



Registration forms for this symposium have been mailed. Christopher West is recognized around the globe for his work promoting an integral, biblical vision of human life, love, and sexuality. He serves as a research fellow and faculty member of the Theology of the Body Institute near Philadelphia, PA. Christopher is the best-selling author of four books and is one of the most sought after speakers in the Church today. Join Christopher West for a thought provoking presentation that will enrich your understanding of human sexuality and the spiritual power it contains.

To date there are only 58 registrants, 33 of which are Permanent Deacons and five Candidates. 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 2011. Attending this symposium is especially important for those needing recertification in 2008. Although the deadline to register for the symposium is August 29, 2008, earlier registration is appreciated. We are hopeful that attendance will be at capacity.

Deacon Only and Deacon Couples

Upcoming Retreats



Deacons of the Diocese of Rockford are required to attend one annual retreat. Per the changes to the required 25 hours of Ongoing Formation, hours for attending one retreat are not to be calculated into these hours. Should you elect to attend an additional retreat within the year, hours

for one retreat can be applied to your 25 required hours. The revised Ongoing Formation Hours form does provide an area to indicate your attendance of the required retreat. The Office for the Permanent Diaconate offers two retreats each year at no cost to you so can meet the requirement for your annual retreat.

We are pleased to have Rev. Msgr. Charles Beebe and Sr. Diane VandeVoorde, OSF of the Diocese of Peoria, as retreat masters for both upcoming retreats. The Deacon Only retreat is scheduled for September 5-7 with the Couples retreat scheduled for October 10-12. The theme for the 2009 retreats are: *"Checking Our Spiritual Pulse."*

Sr. Diane is a member of the Sisters of St. Francis and is currently a member of her community's administrative team. She has a BA in Music and is a certified elementary and secondary school teacher. She holds a PhD. without dissertation in school psychology and is a certified psychologist. Sister is experienced in teaching, psychology, individual and family counseling and spiritual direction. Her present ministry is as Associate Director of the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Peoria.

Monsignor Charles Beebe has been a priest of the Diocese of Peoria for 38 years and is presently the Episcopal Vicar for

the Permanent Diaconate, a position he has held for 15 years. He is also the pastor for two small country parishes.

He holds a BA in the History of Philosophy and a MA in Theology. He holds a MA in Education and is certified in Administration K-12. He taught for 18 years on the secondary level and served on administration on both the secondary and elementary level. He has served several parishes in the diocese ranging from the small rural parish to the large urban parish. He was named a prelate of honor in 1992.

Registration forms were provided with the last newsletter. You can also find them on the Deacon Web site at www.DeaconRockford.org. Registration deadline for the Deacon Only retreat is August 29. Deadline for the couples retreat is September 19. You are encouraged to register sooner than later as space is limited. To date, 41 deacons have registered for the Deacon only retreat and five couples have registered for the Couples retreat. For planning purposes, an abbreviated agenda follows:

- Friday -
 - 6:30 - 7:30 PM Registration/Room Check-in
 - 7:45 PM Evening Prayer/Chapel, Introduction to retreat theme, concludes with prayer service with reflection question.
- Saturday -
 - 8:00 AM Morning Prayer/Chapel with breakfast following
 - 9:15 AM first session, sessions throughout day; 5:30 PM dinner, 7:00 PM opportunity for reconciliation followed by Evening Prayer
- Sunday -
 - 8:00 AM Morning Prayer followed by breakfast; 9:00 AM Session, 11:00 AM Mass and conclusion of retreat.
 - Lunch will not be served on Sunday.

Please note that due to the nature and structure of the retreats, you are asked to be present during the retreat hours and avoid leaving during the day.

Revised Ministry Agreement Form



Thank you to those deacons for completing the required ministry agreement. Deacons needing a current ministry agreement received a personalized notation with their ministry agreement status on a revised Ministry Agreement

included with the July newsletter. A new agreement is necessary after three years or if a new pastor or administrator is appointed to your assigned parish or if you are newly appointed to a parish.

Taking into consideration all areas of diaconal ministry, we have reformatted the agreement so that you and your pastor can complete it in a

timely manner. We anticipate the new format of the ministry agreement will minimize the number of deacons not in compliance with this requirement. If successful, this agreement will become the official form.

The revised ministry agreement has proven to be a success, however, to date, there are still 32 deacons who need current ministry agreements.

We want to know what's going on in your parish

Deacon Lou Farinella called the office about a question they had during their Clergy Meeting. Hearing "parish clergy meeting" prompted a light bulb to turn on. Deacon Lou Farinella, St. Mary, Huntley, was given an assignment. The office was so impressed with the nature of their clergy meetings, we wanted to offer the idea to all pastors and deacons. Following is a little of what takes place during the monthly clergy meetings at St. Mary, Huntley in the words of Deacon Lou Farinella.

As of last February we at St. Mary's have started meeting monthly. We have it set for the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm to meet at our parish church. Those that attend are all the Deacons, Our Pastor and our 2 associate Priests and occasionally our head Liturgist. Previous to last February our Pastor had met with the Deacons once a quarter, but to better the relationship between Clergy we now meet on a monthly basis.

Our next month we will be starting also with a reflection time on different topics, issues, or scripture reflections etc. Aug. reflection will be from the 1st. & 2nd. paragraph of page 41 of the Deacon handbook, relationship between Priests & Deacons & developing a genuine respect for each other. Reflection questions - What is a Deacon? What is his role? How is a Deacon viewed as an ordained minister? In the Parish? In the Diocese?



This above reflection and other monthly reflections are to help bring the relationship of the Deacon and Priest to a more intimate and close knit relationship to better serve the community of St. Mary's in Huntley.

This is a wonderful idea. It is our hope to print a number of these articles in future issues of Deacon News. Contact the office at PDavis@Rockforddiocese.org or call Pam at 815-399-4300, ext. 380 if you would like to share what's happening in your parish.

The Deacon At Mass

By Reverend Monsignor William Schwartz

Q. How many deacons may serve at Mass at Sunday Liturgies?

A. Normally, there is one deacon assigned to Mass. However, following the Norm of the Bishop when he celebrates Mass, you may have a Deacon of the Word and a Deacon of the Eucharist.

The Deacon of the Word takes care of the Liturgy of the Word and proclaims the Gospel and in the Introductory Rite, if requested by the celebrant, would do the Penitential Rite, particularly the third option. The other deacon would be the Deacon of the Eucharist. He would set the altar, prepare the chalice and hold the chalice at the elevation at the great Amen. Both deacons then can be vested and participate in the liturgy.

Deacon Formation: Informational Meetings for the Class of 2014

The Office for the Permanent Diaconate will soon be opening the application process for the Deacon Formation Program for the next Aspirancy class, Class of 2014. We would like to ask your assistance in spreading the word about the upcoming informational meeting for those who might be interested in applying for the next Deacon Formation program. The application process for the new

class begins by attending one of the three mandatory informational meetings. Please note: if the man interested in applying is married, his wife is required to attend the meeting with him. A sample bulletin announcement is enclosed with this letter.

Informational Meetings will be scheduled for Saturday, November 8, November 22 and December 13, 2008. They will be held at the Diocese of Rockford Administration Building, Rockford, 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Diaconate Calendar 2008

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Deacon Retreat	September 5 - 7, 2008	Bishop Lane
Priest / Deacon Symposium	September 12, 2008	Giovanni's - Rockford
Couples Retreat	October 10 - 12, 2008	Bishop Lane
Deacon Formation Informational Meeting for Class of 2014	November 8, 2008 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Diocesan Admin. Bldg.
Deacon Formation Informational Meeting for Class of 2014	November 22, 2008 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Diocesan Admin. Bldg.
Deacon Formation Informational Meeting for Class of 2014	December 13, 2008 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Diocesan Admin. Bldg.
Deacon Assembly Day	February 28, 2009	Cathedral of St. Peter