



THE FLAME

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Deacons challenged at symposium

By Deacon Dave Brencic

With the theme "Beyond the Parish," St. Stephen Symposium XV challenged deacons and wives to look at broadening their vision of ministry and bringing the needs of the world home to people in their parishes.

Keynote speaker Fr. David H. Garcia, from the archdiocese of San Antonio and senior adviser clergy outreach for Catholic Relief Services, noted that Catholic social teaching is a rich tradition of the church and the church depends on deacons to help carry out and live that message.

Garcia told the 187 people gathered for the symposium that at times people don't like to hear what the church teaches and may disagree with issues that bishops support.

As "living icons of Christ the Servant," Garcia said deacons represent that part of Christ's ministry where he says "I came to serve, not to be served."

Garcia pointed out the deacon's role must be as an evangelizer and teacher in the church's mission of

heralding the word. Deacons also are a visible sign when ministering at the altar, making a connection between the Eucharist and the many hungers of the world, and the need to go out into the world to help others. Lastly, Garcia said the deacon sacramentalizes the mission of the church by his words, deeds and service.

Garcia delved into the role of social justice in Scripture - from the Old Testament prophets promoting the needs of the poor, widowed and orphans, to Jesus' teachings regarding the works of charity and justice such as in the Beatitudes and his parables about the Good Samaritan and the rich man and Lazarus.

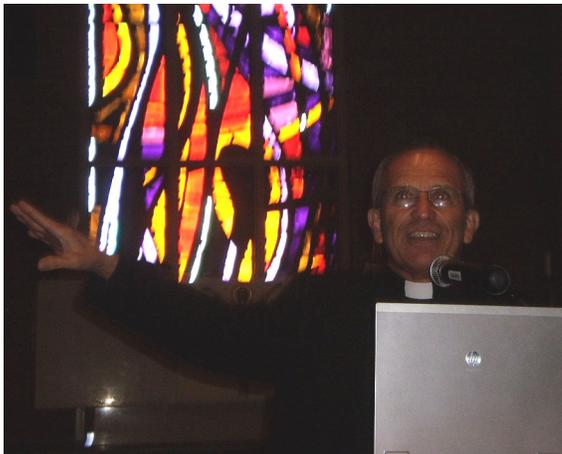
After explaining how various popes have emphasized social justice through encyclicals, Garcia

highlighted the themes of Catholic social teaching ranging from the dignity of the human person to the option for the poor and vulnerable to the rights of workers.

During his presentation, Garcia also gave suggestions on how to tailor homilies to include elements of the church's social teachings.

Garcia said he recommends "Emmaus" preaching ... "to preach

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Fr. David Garcia of the Archdiocese of San Antonio offered the keynote address at the St. Stephen symposium

A need to teach people about Catholic burials

By Deacon Glenn Tylutki

And who do people say you are?

We read in the Gospel of Mark Chapter 8:27 that Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" One would have thought that they would have fully understood. Jesus had spent all that time with them telling them who he was. They had witnessed firsthand the visible miracles and cures that he performed. They had the immediate ability to ask him any questions they might have had. Yet, their understanding of him and his mission was incomplete.

So too with us gifted with faith, visibly ministering in his name and in his vineyard filled with his Spirit - "Who will people say we are?"

Burial in a Catholic cemetery

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Planting a few seeds

I have a new love in my life.

She's just a couple of months old and is the most beautiful baby in the world. (Of course, this grandpa is only slightly biased.)

Elizabeth Mae Dare, I'm totally smitten. I admit it.

The days we spent helping to move her and her parents to Pennsylvania were wonderful and heartbreaking. Cuddling with her, feeding her, changing her, rocking her to sleep - melted my heart, especially when she would look intently into my eyes or be fascinated by the most innocuous thing on a wall.

It's been close to 10 years since we had a baby in the family. You forget how dependent they really are. You forget that they come fully equipped with those tiny toes and fingernails. They truly are a miracle of life.

Like many people today, there are many miles that separate us from our children and grandchildren. State College, Pa., is a 10 ½-hour drive or a two-plane connecting flight away. Recently, our daughter Jennie has been sending videos via the Internet, which has helped to bridge the distance, but it's still not the same.

Jennie has already started reading to Elizabeth and I long for the day that she climbs up on my lap and asks to hear a story. I may have to

specialize in telling a few tales from the Bible.

I had to baby sit Elizabeth while my daughter and son-in-law attended a wedding and during the ceremony we waited in a nearby classroom. On the wall, the schoolchildren had made a colorful tapestry of different ministries in the parish. While Elizabeth was mesmerized by the tapestry, I explained to her about the food pantry, bereavement ministry, singing in the choir and all the things she could get involved with when she gets older. It's never too early to start sowing the seeds of faith.

Keep the fire burning,

Deacon Dave Brencic, editor

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Plantando algunas semillas

Yo tengo un nuevo amor en mi vida

Ella tiene solamente dos meses de vida y es la bebe mas hermosa del mundo (por supuesto que este es el modo de ver de un abuelo).

Elizabeth Mae Dare, Yo estoy totalmente encantado, lo admito

El dia que ayudamos a ella y a sus papas a Pennsylvania fue maravilloso y doloroso a la vez, Arropándola, dándole de comer, cambiándola y arrullándola para dormir, enterneció mi corazón, especialmente cuando ella me miro a los ojos o fascinada por las pequeñas cosas que miraba en la pared.

Hace 10 años que no teníamos un bebe en casa. Se te olvida que dependientes son ellos . Se te olvida que vienen equipados con esos pequeños dedos y uñas. Ellos son verdaderamente un milagro de vida.

Como mucha gente hoy, hay muchas millas que nos separan de nuestros hijos y nuestros nietos. State College en Pennsylvania esta a 10 horas y media de distancia por

carretera o dos vuelos de conexión de distancia. Recientemente, nuestra hija Jennie nos ha mandado videos vía internet, lo cual nos ha ayudado a acortar la distancia pero no es lo mismo.

Jennie ya empezó a leer a Elizabeth y yo espero el dia en que ella se suba a mis piernas y me pida que le lea una historia. Probablemente me tengo que especializar en contarle algunas historias de la Biblia.

Tuve que cuidar a Elizabeth mientras mi hija y su esposo asistían a una boda y durante la ceremonia nosotros esperamos cerca en un salón. En la pared los niños de la escuela hicieron un colorido tapete de los diferentes ministerios de la parroquia. Mientras Elizabeth estaba enbelecida por los dibujos de color, yo le explicaba sobre el programa de comida, sobre el ministerio a los dolientes, el ministerio del coro y todas las cosas en las que se puede envolver cuando ella sea grande. Nunca es tarde para empezar a sembrar la semilla de la fe.

Mantén el fuego encendido

Diacono Dave Brencic, Editor

Views from the Vicar

Critical Conversations: All of us are aware of the personal difficulties that we can encounter as individuals involved in ministry. Sometimes there is a need for anger management. Others may be abusing alcohol or drugs. Internet addiction has become epidemic. While we may or may not be struggling with such a difficulty, we all are aware of individuals who are.

To address this, the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth has a new requirement for all clergy and employed lay ministers. The requirement is that we all participate in Critical Conversations. It is not addressed directly to the abuse of minors, but rather addresses personal difficulties those who minister can encounter.

Rather than learning specific information as we did in Virtus Training or Mandated Reporter Training, Critical Conversations is to

help us as ministers talk with our peers. Priests will converse with priests, deacons will talk with deacons, and lay ministers with lay ministers.

There will be videos in English with a special separate track to accommodate our Spanish-speaking deacons. The format will be a series of brief televised skits portraying a minister having trouble. After each video, we will meet in small groups to have a conversation about what we have seen. This is intended to both heighten our own awareness and be able to talk about what appropriate intervention should be done.

I have already participated in the priest version of the program and found it very worthwhile. I have reviewed the videos designed for deacons and found them to be equally engaging. Deacon facilitators will be trained in December and all deacons will be required to participate sometime in January or February. Wives of deacons will be invited to

participate, but not required (unless employed by the Church) to be present. I think the wives would have considerable wisdom to share in the conversation and hope they all come.

Far from being another hoop to jump through, I believe Critical Conversations will help us really look at ourselves and how we can minister to one another. Details about times and places for local gatherings will be forthcoming.

CANTS: All of us clergy were required to complete a form for the Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System as mandated by the Department of Children and Family Services. Now we are required to send in the CANTS form annually for review by DCFS. Each pastor has appointed an onsite monitor to oversee this process. The Office of the Diaconate will not be involved in this annual background check requirement. Please cooperate with your parish monitor to complete the annual CANTS

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Reflexiones del Vicario



Conversación crítica: Todos nosotros estamos consientes de las dificultades personales que podemos encontrar como individuos en el

ministerio. Algunas veces es necesidad de manejo por coraje. Otras veces el abuso de alcohol o drogas. Adicción al internet se ha convertido en una epidemia. Aunque nosotros no estemos teniendo dificultad con tales casos, estamos consientes de algunos individuos que si lo están. Para poder ver esto, la Oficina de Protección de Niños y Jóvenes tiene un nuevo requisito para todo el clero y empleados laicos en el ministerio. El requisito es que todos participemos en Conversaciones Criticas. No esta dirigido directamente al abuso de menores más bien se refiere a las dificultades personales que podemos encontrar todos los ministros. En lugar de aprender información específica como los hicimos con el Entrenamiento de Virtus o el Entrenamiento del Mandato para Reportar. Las Conversaciones

Criticas son para ayudarnos a los ministros a hablar con nuestros compañeros. Los sacerdotes conversaran con los sacerdotes, los diáconos hablaran con los diáconos y los ministros laicos con los ministros laicos. Habrá videos en Ingles con un segmento especial para acomodar a nuestros diáconos de habla Hispana. El formato será unas series de "sketchs"o parodia presentando a un ministro teniendo dificultades. Después de cada video nos reuniremos en pequeños grupos para conversar acerca de lo que hemos visto. La intención es realzar nuestro conocimiento y hablar acerca de la intervención apropiada que debe de ser.

Yo ya he participado en la versión de los sacerdotes del programa y la he encontrado que vale la pena. También he revisado los videos designados para los diáconos y los encuentro igualmente relacionados. Diáconos facilitadores serán entrenados en Diciembre y todos los demás diáconos se les pedirá participar entre los meses de Enero y Febrero. Las esposas de los diáconos serán invitadas pero no es requisito estar presente (solamente que sean empleadas de la Iglesia). Creo que

ellas tienen una considerable sabiduría para compartir en la conversación y espero que todas vengan. En lugar de que sea otra cosa mas Conversaciones criticas nos ayudaran a todos a vernos mejor y como podemos servir mejor uno al otro. Mas detalles en cuanto al tiempo y los lugares vendrán mas tarde.

Cants: Todos nosotros Clero tenemos el requisito de completar una forma para el Sistema de Rastreo del Abuso y Maltrato de los Niños como parte del Departamento de Servicios para los Niños y la Familia. Ahora se requiere mandar esa forma cada año para ser revisado por ese Departamento. Cada Pastor ha designado a alguien en su parroquia para hacer este proceso. La oficina de Diaconado no esta envuelta en el cumplimiento de este chequeo de antecedentes penales. Por favor coopere con la persona asignada en su parroquia para que completen esta forma por medio del monitor de su parroquia y cumpla con este requisito. Si no sabe quien es pregúntele a su pastor.

Convocación: La preparación para

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Deacons challenged at symposium

(Continued from page 1)

the way Jesus did on the way to Emmaus” and relate to the reality of people’s lives.

According to Garcia, the first step in the three-step Catholic social teaching homily is to use examples from real life, whether stories from the newspaper or television as a way of grabbing people’s attention.

The second step, Garcia said, is taking the Scripture reading and relating it to the reality of people’s lives.

The last step is what is our response in light of Scripture and the Eucharist.

Garcia said the biggest compliment a preacher can ever have is “thank you for your homily, what do we do now, what’s our marching orders, where are we going to go? Now *that’s* a homily because people are walking out the door fired up and ready to live their lives, that’s what homilies are all about.”

Garcia said it is imperative that deacons are familiar with the teachings of the Catholic Church, the various documents and encyclicals so they can be knowledgeable when talking about the faith.

As ministers, Garcia said it is important that deacons acknowledge that the church’s teachings can sometimes be difficult to follow. Such an approach is “leading with a pastor’s heart,” Garcia said.

The idea is not to force people to agree, but rather to get people to begin moving a step or two in the direction of accepting and better understanding the church’s teachings, Garcia said.

To begin the symposium, new co-vicar Deacon Richard Hudzik



Deacon Richard Hudzik, Co-Vicar of the Diaconate introduced himself and laid out some of his goals for the future.

introduced himself and shared some of his thoughts on intermediate and long-term goals as he settles into his new position.

Hudzik encouraged those gathered to invite him to parishes, ministry sites or projects so he could “see the deacon in his natural habitat.” Hudzik said he wants to see and learn what kinds of ministry deacons are doing so he can then share it with the rest of the community.

Longer-term projects involve communication and unity within the community. Hudzik stressed the need for deacons to use their archdiocesan email accounts and addresses not only to keep up with news from the Diaconate Office, but also to reduce the cost of U.S. postal mailings.

Hudzik said if deacons are having problems with their email accounts they should alert the office and arrangements can be made to contact the archdiocese’s IT department.

Another long-term goal regarding communication is more electronic record keeping and continued work on the Diaconate website. Hudzik said he wants to stress communication because “it cements our relationships to each other.”

He noted there is a “great spiritual benefit to increased communication across our entire

community. It seems to me when we know what each other is doing it is encouraging for us. We get to realize that there are so many of us engaged in the same project of proclaiming the good news and that encouragement leads me and you to do more and to work harder and to love more and to see God’s blessings and his grace.”

Hudzik went on to remind the audience of all the different ministries deacons and wives are involved with and “how poorer the world would be without that good work and think how much richer we would be if there were more of it.”

“We have a very good story to tell,” Hudzik said. “Not only is it good for us to hear that, it is good for the church in Chicago to hear it as well. ... because good news is inspiring. Good news, if you will, is contagious.”

Regarding unity, Hudzik recalled a comment from Francis Cardinal George that “the Diaconate has to be a sign of unity for the church.”

After lunch, a variety of workshops were offered and included such topics as ministering to men who suffer from the tragedy of abortion, ministry at Cook County Jail, working with young adults, disability outreach in the community, Amate House, reaching out to the homeless through P.A.D.S., being a chaplain, ministering to the addictions recovery community and understanding where divorced persons stand in the church.

“Fr. Garcia raised our awareness that the mission of the deacon extends both beyond our parish and our archdiocese and our nation,” said Fr. Mike Ahlstrom, vicar. “It is very easy to be become centered on those we see and forget those who are part of the Body of Christ who are in pain and who we do not see. All of the workshops that followed his presentation took us beyond the parish to see our ministry. It was great day.”



**Phoebe's
Corner:**

Change is all around

By Helene Albano

As I write this column, the autumn leaves are blowing and the election debates are in full swing. Change is in the air! We live in a culture of change: changing seasons, the time change, climate change, social and political change, changing stock markets and tax laws, employment changes, our changing health status and health insurance plans, even changes in the liturgy and those resulting from declining numbers of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Why does change so often unsettle us? Change and other unexpected obstacles in life can be extremely stressful as we may give way to worry, fear and discouragement. Changes may also challenge our illusions of control over our lives and plans for the future. Sometimes our circumstances can even cause us to question or doubt God's power, presence and provision. Although we don't often recognize it, we may even struggle with a sense of Divine abandonment, which undermines our faith and trust in God's love and compassion.

As Christians, how do we negotiate the changes in our daily lives? Our faith can be an important resource when facing those stormy winds of change! It can be helpful to step back in order to view life from an eternal perspective. Scripture

reminds us that before God's creation of the world, chaos reigned and darkness covered the whole earth. In Genesis 1-2, we hear the creation stories that remind us that our God is in the business of bringing beauty, order and light. Our loving and compassionate God is present to us in our chaos as well. When faced with changing circumstances rely on your FAITH to get you through!

Fear Not! Have Faith in God's promises!

Always praise and thank God, despite your circumstances.

Intercede for God's help.

Trust in God's love and care.

Hope to see God's action and prepare to share the good news!

**Stearns honored with
St. Francis Award**

This year's St. Francis recognition was given to Bill and Anne Stearns.

Bill was ordained a deacon in 1994 and has ministered at St. Damian Parish in Oak Forest. Bill is known for his deep love for evangelization and helped form an evangelizing corps of deacons. He also has served as a fire department chaplain.

Bill served as chairman of the Diaconate Community Council and still serves the executive committee as past chair.

In his remarks, Fr. Mike Ahlstrom, vicar, said Anne and Bill have done many things together as a couple in service to the Diaconate Community.

Most recently they have spent more than two years working on revamping the Diaconate Policy and Procedure Handbook.

"Anne has shown great patience in retyping our many revisions and



Fr. Michael Ahlstrom and Deacon Richard Hudzik, co-vicars for the Diaconate Community, present the St. Francis award to Deacon Bill and Anne Stearns, as new Deacon Council Chairman George Kashmar looks on.

dealing with a computer that has a mind of its own. Bill often points out things the rest of our committee overlooks. When our new handbook is finished it will be due in large part to their great efforts," Fr. Mike said.

"More than any individual achievements, they are a couple that exudes warmth and hospitality. When I think of couples in our Chicago Diaconate Community, Bill and Anne come to mind."

Of spider webs and quicksand escapes

By Deacon Don Grossnickle

We humans have so much going for us by possessing the ability for creative thinking and problem-solving. I particularly admire the ability to invent escapes. I think I have always enjoyed stories about survival, escapes and shipwreck circumstances. Over the years of working with hundreds of high school students who found schooling oppressive, I learned many life lessons from listening to them express their feelings about being trapped. I also have learned great lessons from those who have been paralyzed and how they deal with situations they can never escape.

Stuck in quicksand or trapped like an insect in a spider web are powerful images that can make us cringe. When I see in nature a hawk swoop down from the air and snare a helpless mouse, I cringe. When I see a big fish devour a small one, I cringe. We humans have a great advantage in our ability for critical thinking and problem-solving. Even when caught in quicksand, we can survive if we keep our wits about us instead of wildly struggling. To survive in quicksand: "swimming out" is what smart survivors know is a technique that will save a life.

I am impressed with the life lessons of my friends who were paralyzed while playing sports. They have taught me many things about what I call "street-smart resilience." SSR is all about exploitive use of circumstances to leverage winning or escape.

SSR is the ability to be an "entrepreneur" thinking cleverly, outsmarting the oppressive forces that might hold you back or hold you down. For instance: how much creativity does it take to dial a phone while totally paralyzed? (As it turns out, you must be very creative indeed). I have witnessed dozens of illustrations and

examples. Spiritual and energizing! God gives all of us, even in "paralyzing" stuck moments, the gifts and talents to help us through to move onward toward the light from the darkness of despair and futility.

You and I need not be like an insect caught in a spider's web and flailing about. One of the greatest assets we have as humans is "interdependence." More often than not, we are never alone. In the spirit world it is held that we are: "never alone -- God is with us and in us and through us." With God's spiritual power, the scripture says, "nothing is impossible."

Most of the time, we fortunately have access to other humans who when approached might offer a helping hand. Countless times I have been amazed at the goodness and compassionate caring of others who respond when called upon or when they hear a cry for help. I am a big believer in the power of community. I have seen many miracles happen when a community mobilizes.

I will close by recalling a story about my pal who fell off a cliff and needed to be rescued. I vividly recall seeing him critically injured some 60 feet below me, motionless and dead, or nearly so. I panicked and screamed and yes, I think I cried. God heard my terrified scream for help. And yes, God touched me and said, "Go, do it!"

I slid down that high cliff wildly screaming "help-help-help" and the yelling reverberated and echoed throughout the canyon walls. Minutes later, some fisherman up the canyon river came running. The rescue team came and then the ambulance. My friend ended up having surgery for a broken neck and suffered a ruptured spleen. All of this led to a long journey of healing. The miracle was an escape with me and God and fishermen and surgeons and faith.

It was SSR - Street Smart Unbreakable Resilience in action. I

have learned that we are not victims unless we give into failure. Indeed, where there is a will there is a way. I want the world to notice that we can practice unbreakable resilience every day of our lives. Please look around and see if there is somebody ready to get unstuck and escape. Perhaps it is you. Tap into that God-given creativity of resilience and live.

-- This article is reprinted from Deacon Don's blog at <http://gridironalliance.com>.

Programs at the Well

The Well at the Congregation of St. Joseph is sponsoring two upcoming programs.

-- **Advent Reflection: "There's a New World Coming!"** by Sister Dianne Bergant: 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 1. Advent is a time of anticipation, but anticipation of what? The Sunday readings assure us that there is a "new world" coming. How might we prepare for it?

Sr. Bergant, CSA (Congregation of St. Agnes) is a professor of biblical studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Cost is \$30/\$40 for families.

-- **"Lord, make me an Instrument of your Peace": A Franciscan Approach to 12-Step Spirituality** by Fr. Ed Shea: 7 to 9 p.m. Friday Dec. 7, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 8.

Franciscan Father Ed Shea, OFM, believes that 12-step spirituality is God's gift to the 20th and 21st centuries and has a lot to teach us about how best to live these days. Come and reflect on this great gift from God, and recommit yourself to a healthy and happy life. Based on the work of Richard Rohr, OMF. Cost is \$65 for the Friday and Saturday retreat, including closing Mass/ \$115 for retreat with overnight accommodations. Scholarships are available, please inquire if cost is an issue for you.

The Well is located at 1515 W. Ogden Ave., in LaGrange Park. For more information call (708) 482-5048 or visit www.csjthewell.org.

Diaconate Council Notes September 8, 2012

A number of new DDCs were present at the meeting. Fr. Mike Ahlstrom, vicar, asked them to stand and introduce themselves. New members included: David Tiemeier, 1C; Joseph Walsh, 4B; James Janicek, 5E; William Schultz, 5E; and Susan Szarek, representing the women of the Diaconate.

Protection of Children and Youth: Jan Slattery, director of the Archdiocesan Office for the Protection of Children and Youth, spoke about a new initiative to offer ongoing follow-up training regarding proper boundaries with adults as well as minors. The Critical Conversations Program is being introduced to priests, deacons and lay ministers in the archdiocese. Slattery previewed a short segment of the program, which is to be presented to small groups and lead to discussion of the topics. Deacons must complete this training program by spring 2013.

Treasurer's report: No report was available.

Educational and financial grants: Vice Chairman Chuck McFarland plans to assume administrative duties for educational grants and mutual aid. McFarland said there are few requests for education grants or mutual aid and we need to make our community aware that these programs are available. Education grants are intended for study that is directed toward ministry.

Report on St. Lawrence Day: Fr. Mike Ahlstrom (for Dennis Colgan) reported that the annual St. Lawrence Day event was enjoyed by 175 people this year. The first class of deacons from 1972 was recognized celebrating 40 years, as were deacons celebrating 25 years of ordination. The new class of 2012

and their spouses also were recognized. Vicariate VI organized the event and provided setup and cleanup.

Change in meeting schedule: McFarland (for Chairman George Kashmar) said beginning in 2013, full council meetings will be held bimonthly in even-numbered months: February, April, June, August, October and December. Executive Council meetings will take place in odd numbered months.

St. Francis Day Dinner: McFarland reported that ad sales were running at only 70% of last year. Dan Welter's motion that the council purchase an ad in this year's book was passed. The executive committee has already done so. Raffle ticket sales have brought in \$16,281 thus far, according to William Stearns. More parishes are allowing deacons to sell tickets at church.

Memorial cards: McFarland reported that the use of memorial cards has increased substantially. Welter said that we should pray intentionally for those whom we have promised to remember. Memorial cards are now sent to deacon families who have experienced a loss. McFarland proposed that a memorial card be sent to a priest or to his family in time of loss. The motion passed and Paul Spalla was appointed to send cards on behalf of the council. Stearns added that a donation should be included when cards are sent to the office.

Vicar's report: Fr. Mike outlined three purposes for the Diaconate Council retreat at Stritch April 11-12: to clarify our mission, to set

realistic and measurable goals, and to stir up motivation and enthusiasm for who we are and what we are about. It will be the task of the executive committee to organize the retreat and determine who will lead it.

Father Mike asked that the council consider how to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Diaconate in the Chicago Archdiocese. Joe Walsh suggested that we might mark the event during the St. Francis Day Dinner. Other suggestions involved the St. Stephen Symposium or the next Convocation.

Oct. 27 is the St. Stephen Symposium. The emphasis this year will be on ministry beyond the parish.

Report from Associate Director: Dennis Colgan is sending out invitations to St. Stephen's Day. This year, he has a representative of Catholic Relief Services scheduled to deliver the keynote. Welter moved that the council provide the morning coffee and rolls. The motion was passed.

VDCs reports:

Vicariate II, Paul Spalla: Deacons in Vicariate II are meeting with Bishop Kane Oct. 22 at St. Lambert in Skokie. Spalla has recruited David Keene of St. Josaphat to serve as a DDC. Three parishes in VII are without deacons.

Vicariate III, Jose Vazquez: Vicariate III VDC, Jose Vazquez, says he is feeling great following kidney transplant surgery just two months ago. His vicariate is meeting with Bishop Rojas is Oct. 13.

Diaconate Council Notes

(Continued from page 7)

Vicariate IV, Giulio Camerini: Bishop Manz is meeting with deacons in Vicariate IV at St. Eulalia on Oct. 6. Camerini recruited Joe Walsh to serve as DDC for Deanery B and is looking for a DDC in Deanery C.

Vicariate V, Joseph Truesdale: Vicariate V's meeting with Bishop Wypych will be at St. Walter's. The annual Vicariate Memorial Mass is scheduled for Nov. 28 with Bishop Wypych. James Janicek and Bill Schultz have joined the council as DDCs for Deanery E.

Vicariate VI, Dan Ragonese: Those in Vicariate VI who assisted at the St. Lawrence Day were recognized. A date for the October meeting with Bishop Perry will be announced soon.

Black Deacons report: (Welter for William Pouncy) This year's sunrise service at seven Chicago beaches was well attended. At each of the beaches, between 60 and 70 persons joined for Mass and prayer to end violence. At Loyola beach, 200 people were present. The goal next year is to hold a service at all Chicago beaches. This year, 12 priests, one monsignor and one bishop participated.

The black deacons have reserved two tables at the St. Francis Day Dinner.

Events scheduled include a September meeting of priests and deacons from Vicariates III and VI to discuss issues and concerns, and a 2 p.m. celebration Oct. 20 at St. Martin DePorres commemorating 40 years of the Diaconate.

Hispanic Deacons report: Jose Vazquez for Pedro Sedano: Members

of the Hispanic Deacon community met recently with representatives of Kolbe House to discuss ministry to the incarcerated. A former inmate recounted the importance of Kolbe House ministry to him.

Women of the Diaconate: Marge Colgan has submitted a letter in which she regretfully resigned after 23 years as a representative of the women of the Diaconate. Colgan cited health reasons, but promised to be available to participate in Diaconal ministry. She asked for continued prayers and reminded deacons to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of our wives.

Welter made a motion that the council present a resolution to Marge Colgan recognizing her significant service to the Diaconate Community.

Szarek said Theresa Gill will be speaking to the women Nov. 17. In the past, Dennis Colgan said, the council has approved requests to underwrite the expense of these meetings. A motion was made to do so and was passed by the council.

New business: Truesdale reminded deacons that the archdiocese suggests that preaching on the last Sunday of September be about domestic violence.

Dennis Colgan said that Deacon Pete Lagges had left a sizable donation, about \$35,000, to the Diaconate Council.

Dan Welter said the Veterans Administration offered training to those who minister to veterans in their parishes at Hines VA in Maywood. Contact Dan for further information.

Next meeting is scheduled for 9:15 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 10.

Community news

Your prayers are asked for those who have gone to the Lord recently, John Patrick DeFiore (son of Bob and Carol DeFiore), Frank Watzke (brother of Kate Engler, wife of Bill Engler) and Jerry Loman (brother of Raymond Loman).

Among the sick, we commend to your prayers: Francis Cardinal George O.M.I., Kevin Reynolds, Ingrid Lorbach, Jose Vazquez, Marge Colgan, Peggy Virruso, Bruce Peters, Ramon Navarro, Michael O'Malley, Cory Reynolds (son of Kevin and Jen Reynolds), Candace Rottman, Pete Meehan, Bill Reinhart, Steven and Millie Moore, Diane Leo, Florence Szady, Daniel and Maria Patiño, John Wilkenson, Ida Bohannon, Robert DeFiore, Alfia Sasseti, Linda O'Donnell, Susan Winblad, Frank DeVita, Gilberto and Maria Cintron, Antonio and Ernestina Ponce, Jorge and Nubia Roza, Teresa Ochoa, José Uroza, Jose Marrero, Gerry Skaja (brother of Larry Skaja), Dustin Fejdasz (nephew of Michael and Marge Hogan), Laura Deters (daughter of Frank and Carolyn Beil), Cheryl Ann Gaca (daughter of Ron and Linda Morowczynski), Robert Lapin (brother in law of Dennis Colgan), Cheryl Becker, Robert Brueggemann and Marion Jelcz.

To add someone to the sick or deceased list, please call the Diaconate Office at (708) 366-8900.

A need to teach people about Catholic burials

(Continued from page 1)

proclaims one's authentic belief that Christ is the Messiah -- "that Christ will come again." People will know who we were, even if they had never met us.

Anyone who drives past a Catholic cemetery, regardless of their own religious beliefs or convictions, knows that those interred within this sacred ground dotted with religious monuments and sculptures, share a definite and defined sense of both the human and divine aspects of one's creation by the Almighty.

As such -- in life -- through our commitment to "practice what we teach" we bring comforting words of hope to those experiencing despair, light to those who live in darkness and warmth to those feeling only coldness in their lives through rejection or abandonment. It is through this act of our practicing "living life" that people will begin to know who we are!

At the same time, we need to make them aware of who *they* are and how they want to be remembered.

In a recent analysis at the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Chicago, we found that of those buried in our 44 cemeteries last year who said they were Catholic, 2,242 people or 15% DID NOT have a Funeral Mass and 695 or 4.5% were just "dropped off" -- no family, clergy or parish community members accompanied their remains to the cemetery for the final committal.

Yes, there are many reasons why Mass was not celebrated for the deceased -- financial hardship, time restraints, lack of knowledge. That judgment as to the "why" of that decision is certainly not one for us to personally make. However, if

Mass attendance was an integral part of the pilgrim journey of the deceased and there is no celebration of Mass, we fail to let people know who they or we are.

If there was no family, friends or faith community to accompany these members of God's family to their "final place of rest" we have failed to tell "their story" in both a visible and lasting way.

It is the mission of all of us who are members of the Diaconate Community -- as catechists and evangelizers -- to bring awareness and enthusiasm to the value offered in the Order of Christian Funerals to the larger faith community. We know the value, the grace, the solace, the hope and the peace it expresses through its words, signs, symbols and sacrament. It is important that the core of this faith -- the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist -- be received, appreciated and understood.

Death is a natural part of life. It is only fitting that we celebrate and proclaim it. In the Preface of the Mass of Christian Burial, we hear the words, "for your faithful people O Lord, life has changed not ended." Death seen through the eyes of a Christian is not the end; it is a natural passageway to a changed life with God.

As Christ's last words on the cross, "it is finished," rang out to His Father, we are reminded that this act of love for us has resulted in the beginning of a "new eternal life" of unending love -- the union of the created with their Creator.

With his Apostolic Letter "Porta Fidei," Pope Benedict XVI declared that a Year of Faith would begin Oct. 11. It is to be "a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the world" -- a conversion leading to a deeper relationship and understanding of the Lord. The practice of the Liturgical Rites of the Church makes "alive" the welcome of that journey for others

and us.

We are reminded through Christ's resurrection, that we are all God's children. May we be filled with hope expressed in the words from Revelations 21: 2-5. May our voices speak these words during our lives and thereafter ...

"I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain for the old order has passed away.'

The one who sat on the throne said... 'Behold, I make all things new.'"

And yes by one's interred presence within the sacred grounds of a Catholic Cemetery...

"They will know who you are."

-- Deacon Glenn Tylutki is outreach coordinator cemetery services, for Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Presentations offered

A new program explaining the planning, meaning and celebration of Funerals (Vigil, Mass and Committal) is now available through the outreach ministry of the Catholic Cemeteries.

These presentations are available days, evenings and weekends for your monthly parish meetings, RCIA classes, Knights of Columbus meetings, senior groups, etc.

To schedule a presentation for your group, please contact: Deacon Glenn Tylutki at (708) 236-5441 or gtylutki@cathcemchgo.org.

Also of special note for deacons, a special allowance package has been created for the purchase of your burial needs and additional burial spaces for your family. Call for more information.

Multi-Cultural Celebration offered

A Multi-Cultural Celebration sponsored by the Office for Divine Worship, with the support of Liturgy Training Publications, will be held Nov. 16-18 at the Motherhouse of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph.

The celebration will consist of a Multi-Cultural Sacred Concert and Prayer Service on Friday, a "Colloquium on the Pastoral Issues Surrounding Cultural Pluralism in Liturgy (Mass)" on Saturday and an Adult Choir Festival/Liturgy on Sunday.

The multi-cultural concert and prayer service will be at 7 p.m. Friday. The presider will be Edith Prendergast with Rollo Dilworth as the guest artist. The concert and prayer service will be in a "Lessons and Carols" format. Widen your encounter of "Church" by



Fr. Manuel Dorantes will be the principal celebrant at the Multi-cultural Celebration sponsored by the Office of Divine Worship.

experiencing some of the finest ethnic choirs from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The colloquium will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Sunday after Sunday as communities of faith we gather as one around the Lord's table. The table, spread with gifts and hosted by Christ, is a table of many connections and an orchestration of word and silence, music and chant, gesture and procession. We receive and celebrate the many faces of God in the breaking of the bread, "because

the loaf of bread is one, we though many, are one body for we 'all partake of the one loaf.'" (1 Cor:10:17).

Adult choir festival rehearsals will be from 7 to

9:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

The Adult Choir Festival Mass will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday. The Rev. Manuel Dorantes will be the principal celebrant, the Rev. Arthur Anderson, OFM, will be the homilist and Rollo Dilworth will be the music director.

The Motherhouse is located at 1515 Ogden Ave, LaGrange Park. For more information and a registration brochure, visit www.ODW.org.

Deacons included in Mass for deceased clergy

By Deacon Richard F. Hudzik

Each November, the Archdiocese of Chicago has remembered her deceased bishops and priests at a memorial Mass. This year, on Friday, Nov. 16, at Holy Name Cathedral's 12:10 p.m. Mass, deceased deacons will also be remembered, along with the rest of Chicago's clergy.

The addition of deacons to the memorial Mass came about at the suggestion of Deacon Dan Welter. Welter, together with Father Mike Ahlstrom, approached the archdiocese's Vicar General, Monsignor John Canary, who readily agreed that the deacons should be remembered along with the other deceased clergy.

As a sign of this new inclusion of deacons, deacons are being further honored at the Mass. At the request of Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., the privilege of offering the homily at the Mass has been given to the deacons and that honor has fallen to me.

In the homily, I plan to reflect on the fact that, just as we might look up to those who have gone before us in ministry, so too is the possibility that those who follow us might be looking at you and me. We might find it easier to see our predecessors as spiritual heroes or models. We might find it preposterous to consider ourselves in the same light. We know ourselves too well.

Nevertheless, you and I do soldier on as servants of our Lord and we necessarily rely on his grace to accomplish anything. It is our fondest hope that those who follow in our footsteps will be edified by

our example. We pray that when the day comes for us to be remembered at a memorial Mass, you and I will be recalled with favor.

If we are so remembered, it is only because the Lord has gone before us and, by his cross and resurrection we were healed. We remain ever needful of his grace and mercy. We remain ever grateful for the grace shed on those who have gone before us who have showed us what a life in Christ might look like.

To stand in solidarity with each other and to remember the clergy who have preceded us in death, all deacons are invited to attend the memorial Mass and to sit as a body of deacons, vested in alb and archdiocesan stole. Cardinal George will be the celebrant.

-- Deacon Richard F. Hudzik is the co-vicar for the Diaconate Community and director of Stritch Retreat House.

Views from the Vicar

(Continued from page 3)

form and turn it into the monitor for processing. If you do not know who this is, ask your pastor.

Convocation: Marriage preparation is increasingly becoming a challenge. Significantly fewer people are getting married. If they do get married, many do so outside our Church. The majority who do get married in church are already living together and very few come to Sunday Mass. Add to this, the efforts to help couples improve communication with each other, and we have a huge challenge.

Because this affects so much of the future of our Church, we are making Marriage Preparation the focus of our Convocation to be held on **March 9**. It will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Concordia University where we had our recent St. Stephen Symposium.

Even if you are not currently involved with engaged couples, you may become so in the future. Please

reserve the date on your calendar if you have not already done so. Please advise your pastors that you are expected to be present for our convocation and not to schedule you for any ministry that day.

Our facilitator will be Dr. James Healy. Jim has spoken on marriage in over 70 dioceses across the country. His marriage preparation and enrichment booklets and CDs (most notably "How to Get Married and Stay Engaged" and "Living Together and Christian Commitment" are very popular. Since 1989, he has been the director of the Center for Family Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet. He received his M.A. in the social sciences from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Illinois. You will find him an engaging and dynamic speaker. I especially encourage the women of the Diaconate Community to participate in this day. Couples ministering to couples are very effective.

Advent-Christmas: Soon we will be entering into what is personally a very

busy time of year – the Advent-Christmas season. Culturally, Advent is ignored and Christmas is anticipated during this church season of quiet waiting. Then the Christmas season all but ends on Dec. 26. Our culture misses out on the Feast of the Holy Family, Mary as Mother of God, Epiphany and the Baptism of our Lord.

Spiritually we need to deliberately make time for Advent quiet. We need to remember we are not simply reenacting the historical coming of Jesus, but celebrating his present and future comings. While we love to tell the story of the birth of Jesus, we also need to reflect on the beginning of John's gospel. What does it mean that God so loved us that he literally became one of us? What does this say about my becoming more a part of the people I serve? What does this mean that I become part of the disenfranchised and the forgotten most of us rather ignore? Please take the time you need to probe more deeply into what this season is all about. God bless this special time of year.

Father Michael Ahlstrom

Reflexiones del Vicario

(Continued from page 3)

Matrimonios se esta volviendo un reto cada día mayor. Muy pocas parejas se están preparando para casarse. Si algunos se casan lo están haciendo fuera de la Iglesia. La mayoría de los que se están casando en la Iglesia ya viven juntos. Muy poco vienen a la Misa los domingos. Agreguen a esto todos los retos que tenemos para ayudar a las parejas a comunicarse mejor y veremos que tenemos un reto gigante. Porque esto afecta mucho el futuro de nuestra Iglesia estamos haciendo la Preparación del Matrimonio el foco de nuestra Convocación para llevarse a cabo el 9 de Marzo del 2013. Se llevara a cabo de 8:30 a 3:30 en la Universidad Concordia donde hemos tenido nuestro Symposium San Esteban. Aunque no estés actualmente envuelto con las parejas comprometidas podrías estar envuelto en un futuro. Por favor reserva esta fecha en tu calendario. También avisa a tu pastor que se requiere tu presencia en nuestra convocación

para que no te programe en ninguna actividad de la parroquia en ese día.

Nuestro facilitador será el Doctor James Healy. El ha hablado sobre el matrimonio en 70 diócesis alrededor del país. Su libros sobre preparación y enriquecimiento del matrimonio y su CD's son conocidos, muy notable es "Como casarse y seguir comprometidos. Viviendo juntos y Compromiso Cristiano, son muy populares. Desde 1989 él ha sido el Director del Centro del Ministerio de Familia para la Diócesis de Joliet. Recibió su Maestría en Ciencias Sociales de la Universidad de Chicago y su Doctorado en Consejería Sicológica de la Universidad de Illinois. Lo encontraran interesante y un presentador dinámico. Animen especialmente a las mujeres del Diaconado a participar en ese día. Las parejas que sirven a las parejas son muy efectivas.

Adviento - Navidad: Muy pronto estaremos entrando en lo que personalmente es un tiempo muy ocupado del año. La estación de Adviento y Navidad. Culturalmente el Adviento es ignorado y la Navidad

adelantada durante este tiempo de espera y entonces la estación de Navidad toda termina el 26 de Diciembre. Nuestra cultura pierde la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia , María como Madre de Dios, Epifanía y el Bautismo de Nuestro Señor. Espiritualmente, necesitamos hacer un tiempo deliberadamente de quietud durante el Aviento. Debemos de recordar que no solamente estamos repitiendo la venida histórica de Jesús sino que estamos celebrando su presente y su venida futura. Mientras que nos guata tanto contar la historia del nacimiento de Jesús también necesitamos reflexionar en el principio del evangelio de Juan. Que significa que Dios nos amó tanto que decidió hacerse uno de nosotros. Que dice esto acerca de hacerme más parte de aquellos a los que sirvo. Que quiere decir acerca de los olvidados y los necesitados que muchas de las veces nosotros ignoramos. Por favor tomen el tiempo para entrar mas profundamente en lo que esta estación verdaderamente significa. Que Dios bendiga este tiempo del año.

Father Michael Ahlstrom

Stritch House update

By Deacon Richard F. Hudzik

Listed below is the remainder of this fiscal year's calendar for Stritch-organized retreats (which is to say, there are other retreats which deacons attend, but which Stritch only hosts and does not organize). Please call, fax, write or email to make your reservations. For the retreats in Spanish, remember that you can register either through Stritch or through the Diaconate Office.

Why are retreats mandated by canon law? By my lights, I believe it is *because the people whom you love and serve need you to be men and women of prayer*. Retreats are ways of helping you become open to God's grace to accomplish that work in you. If we want to serve better, we need to be engaged continuously in the practice of developing our life in God.

Nov. 16-18 Deacons and wives (in Spanish): Rev. Luis Vera is the retreat leader.

Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Deacons: Deacon Alfred Coleman (director of Zacchaeus House) is the retreat leader.

Jan. 18-20 Deacons and wives: Fr. Kevin Scalf, CppS (former St. Joseph College campus minister and present associate



pastor in the Gary Diocese) is the retreat leader.

Feb. 1-3 Deacons and wives (in Spanish): Rev. Adan Sandoval Duron (pastor of Our Lady of the Mount) is the retreat leader.

March 15-17 Deacons and wives: Dr. Kate Wiskus is the retreat leader.

April 12-14 Deacon wives and widows: Rosanne Coury is the leader of a retreat entitled "Weaver Women: A Practical Spirituality for Daily Living."

May 17-19 Deacons: Rev. Martin Zielinski (Mundelein Seminary professor of church history) is the retreat leader.

May 24-26 Deacons and wives (in Spanish): Deacon Miguel Valle is the retreat leader.

-- Deacon Richard F. Hudzik is the co-vicar for the Diaconate Community and director of Stritch Retreat House.

In Memoriam

Deacon Angelo J. Marotto

Deacon Angelo J. Marotto, class of 1975, died Sept. 22. He was 83.

Deacon Marotto served at St. Domitilla Parish in Hillside. He was retired from ministry.

When he was active, Deacon Marotto was involved in the choir, presided at novena services, baptized, preached and participated in plays in the parish, said Deacon Ken Bell who served with him at St. Domitilla. He also was a member of the 3rd Order of Servites.

He was preceded in death by his wife Frances. He is survived by seven children and 13 grandchildren.

Deacon Thomas A. Woytus

Deacon Thomas Woytus. Class of 1989 died Sept. 17 at age 69. Retired from ministry, Deacon Woytus was a member of Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Cicero and a Fourth Degree member of The Knights of Columbus. Thomas was a professional drummer and had a passion for cooking and won many cooking contests. Deacon Woytus is survived by his wife, Diane, three children and two grandchildren.

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