



The Deacon Community Mourns the Loss of a Friend and A Brother

Nancy Welch, wife of Deacon Tom Welch, former Director for the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Rockford, went to eternal life December 30, 2007 in Amarillo, TX in route to Anthem, AZ. She was 61.

Prior to Nancy's illness ten years ago, her avocations included teaching third grade, she was a licensed realtor for fourteen years, and held the role of President for the Historical Preservation Committee of McHenry County. Nancy's vocations included involvement in numerous activities of the Catholic Church including as a lector, prayer group leader, in marriage preparation, and in support of her husband's call to the diaconate. Nancy's final vocation was to courageously battle illness with dignity and grace.

She is survived by her husband of 41 years, two children, four grandchildren, two sisters and many nieces, nephews and cousins. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, January 4 at St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Church, Belleville with Entombment in Resurrection Cemetery in Danville, IL.

Please keep Nancy, Tom and their family in your prayers.

Deacon John H. Kohler went to eternal life January 4, 2008 in his home in Sherril, Iowa. He was 63.

John was ordained a Permanent Deacon by the Most Reverend Arthur J. O'Neill for the Diocese of Rockford on March 4, 1978. He served several parishes in the diocese before his assignment to St. Catherine of Genoa in 1995. In addition to his many diaconal duties at St. Catherine's, he served as Co-Director of the Consultation Program and the Millenium Preparation program. He was active with the Elgin Soup Kitchen and also worked together with his wife, Pat, as volunteers with the Fox Valley Hospice for 20 years.

He is survived by Patricia, his wife of 41 years, two sons and a daughter, 11 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Several deacons of the diocese attended the visitation Monday, January 7 at St. Catherine of Genoa Church, where Deacon Larry Zitkus led the Office for the Dead. A Funeral Mass held Tuesday, January 8 with Rev. Timothy Seigel and Rev. Louis Tosto officiating with Msgr. William Schwartz, Rev. Joseph Nicolosi and Msgr. James McLoughlin concelebrating.

Please keep John, Patricia and their family in your prayers.

Annual Deacon Assembly Day - February 23

Notification for the Annual Deacon Assembly Day was mailed January 10 to all Deacons, Candidates and wives of the Diocese of Rockford. As a reminder, this is a day which requires attendance. Registration and sign-in begins at 8:00 AM in Fellowship Hall of the Cathedral of St. Peter.

The day begins with Bishop Thomas G. Doran, D.D., J.C.D., celebrating Mass and the Admission into Candidacy for the Class of 2010 at 8:30 AM. Following Mass, Bishop Doran will address those in attendance during a continental breakfast. Monsignor William Schwartz, Director, will be the main speaker for the day giving a Diaconate Update, Conference and Discussion. A catered lunch will be provided followed by an afternoon discussion concluding at 2:30 PM.

Enclosed with your notification was a stamped, self-addressed reply card. Please fill out the reply card in it's entirety and return to the office by **Friday, February 15**.

Recognition of Outstanding Diaconal Ministry Awards

In a recent meeting with the Bishop's Committee for the Permanent Diaconate, it was decided that the nomination issue of awards will no longer continue.

We recognize the deacons of this diocese continually serve their parishes as well as their communities.

Preaching Certification

Deacons who are in need of Preaching Certification to preach on Sundays and other Holy Days must contact the office no later than January 31, 2008. Certification is granted after successful completion of an appropriate class and successfully delivering a prepared homily before the Most Reverend Thomas Doran.

Those who have contacted the office will be notified after January 31 and assigned a topic for preaching, and given a date to preach before Bishop Doran as well as additional information.

Certification is available for deacons who have attended and fulfilled the required preaching classes or have come from outside the diocese and have not yet completed the certification process.

Prenuptial and Annulment Certification

Deacons wishing to become certified for Prenuptial and Annulment preparation are invited to attend the class with the Candidates in formation.

The class will be held Saturday, April 19, 2008 at the Newman Center, DeKalb, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM. Attending the class also qualifies for 4.5 hours of ongoing formation credit.

The test, required to take and pass for certification in order to do this paperwork, is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2008 at the Diocesan Administration Bldg. at 9:00 AM.

To attend this class you must contact the office to register. The next opportunity for this class will likely not be for two years or more.

Preaching Re-Certification

Permanent Deacons requiring Preaching Recertification for 2007 have a final opportunity for recertification before expiration notification is sent to pastors.

The Homiletics III class for those in formation is available for recertification. Class dates are: Saturday, Feb. 9, 16, March 8 & 29, 9:00 AM - noon at the **Diocesan Administration Building**. This location is a change from St. Mary, Durand. As a reminder, you must attend all classes for recertification.

Participation of this class also receives 12 hours of ongoing formation credit. Please contact the office if you wish to attend.

The Deacon At Mass

By Reverend Monsignor William Schwartz

From time to time, the office receives procedural questions for a Deacon at Mass. A section of the *Deacon News* will focus on topics relating to you, the Deacon at Mass. You are invited to submit questions or topics you might want to see addressed. Please contact the office via regular mail or you may email PDavis@Rockforddiocese.org. I am hopeful, addressing topics and questions will initiate your personal reflection and consciousness of your participation during Mass.

Q. What is the practice of your parish concerning the deacon's participation in the Act of Penitence?

A. The bishop or priest introduces the Penitential Rite, but the deacon, depending on the form of the Act of Penitence, may offer tropes or introduce the *Confiteor*. The GIRM also calls for a "brief pause for silence." This shared responsibility between presider and deacon demands coordination. This is an opportunity for brief reflection by all in the assembly to call to mind their sins. Following the priest's introduction, the deacon does not rush into the next phase of the Act of Penitence, but allows a reasonable, but brief, period of silence.¹ After the silent moment of reflection, the deacon will lead the congregation in the *Confiteor* or tropes. The celebrant will conclude with the absolution (not sacramental). Tropes are found in the Sacramentary so the deacon may change them to fit the season or the celebration.

1. PP. 49 - 51 The Deacon At Mass by William T. Ditewig

An Invitation from Bishop Clarence Silver and the Permanent Deacons of the Diocese of Honolulu

Bishop Clarence (Larry) Silver and the Permanent Deacons of Hawaii are inviting Permanent Deacons in the U.S. and Canada to the Pacific Catholic Diaconate Conference (PCDC) to be held on the Norwegian Cruise Line vessel *Pride of America* October 25, 2008 to November 2, 2008. The conference is designed to bring Permanent Deacons and their families together with other deacons for inspiration, spirituality and community building.

The program includes daily liturgies, general sessions in the morning by major speakers on the following topics: Social Justice and Outreach as Integral to the Diaconate; Immigration, Diversity, Multi-Culturalism; Marriage Enrichment within the Diaconate;

the Spiritual and Psychological Development of the Deacon; and evening panel discussions. During the day, participants will have the opportunity to visit the major Hawaiian islands.

The cost of the cruise includes all standard meals and lodging. Conference registration costs have been kept low to increase opportunities for deacons and their families to participate. Information on costs, conference registration, agenda, and cruise reservations are available on our web site: www.deaconshawaii.org. If you have any questions after viewing the web site, please e-mail me at portr001@hawaii.rr.com or call me at 808-941-9624.

Deanery Confirmation Update

Enclosed is an updated Centennial Confirmation schedule as of 1/9/08. Please review it carefully, making note of possible date changes, time changes, parish changes as well as location changes. For those who have already volunteered to assist on a specific date, we ask you to contact the office **if you are unable** to assist due to the schedule change.

Due to the Deanery Celebration calendar, all parishes will require notification for their respective date. We would ask that you review the following schedule and notify the office with your willingness to assist. The office appreciates the response from deacons offering their willingness to assist. Special Note: Please plan to bring an Alb, Stole and Cincture when assisting at these Confirmations. Letters of instruction will be sent to deacons assisting prior to each Confirmation.

Diaconate Calendar 2008

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Assembly Day	February 23, 2008	Cathedral of St. Peter
Pre-Nuptial / Annulment Class	April 19, 2008	Newman Center, DeKalb
Pre-Nuptial / Annulment Test	April 26, 2008 (This is a date change from 5/3)	Diocesan Administration Bldg.
Permanent Deacon Ordination	May 24, 2008	Cathedral of St. Peter
Deacon Retreat	September 5 - 7, 2008	Bishop Lane
Couples Retreat	October 10 - 12, 2008 (This is a date change)	Bishop Lane
Priest / Deacon Symposium	September 12, 2008	TBA

<u>Deanery</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Freeport	St. Thomas Aquinas Church	2/17/08	2:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Holy Cross, Stockton; St. Wendelin, Shannon; St. Joseph, Lena; SS. John & Catherine, Mt. Carroll; St. Ann, Warren; St. John, Savanna; St. Mary, Freeport. Eight deacons needed for this date.			
1. Randy Fast 2. Dick Mulcahey 3. Vince Drees 4. Marty Czerniewski 5. Don Brunette 6. Dick Dinneen 7. Bill Lemmer 8. Dan Goetz LIST COMPLETE			
Rockford	Boylan H.S.	2/24/08	1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Holy Family, St. Edward, St. Rita, St. Stan's,			
1. Rich Gerdeman 2. Ron Magee 3. Peter Calgaro 4. Randy Fast 5. Dick Mulcahey 6. Marty Czerniewski 7. Jim Hudzinski 8. Bob Sweeney 9. Bill Bronzi 10. Bill Dall 11. Phil Abel 12. Bert Verstynen 13. Hans Rokus 14. Bill Dean.			
Rockford	Boylan H.S.	2/24/08	4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. James, Rockford; St. James, Belvidere; St. Peter, S. Beloit; Holy Spirit, Roscoe; St. Mary, Durand; St. Mary, Byron; St. Bridget, Loves Park.			
1. Rich Gerdeman 2. Ron Magee 3. Peter Calgaro 4. Randy Fast 5. Dick Mulcahey 6. Marty Czerniewski 7. Jim Hudzinski 8. Bob Sweeney 9. Bill Bronzi 10. Bill Dall 11. Phil Abel 12. Hans Rokus 13. Bill Dean 14.			
DeKalb	NIU, Holmes Student Center	3/9/08	1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Christ the Teacher, St. Mary, DeKalb; St. Mary, Sycamore; St. Patrick, Rochelle; SS. Peter & Paul, Virgil; Vietnamese Ministry.			
1. Steve Puscas 2. Jim Dombek 3. Bill Dall 4. Tom Petit 5. Hans Rokus 6. John McPhee 7. Bill Bronzi 8. Bob Sweeney 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
DeKalb	NIU, Holmes Student Center	3/9/08	4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Charles, Hampshire; St. Gall; Elburn; St. John, Somonauk; St. Mary, Maple Park; St. Paul, Sandwich; St. James, Lee.			
1. Steve Puscas 2. Jim Dombek 3. Bill Dall 4. Tom Petit 5. Hans Rokus 6. John McPhee 7. Bill Bronzi 8. Bob Sweeney 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
Aurora	Aurora Central Catholic H.S.	4/5/08	1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Holy Angels, Sacred Heart; Aurora.			
1. Dick Groom 2. Mike Zibrun 3. Ray Weaver 4. Ignacio Felix 5. Tom Petit 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
Aurora	Aurora Central Catholic H.S.	4/5/08	4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Peter, Geneva.			
1. Mike Zibrun 2. Ray Weaaver 3. Ignacio Felix 4. Tom Petit 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
Aurora	Aurora Central Catholic H.S.	4/6/08	1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Annunciation, O.L.G.C., St. Mary, Aurora.			
1. Dick Groom 2. Ray Weaaver 3. Norb Szudarski 4. Ignacio Felix 5. Tom Petit 6. Bruce Watermann 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
Aurora	Aurora Central Catholic H.S.	4/6/08	4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Holy Cross, Batavia			
1. Norb Szudarski 2. Ray Weaaver 3. Ignacio Felix 4. Tom Petit 5. Bruce Watermann 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
Sterling	Newman H.S.	4/19/08	1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Patrick, Dixon; St. Mary, West Brooklyn.			
1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard 5. Kevin Prunty 6. Bill Dall 7. Al Swearingen 8. John Kellen 9. Bill Lemmer 10. Dan Goetz 11. 12. 13. 14.			
Sterling	Newman H.S.	4/19/08	4:00 PM

Includes the following parishes: St. Patrick, Amboy; St. Anne, Dixon.

1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard 5. Kevin Prunty 6. Bill Dall 7. Al Swearingen 8. John Kellen 9. Bill Lemmer 10. Dan Goetz 11. 12. 13. 14.

Sterling Newman H.S. 4/20/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Mary, Sterling; St. Ambrose, Erie; St. Catherine, Prophetstown.

1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard 5. Al Swearingen 6. John Kellen 7. Bill Lemmer 8. Dan Goetz 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.

Sterling Newman H.S. 4/20/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Andrew, Rock Falls, Sacred Heart, Sterling, Immaculate Conception, Fulton.

1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard 5. Al Swearingen 6. John Kellen 7. Bill Lemmer 8. Dan Goetz 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.

McHenry Marian Central Catholic H.S. 5/3/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: SS. Peter & Paul, Cary; St. Joseph, Harvard; Sacred Heart, Marengo; St. Peter, Spring Grove.

1. Jim Devona 2. Joe Kayser 3. Hans Rokus 4. Jack O'Leary 5. Lou Farinella 6. Art Holt 7. Bob Anchor 8. Cy Grossmayer 9. Greg Duffey 10. Allen Bondi 11. John McPhee 12. Mike Boyce 13. 14.

McHenry Marian Central Catholic H.S. 5/3/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Margaret Mary, Algonquin; St. Mary, Huntley; St. Joseph, Richmond.

1. Jim Devona 2. Joe Kayser 3. Hans Rokus 4. Tom O'Brien 5. Lou Farinella 6. Art Holt 7. Bob Anchor 8. Cy Grossmayer 9. Don Miller 10. Gene Schubert 11. Armand Ferrini 12. Greg Duffey 13. Allen Bondi 14. Howard Fischer

McHenry Marian Central Catholic H.S. 5/4/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Holy Apostles, St. Mary, McHenry; St. Mary, Woodstock; St. Elizabeth, Crystal Lake.

1. Ed Morrison 2. Jim Devona 3. Jim Woeste 4. Jack Roder 5. Hans Rokus 6. Art Holt 7. Tom O'Brien 8. Tony Koss 9. Greg Duffey 10. Allen Bondi 11. John McPhee 12. Joe Kayser 13. 14.

McHenry Marian Central Catholic H.S. 5/4/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Thomas, Crystal Lake; St. John, Johnsburg; St. Patrick, McHenry.

1. Ed Morrison 2. Jim Devona 3. Hans Rokus 4. Jack O'Leary 5. Art Holt 6. Tony Koss 7. Greg Duffey 8. Allen Bondi 9. John McPhee 10. Joe Kayser 11. John Nelson 12. 13. 14.

Elgin St. Patrick Church, St. Charles 5/17/08 10:00 AM
Includes the following parishes: St. Catherine, Dundee; St. Thomas More, Elgin.

1. Greg Stevens 2. Steve Fox 3. Bill Whitehead 4. Marty Hetzel 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.

Elgin St. Patrick Church, St. Charles 5/17/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. John Neumann, St. Charles.

1. Marty Hetzel 2. Greg Stevens 3. Lou Farinella 4. Paul Iwanski 5. Steve Fox 6. Bill Whitehead 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.

Elgin Elgin Community College 5/18/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Joseph, Elgin.

1. Bill Johnson 2. Norb Szudarski 3. Jack Roder 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.

Elgin St. Patrick Church, St. Charles 5/18/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Patrick, St. Charles.

1. Norb Szudarski 2. Jack Roder 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.