



## First Class to complete the revised deacon formation program are ordained Permanent Deacons

As part of the Centennial Celebration, Bishop Thomas G. Doran, during a joint ordination celebration, ordained 17 Priests, Transitional and Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Rockford May 24, 2008 at the Cathedral of St. Peter. We congratulate the Class of 2008.



Top Row, L to R: Deacon Michael Sullivan, St. Peter, Geneva; Deacon Hank Schmalen, St. Catherine of Siena, Dundee; Fr. Michael Fuller, Spiritual Director for the Permanent Diaconate, Rev. Msgr. William Schwartz, Director; Deacon Jerry Giessinger, St. John the Baptist, Johnsburg; Deacon Tom Elms, St. John Neumann, St. Charles. Bottom Row, L to R: Deacon Steve Pospischil, St. Thomas Aquinas, Freeport; Deacon Mike LeRoy, St. Margaret Mary, Algonquin; Deacon Policarpo Jimenez, St. Monica; Carpentersville and Deacon Bob Mitchison, Cathedral of St. Peter, Rockford.

## Class of '98 Celebrates Tenth Anniversary of Ordination

We congratulate the Class of 1998 on their 10th Anniversary of ordination as Permanent Deacons May 2, 2008. Several members of the class will begin their celebration with a dinner at the Clock Tower Resort on June 27. In the fall, Deacons Jim Hudzinski, Joe Kayser, John McPhee, Jim Newhouse, Hans Rokus and Phil Abel('01), along with their wives will travel to Rome, Italy to mark this anniversary of a decade of diaconate service. They plan to attend a papal audience in Rome, visit Assisi, Sienna and the Italian countryside.

Members of the Class of 1998 celebrating 10 years as Permanent Deacons are: Terrence Beer, now serving the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Bill Johnson, Tony Koss, Bill Lemmer, John McPhee, Tom O'Brien, Dave Wilbricht, Jim Hudzinski, Joe Kayser, John Kulpin, Jim Lopez, Jim Newhouse, and Hans Rokus.

## "Parolees find help ... R.I.T.A.S. Ministry assists former inmates' transition"...

*Kane County Chronicle*

A little birdie sent the office a copy of the June 2 issue of the Kane County Chronicle. In it was an article about a man recently released from prison with just the clothes on his back and \$10 in his pocket, not knowing anyone and without a home and job. Now with a home, full-time job and car, he credits R.I.T.A.S. Ministry.

R.I.T.A.S began at the kitchen table of Deacon Rick and Linda Martin in 1997. The ministry has helped more than 1,000 newly released inmates transition back to society, find jobs, homes, and other help, including substance-abuse treatment programs. And, as the subject of the article stated, "the day he came to the ministry, Linda Martin told him they were his family now."



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THEOLOGY OF THE BODY INSTITUTE

Redeemed

**Registration forms for this symposium have been mailed.** Join Christopher West for a thought provoking presentation that will enrich your understanding of human sexuality and the spiritual power it contains. 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.

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.

# The Deacon At Mass

By Reverend Monsignor William Schwartz

**Q.** Why is the deacon called the “Minister of the Cup?”

**A.** At Mass, after the consecration, the cup contains the sacramental blood of Christ. The blood of Christ has been out poured for us in service by Jesus whose death has brought us redemption, salvation and friendship with God. Jesus loved us by this act of service in the shading of his blood on the cross.

The deacon is the icon of Christ the Servant. So, at the altar it is the deacon who fills the cup with the wine and adds a drop of water praying inaudibly: “By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.” The deacon then hands the cup to the celebrant who offers it. At the elevation concluding the Eucharistic prayer, it is the deacon who holds up the cup for the congregation to see, and the people respond with the great amen. It will be the deacon who, after receiving the precious blood himself from the cup offered to him by the celebrant, will in turn minister the cup to the extraordinary Eucharistic ministers and altar servers before distributing the precious blood to the congregation.

When Communion has been distributed, it is the deacon who either at the side table during the Mass or immediately after Mass purifies the cup saying this prayer inaudibly: “Lord, may I receive these gifts in purity of heart. May they bring me healing and strength, now and forever.” The GIRM reminds us that during the giving of communion, it is the deacon’s role to give the cup to the people assembled as part of his ministry while priests and extraordinary ministers distribute the Body of Christ. If Communion is only given under one species, the priest and deacon both distribute the body of Christ assisted by lay ministers as needed. For these theological and liturgical reasons and from the experience of people at Mass, the deacon is called the “minister of the cup.”

## Ministry Agreements

It was the hope of the office that the last issue of Deacon News would have prompted inquiries as to the status of Ministry Agreements. To date, 69 deacons need to submit current ministry agreements.

As a reminder, a new ministry agreement is to be drawn up when appointed and then every three years or when there is a change in pastor or administrator. Please contact your pastor to schedule an appointment and complete this requirement. July 1 brings an opportunity for all deacons to meet with new appointed pastors and complete the required ministry agreement. All deacons are encouraged to meet with their pastor and verify the status of their agreement. You and your pastor will both be receiving a letter from this office as to your status. You are encouraged to act prior to receiving your letter.

## Ongoing Formation Hours

In an effort to keep you informed, 14 deacons are still in need of submitting their required annual Ongoing Formation Hours form for 2007. The same instructions as Ministry Agreements apply. This office will be communicating the names of those who have not yet submitted the required hours to the Vicar for Clergy office on July 1, 2008. To avoid an interruption in your faculties, please submit your hours as soon as possible.

### *Please Welcome*

Deacon George Coltman, III to the Diocese of Rockford. Deacon George and Mrs. Linda Coltman come to us from the Archdiocese of Chicago. George and Linda reside in Huntley and serve at St. Mary Church, Huntley.

Please offer them a warm welcome.

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## Diaconate Calendar 2008

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