



On their Way ... Update on

Formation: Pictured are the Candidates, Class of 2008. Front Row: L to R are Mr. Mike LeRoy, St. Margaret Mary, Algonquin; Mr. Tom Elms, St. John Neumann, St. Charles; Mr. Steve Pospischil, St. Thomas Aquinas, Freeport; Mr. Policarpo Jimenez, St. Monica, Carpentersville and Mr. Bob Mitchison, Cathedral of St. Peter, Rockford. Back Row: L to R: Mr. Mike Sullivan, St. Peter, Geneva; Mr. Mike Jones, St. Thomas Aquinas, Freeport; Mr. Hank Schmalen, St.

Catherine of Siena, Dundee and Mr. Jerry Giessinger, St. John the Baptist, Johnsburg. Along with the candidates are Fr. Fuller, Spiritual Director for the Diaconate (Front Row, R), and Deacons Patrick Moynihan (Back Row, L), Director of Formation, and Phil Abel (Back Row, R) of St. Bridget parish, ad hoc logistics manager extraordinaire.

Members of the class will be installed as Lectors October 20, 2007 by Bishop Thomas Doran. The candidates are currently in year two of the three year candidacy period. A new class of aspirants is currently being selected. This fall, there will be three groups in formation: First Year Aspirants, First Year Candidates and Third Year Candidates.

“And they will know we are Christians by our love.”

By Deacon Patrick Moynihan

This line from the popular song of the same title sticks in my mind. It's a mantra for us as deacons as is the rest of the song which speaks of unity, walking together and guarding one another's dignity. I think even more of this song during the Easter season due to all the readings from Acts. I have to admit my heart, soul, mind and body yearns to live in the Way described in this song and the accounts of the early Christian communities described in Acts.

When I reflect on this song and how the Christian communities grew rapidly immediately following

Christ's resurrection, I also think often of this line from Blessed Mother Teresa's daily prayer said by her community. "Let me preach You without preaching, not by words, but by example, by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to You."

"Know we are Christians by love" and "...the sympathetic influence of what I do" are not only calls to service, they contain the secret to evangelization. Their effectiveness is proven by the growth of the early Church and more recently the growth of the Blessed Mother Teresa's order, the Missionaries of Charity. Like the Franciscans of the 13th century, Missionaries of Charity have grown rapidly, now numbering nearly 5,000.

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Fall Symposium Evolves: In his first homily as our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI stated, "We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary." Since then, he has continued to confront those who would teach that we and the world around us are products of unguided evolution, the result of random occurrences.

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.

While this topic may seem woefully academic, the speakers will quickly ground their talks in practical applications for defending human life, defining our purpose and achieving holiness. We are inundated with scientific understandings of human life which reduce our existence and purpose to biological function. This symposium will lift our eyes to the source of our human dignity while exploring the totality of our spiritual and physical nature. For the preacher, it will provide both knowledge and inspiration by adding greater depth, reason and more effective images to our already passionate pleas to protect human life and its elevated 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.

“And they will know we are Christians by our love.” *Continued from page 1*

I have been thinking a lot lately about how we are doing as a diaconate community, diocese and Universal Church with evangelization. While, as you who are involved on the front line know, there are many individual spots of light, the overall picture for evangelization is not as bright as we hear described in Acts. Could it be that we are not clearly known for who we are? I hate to introduce the secular question of brand identification, but is this the problem? Have we assimilated too much into the general miasma of generic faith to attract new members in droves as the early Christian communities did?

These are, if not sobering thoughts, somber ones. To lighten up a bit, I would like to make a few suggestions on how we might “get known again” and create “sympathetic” interest in the community at large.

1) Certainly, we can continue to preach the truth from the pulpit, but maybe we need to also **add more gospel flavor to our daily conversation** among family, friends and colleagues. It might help people to make a clearer connection, a connection we make easily in our own hearts and minds, between our beliefs and actions if we testify to the Lord as we act. Throwing in a sincere “Praise the Lord” or “Ask and it will be given” or “just putting my hands to the plow” may help others understand that we serve and act in obedience to the Word. This may spark an interest in what we believe.

2) **Tip big and tip often after every meal.** This includes parish stewardship, which is technically collected prior to the most important meal of the week. We can also carry this into the restaurant. Waiters, waitresses, and busboys are rarely over

paid individuals. It might get us some recognition as people of love if we, out of charity and collegiality being table servers ourselves, tip 25% and throw in a prayer card, mass schedule or verbal invitation to come join us at **The Table** on Sunday.

3) It is not polite to gloat, but let’s **let people know what our parish is doing for the community.** This can be done through casual comments or more formal avenues. Recently, I slipped into an editorial for our local paper on education the fact that the Rockford Deanery Catholic schools save the local municipalities and State \$23,000,000 annually in direct educational costs. It is important for others to know that we care, that we are doing our share, and that we are willing to do more.

4) **Send the good news to non-Catholic friend**—the current good news, that is. Maybe there is a family member of friend who may benefit from a subscription to *The Observer*—sign them up.

I realize that evangelization requires more than gimmicks and true faith runs deeper than brand identification—but we need to raise our profile in the public so others can be drawn to us. Being known for loving others is our way because it was His Way! Let’s get our name out from under the bushel basket and back on top by clearly demonstrating that we are not a people merely bent on a life of self-improvement. We are about improving the life of others.

As we continue our offices focus on evangelization, I would greatly appreciate hearing from the diaconate community how we can increase our numbers, carry the Word farther and further, and build the Kingdom. I can’t get the song out of my head, so I look forward to hearing how we can live it more! The June reflection slot is open, let us know if the Spirit is moving you to your keyboard.

Important Fall Dates: The annual Deacon Retreat will be September 7 - 9, 2007 at Bishop Lane Retreat House. Reverend Nicholas Federspiel, Associate Pastor for St. Edward Church will be this year’s Retreat Master. The Couples Retreat is October 5 - 7, 2007. Thanks to those who have volunteered to serve as “Assistant Retreat Master” and in other capacities for the retreats.

For those looking to go full circle (or at least 344°), **Assembly Day 2008 is Saturday, February 23.** The plan is to have the Candidates, Class of 2008, be installed as Acolyte during the Mass. This is their final installation before they are ordained. Please ask your pastor to give you this day off from the parish and keep your calendars clear as much as possible so that we can have the proper time to meet, pray together, attend mass, enjoy the meal together, exchange ideas, gain new ones and enhance the strength of our community.

Ongoing Formation Opportunities: We are currently planning the 2007/2008 curriculum for those in formation. Courses and presentations available for Ongoing Formation will be provided as they are confirmed.

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

- **Theology of Marriage**, Saturday, 6/2; 10:00—Noon @ Bishop Lane. Two (2) Credit Hours. **Space for 10 available.**
- * **Speech**, Monday, 9/17,9/24,10/1,10/8,10/15 & 10/22; 6:30—9PM. Location TBA. 15 Credit Hours.
Space for five (5) available.
- * **You must attend all class dates for this course to receive credit.**

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

Mea Culpa: What tangled webs we weave when first we try to deceive. Our apologies to Deacon Julio Rosado. In attempt to balance the layout of the Newsletter, the picture of him in the April edition was flipped. We regret that doing so made it look as if he were wearing his stole incorrectly. Thanks to Deacon Iwanski for noting this and letting us know. We will make sure to watch that the next time we try to tamper with a photo.



Deacon Walter Freund Retires: Deacon Walter Freund retired from active ministry on April 20, 2007. Walter was one of 12 ordained in the fifth class by the Most Reverend Arthur J. O'Neill 27 years ago. Classmate, Deacon Don Brunette, continues to serve the diocese and Deacon Don Callahan is retired and living in the diocese. Deacon Freund asks that we especially remember in our prayers the members of the class who have gone to eternal rest: Deacons Lawrence Hauck, Lloyd Kipping, Gregory Liegel, Melvin Murphy, Thomas O'Neil, Eugene Wedoff.

Deacon Freund first served at St. Patrick Church, Hartland and later at St. John the Baptist in Johnsburg, and St. Patrick, McHenry. He retired from St. Peter Parish, Spring Grove. He was instrumental in the sacramental preparations at each of these parishes. Fr. Lange estimated that Deacon Freund took part in 72—82 baptisms at the parish.

Fr. Steve Lange and Deacon Freund posed for this picture to the left after Mass April 22. The parish community celebrated his retirement with a reception following masses on April 21 & 22, 2007. Numerous parishioners, both young and old, pointed out appreciatively that he was part of their marriage preparation, wedding or baptized their children. Walter was presented with a plaque from the parish recognizing his fruitful years of service.

Ordination Anniversaries: First Class ordained celebrates 32 years!

The Most Reverend Arthur J. O'Neill ordained the Class of 1975 as permanent deacons 32 years ago May 17. Of the 15



men ordained, Deacons Warren LaMont, Ralph Statter and Jim Valesano still serve this diocese. Deacon Eugene Reilly incardinated to the Diocese of Springfield and Bernard Ratazak was ordained a priest in 1976 in this diocese and is now retired. Retired Deacon Bob Bracken resides in this diocese and Deacon John Porter resides in

Palatine, IL. Deacons Tadeo Lopez, Don McElroy, Robert Nelbel, Jack Nesmith, and Jerry Tobin have gone onto eternal rest.

Celebrating Thirteen Years: The Most Reverend Arthur J. O'Neill ordained the Class of 1994 thirteen years ago, May 14. Of the 10 men ordained, Deacons Sam Berard, Paul Iwanski, John Kellen, Armando Martinez, Bob Plazewski, Norb Szudarski, Bill Whitehead and Ron "Willie" Williams are still serving this diocese. Deacon Michael Burch resides in Sheboygan, WI and was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Celebrating Nine Years: The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, D.D., J.C.D., ordained the Class of 1998 on May 2, 1998. Of the 13 men ordained, Deacons Bill Johnson, Tony

Koss, Bill Lemmer, Jim Lopez, John McPhee, Tom O'Brien, Dave Wilbricht, Jim Hudzinski, Joe Kayser, Jim Newhouse and Hans Rokus still serve this diocese. Deacon Terrance Beer incardinated in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Retired Deacon John Kulpin resides in St. Charles.

Celebrating Eight Years: The Class of 1999 was ordained May 1, 1999 by the Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran. Of the 15 men ordained, Deacons Vince Drees, Ignacio Felix, Howard Fischer, Bill Gartland, Ray Martin, Larry Motyka, Carlos Navarro, Jack O'Leary, Bruce Watermann and Ray Weaver still serve this diocese. Deacon Rick Ekstrom moved to Indiana in 2005. Deacon Jim Krupka has incardinated to the Diocese of Gaylord, Mi. and Deacon Ken McNealy serves the Diocese of Phoenix. Ed Lober has gone onto eternal rest.

Deacon Don Miller celebrates two years as a permanent deacon. He was ordained May, '05 by The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran.

The following deacons were ordained in the month of May in other dioceses and now serve this diocese. Ordained in the Archdiocese of Chicago celebrating 30 years as permanent deacons are Deacons Jim Devona and Dick Dinneen, May, '77; 5 years - Deacon Al Dietz, May, '02.

Ordained May, '79 in the Diocese of Joliet celebrating 28 years as a permanent deacon is Deacon Gene Schubert. And celebrating 15 years as a permanent deacon is Deacon Fred Sims, ordained in the Diocese of Peoria, May, '92.

Birthday and Anniversary Wishes: John Bach, Bob Demming, Dan Goetz, Rosemarie Graw, John Kellen, Patricia Kohler, Barbara Lopez, Pat Maher, Frances Olson, Linda Orlik, Tom Petit, Fred Sims, and Beverly Urban.

Marriage: Bob and Lois Bracken, Bill and Jeanne Dall, Bill and Mary Dean, Dick and Marie Dinneen, Chuck and Susan Gagnon, and Tom and Pauline Hawksworth. Special anniversary wishes to Harold and Mary Ann Poss who are celebrating 55 years of marriage May 3.

May they be touched by Jesus' healing

hands: We pray for Jack O'Leary's wife, Beverly. Continue to pray for Tom O'Brien's wife, Maria and Bob Brandenburg's wife, Arlene. Continue to pray for our brother, Lee Deatherage. Continue also to pray for our Bishop, Thomas G. Doran.

Necrology: We pray also for our brother deacons who have gone to eternal life: Ardee Lanphier [May 3, 1996].

Following are additional Ongoing Formation and Spiritual Growth opportunities which were provided by your brother deacons.

ARCHDIOCESAN

JUSTICE DAY

The Challenge of Christian Faith and Social Justice - Globally & Locally

2007

SATURDAY, MAY 12th
8:00 am-3:00 pm
ST. GILES PARISH
McDONOUGH HALL (2ND FLR)
1101 N. COLUMBIAN AVE.
OAK PARK, ILLINOIS
Parking across the street

FEATURING PRESENTATIONS BY:
FR. DANIEL G. GROODY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, "A GOD OF LIFE, A CIVILIZATION OF LOVE: THE CHALLENGE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE"
• LOCAL LEADERS OF HOUSING & IMMIGRATION REFORM
• MASS CELEBRATED BY BISHOP GUSTAVO GARCIA-SILLER
Cost: \$10.00 (includes lunch)

Registration fee \$10.00 payable at registration or mail check with form to:

JOYANA JACOBY, OFFICE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, 155 EAST SUPERIOR, CHICAGO, IL 60611
Make checks payable to Office for Peace and Justice. Please register by May 4, 2007
You may register by mail, phone (312) 751-8390 or fax a copy to (312) 787-1554 or e-mail jjacoby@archchicago.org

NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

FAX #: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PARISH: _____

HOLY FAMILY PARISH PRESENTS

THREE REFLECTIONS ON THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

IN OUR LADY'S CHAPEL, PARISH CENTER

ALL ARE WELCOME. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL CAROL WEBBER AT 815-397-9395.

We are all comforted by the promise of God's endless mercy, so we easily slip into the role of the prodigal child coming home to the Father when we hear this familiar parable.

IS THERE MORE TO LEARN?

Come and discuss how we, as a parish community, can take on the role of the prodigal son's father and go out to meet the lost, how we, even if we are not frequenting brothels, might be squandering our inheritance by the underemployment of our God given talents for the good of the community, and how we might be as uninviting at times as the prodigal son's brother.

If you are ready for a challenge, and motivated to do more come to Deacon Moynihan's 90-minute INTERACTIVE discussions of this familiar parable.

DAYTIME & EVENING SESSIONS

Session 1: Being the Father of the Prodigal Son: Does our Parish Community go out to meet the lost? Tuesday, May 8, 9:30-11:00 am Thursday, May 10, 7:00-8:30 pm

Session 2: How am I the Prodigal Son: Am I using or squandering my talents? Tuesday, May 15, 9:30am-11:00 am Thursday, May 17, 7:00-8:30 pm

Session 3: The Prodigal Sons Brother: Fear Tuesday, May 22, 9:30-11:00 am Thursday, May 24, 7:00-8:30pm