



Deacon Wives Gather for Colloquium

Results from the annual Deacon Assembly Day showed the need to incorporate activities for the wives of deacons. The office sent a mailing to 133 deacon wives extending an invitation for a possible meeting on June 14. They were also asked to rank seven topics of importance. Following are statistics of the responses: We received a total of 71 reply cards or 53%. The break down follows: Yes, I will attend on June 14 = 32 or 46%; No, I cannot attend but would have liked to and Not Interested = 39 or 29%. We will incorporate the remaining 62 no responses into the not interested stack = 101 or 76%.

A group of 32 wives along with the diaconate staff met on Saturday, June 14. The focus for the day was to address the top three ranked topics: Discuss issues that are common to deacon wives that need to be developed for future programming, discuss the creation of a task force or committee for deacon wives for input or for planning events / seminars, etc., and discuss setting up better "networking" for wives. Many ideas were discussed but settled on three topics. The need for a post and pre ordination "Mentoring Program" became evident and was discussed at length. It appeared that the Mentoring Program not only needs to be put on hold but also needs to be revised. In our discussion,

a number of elements necessary for a future program needed to be considered. The ideas were very helpful and could provide the need for research and become a possible topic for Assembly Day. Also discussed was the need for a directory. The directory would include all deacons and wives, their areas of service and ministry, specialized programs, credentials and contact information. The office will soon be sending letters asking you to complete information form. We will take the information and begin the implementation of this directory.

One area of great importance was Networking. This topic, which was high on the agenda with the wives, will serve as a subject to be discussed in depth at a future meeting with the wives, yet to be decided.

We are reviewing the calendar for a second meeting tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 23 at the Diocesan Admin. Bldg. from 9:00 - 12:00. You are encouraged to attend even if you were unable to attend the first meeting. Although an e-mail has gone out to those who have attended the first meeting in June communicating the possible date of August 23, all are invited. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office or e-mail at PDavis@Rockforddiocese.org so we can consider August 23 as a confirmed date for a follow up meeting.

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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 23 registrants, 18 of which are Permanent Deacons. 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. Deadline to register for the symposium is August 29, 2008.

Deacon Only and Deacon Couples Upcoming Retreats

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 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.

Please find enclosed, the registration forms for the upcoming Deacon Only and Deacon Couples retreat.

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. 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.

Diocesan Theological Institute

The Education Office has completed and mailed to all deacons and those who have completed Ministry Formation, the course listing and schedule for the Diocesan Theological Institute. This information is also posted on the Deacon Web site. To date, there are 51 registrants, 23 of which are Permanent Deacons, many of which are taking multiple classes equating to 95 class registrations.

As a reminder, the institute is an ongoing formation opportunity for the graduates of the Ministry Formation program and the Permanent Diaconate. Deacon wives wishing to attend a course / courses offered with the institute, but have not completed Ministry Formation may also register.

If you are in need of a registration form, you may copy the registration form if necessary as well as download it from the Deacon Web site. Course offerings are: Introduction to World Religions, Jesus of Nazareth, Church History, The Gospels, Spiritual Direction I, History of the Catholic Church in America, Theological Reflection, Spiritual Direction II, Meeting Christ in Liturgy, Lead Like Jesus, Fathers of the Church, Overview of St. Paul's Epistles, Documents of Vatican II, and The Church's Normative Teaching and Defense of Human Life.

We encourage you to register and support the Diocesan Theological Institute so that additional classes can be added in the future.

Deacon Questionnaire Update

As a result of the feedback from Assembly Day, letters were sent to deacons in the diocese as well as those soon to be ordained requesting feedback for the following: Establishing a Deacon Advisory Committee; establishing Deacon Deanery meetings on a regular basis, and possible deanery representatives.

The response: of the 132 sent, 90 replies have been received, or 68%; those agreeing to the need of an Advisory Committee, and reinstatement of Deanery Deacon Meetings = 75 or 83%; of this number 33 or 44% were uninterested in the role of a deanery representative; a response of "no" to everything or reinstating Deanery Deacon Meetings was 15 or 15%. Interested deacons will receive letters as to the next step.

Revised Ministry Agreement Form



Enclosed please find a revised Ministry Agreement form. If you have already submitted a current ministry agreement, it

is not necessary for you to renew it. 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.

Mature Catholic Marriages - A Pilot Program

Deacons in the Diocese of Rockford recently received a special invitation to join in a first time "pilot" program for "Mature Catholic Marriages" to be held August 8-9 at Bishop Lane Retreat Center.

This project can be especially relevant for Deacons and Deacon Couples personally as well as ministerially. The program will be hosted by the Diocese of Rockford and presented by Dr. Richard Johnson, PhD., PCLAFF. Dr. Johnson is nationally recognized for his pioneering work in

Adult Faith Formation and Spiritual Gerontology.

Cost to attend this presentation is \$70/couple to help cover meals and lodging, if commuting, \$40/couple. The cost to attend as an individual is \$45 if staying overnight or \$25 if commuting.

Deacons attending this weekend will receive 10 hours of ongoing formation. The Diocese of Rockford has an opportunity to play an important role as well as enhance your own relationship. We hope you will consider attending. If interested, please contact 815-965-5011 or e-mail at familylife@dpsrfd.org.

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