unwarranted hostility to the next person that crosses our path. No matter the circumstances, people tend to clear out on these occasions.

In our defense, it is fair to say that anger is often an involuntary response. The Catechism supports this. The teaching of the Church is that anger is one of the basic passions. Subsequently, it is neither good nor bad in itself. [CCC 1763-1174] It is only natural to feel anger when threatened, harmed or exposed to seeing others, especially the very innocent, in danger or under attack.

Therefore, on account of our human nature, we cannot be alive without our temperature rising from time to time. However, we can choose how we respond to our anger and where we direct that response. This is the difference between anger and *misplaced* anger. Misplaced anger is a choice—a poor one at that. It is not simply a feeling, it is an act. Whether motivated by desperation, humiliation or retribution, misplaced anger is an inappropriate attempt to repair our feelings at the expense of others.

In choosing to express our anger, we need to keep in mind anger's evolutionary purpose. At its most basic level, anger helps establish boundaries between rival parties—it's a warning. We can see this in nature when one's bear angry growl sends an encroaching bear,

which has no real intention of trampling on the turf of his neighbor, in the opposites direction. As a tool, anger is very effective for scattering.

I think anyone with an older sibling has an innate understanding of this purpose of anger. I remember how I quickly I disappeared when I saw my older brothers' anger. It was a survival skill for both parties. I was glad they expressed their anger sufficiently for me to know to get lost quickly and they were glad I got lost. If I had not run, they would still be on the run from mom, dad and the law for what they would have done to me.

We can also know from nature that anger is *enemy* communication, not *friend* communication. It is for adversaries, not colleagues. Anger is the language of rivals, not Christian servants. It is rarely, except in the case of third-party righteous indignation, the language of love. Jesus' action in the marketplace comes to mind, but we need to be careful how simply we interpret this complex passage.

If we think of anger as nature's no trespassing sign, we can clearly see how seldom it is likely to have a place in the life and ministry of a deacon. We are called to gather the sheep, not scatter them. We are about bridges, not boundaries. For us, anger expressed openly is going to almost always be, by its very effect, *misplaced*. Authentic trust, compassion, forgiveness, and obedience, especially in the most difficult situations, are our appropriate tools, not anger—and most certainly not misplaced anger.

Let me be the first to say that I have been angry and I have misplaced my anger from time to time. It is clear to me that it has neither helped me to build God's kingdom nor gather His sheep. Let us pray during Lent for a diminishing of anger in our community and in our selves.



Ordination Anniversaries: 15 Years and More!

The Most Reverend Arthur J. O'Neill ordained the following classes celebrating ordination anniversaries in the month of March. The **Class of 1992**, celebrates 15 years as Permanent Deacons. Of the 13 men ordained, Deacons Frank Barone, Peter Calgaro, Marty Czerniewski, Jim Dombek, Art Holt, Joe Phelan, Harold Poss, Bill Rees, Dan Smith are still serving this diocese. Deacon Bob Smits recently moved and now serves the Archdiocese of Oklahoma. Deacon Luke Cordes has gone onto eternal rest. Celebrating 28 years as permanent deacons is the **Class of 1979**. Ordained in '79 were 16 men. Currently serving the Diocese of Rockford are Deacon John Bach, Sam Cassarro, Ron Graw, John Saucedo, Tom Welch, and Tim White. Deacon Bob Demming now serves the Diocese of Orlando. Retired Deacon Thaddeus Ciochon resides within the diocese. Alex Becker, James Keip, Ardee Lanphier Gerald Muehler, Ray Orth, and Donald Raef have gone onto eternal rest. Of the 18 men ordained in 1978, Deacon Mike Giambalvo is still serving the Diocese of Rockford. Those who have retired are Deacon Alex Hainchek, John Kohler, Bob Martin, and Fred Skrade who reside in this diocese. Deacons in the class of '78 who have gone to eternal rest are Robert Dolan, John Ebert, Raymond Johnson, Ray Kramer, and Anthony Naze.

Birthday and Anniversary Wishes:

H. Donald Brunette, Annmarie Calgaro, Thaddeus Ciochon, Al Dietz, Greg Duffey, Howard Ganschow, Cy Grossmayer, Tom Hawksworth, Ellie McPhee, Ron Magee, Ed Morrison, Dick Mulcahey, Carlos Navarro, Bob Plazewski, Hans Rokus, Greg Urban, Sharon Wagner, and Bruce Watermann.

Special birthday wishes to Deacons

Fred Skrade and Bob Real. Both turn 80 years young this month.

Marriage: Ray and Mamie Martin will celebrate 25 years of marriage March 17.

May they be touched by Jesus' healing hands: We pray for our brother deacons, Mike Frazier, Ron "Willie" Williams and Lee Deatherage, and Peter Calgaro. Continue to pray for Tom

O'Brien's wife, Maria and Bob Brandenburg's wife, Arlene. Continue to pray for our Bishop, Thomas G. Doran.

Necrology: We pray also for our brother deacons who have gone to eternal life: Jack Nesmith [March 25, 1980], Eugene Boyes [March 16, 2002], Bob Wade [March 28, 2004], Gerald Muehler [March 1, 2005] Raymond Johnson [March 21, 2006], and Ed Lober [March 25, 2006].