



THE FLAME

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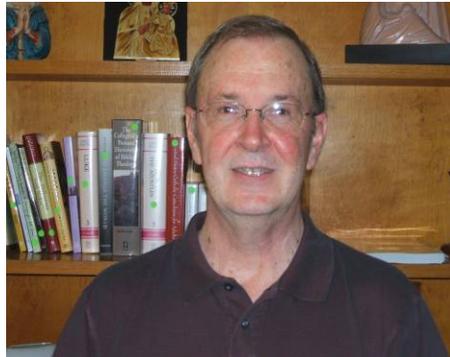
Cardinal appoints Hudzik co-vicar

By Deacon Dave Brencic

With the recommendation of a search committee, Francis Cardinal George, OMI, has appointed Deacon Richard Hudzik the new co-vicar for Chicago's Diaconate Community.

Ordained in 1998, Hudzik will be part-time starting in September and will take on the job full-time beginning in January. Fr. Mike Ahlstrom will continue as vicar for the Diaconate community, but after July 1, 2013 will reduce his work load as Hudzik becomes more acclimated to the position.

Hudzik, who has been director of the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein for the last seven years, comes with practical work experience and a strong background in ministry and education. Not only is he a lawyer by profession, Hudzik has a Master



Deacon Richard Hudzik has been appointed to be co-vicar for the Diaconate community beginning part time September 1, 2012, and full-time beginning January 1, 2013.

of Arts in Pastoral Theology, a Master of Divinity and is a Doctor of Ministry.

He has ministered at two parishes - St. Maria Goretti in Schiller Park for 12 years and Church of St. Mary in Lake Forest since 2010. Hudzik also has served as a Deanery Deacon Coordinator since 2011 for Deanery C of Vicariate I, been a group leader for the Emmaus program for newly ordained deacons and their wives, been a mentor group leader for the Institute for Diaconal Studies and is chair of Defense of Marriage Department for the Catholic Conference of Illinois. He also has given numerous retreats and workshops.

Hudzik is married to Rebecca, is the father of three children and a grandfather of three.

While acknowledging his time at Stritch has been "a wonderful learning experience" and admits it will be difficult to leave, Hudzik said he saw the position as co-vicar

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Conference speakers focus on religious liberty

By Deacon Chick O'Leary

Nearly 300 deacons and their wives, priests and concerned laity gathered June 16 at St. Lambert Parish for a conference in preparation for the Fortnight for Freedom called for by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops.

Co-sponsored by the Office of the Diaconate of the Archdiocese of Chicago, the Institute of Diaconal Studies of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary and Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, the conference was intended to prepare those who minister in the Church as they catechize others on the topic of religious liberty as spelled out in the bishops' document, "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty."

Following an opening prayer led by Fr. Mike Ahlstrom, Deacon Richard Hudzik, who emceed the event, introduced Professor Teresa Collett of the University of St. Thomas School of Law.

Collett, who had been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as consultant to the Pontifical Council for the Family, gave an overview of the threats to religious liberty in the United States with particular emphasis on the mandate by the Department of Health and Human Services, which would require most religious institutions to provide services which they hold to be objectively evil.

A particularly poignant part of

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Cursillo calling

During the past year, it kept coming up. People would mention they had gone on a Cursillo weekend or I would come across an information table at various workshops or symposiums. Finally, it sunk in that the good Lord was telling me that I should say yes and experience a Cursillo.

I ended up going on the three-plus day Cursillo at the end of March and it was an extremely fulfilling, uplifting time spent with 17 other men and a very dedicated, faithful team.

Part retreat, part education, Cursillo is something that energizes one's faith like nothing I've experienced since Diaconate formation. The tenets of Cursillo – evangelization, tapping into the inspiration and strength of the Holy

Spirit, using one's God-given talents to build up God's Kingdom – struck a deep chord within me as a deacon.

The mantra of Cursillo is “make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ.” Isn't that what we are called to do as Christ's disciples... as Christ's deacons?

Serving as spiritual directors on the Cursillo weekend were Deacons Dismas Fernandez and Bill Karstenson who not only gave educational and witness talks, but also were available for counseling. Since that weekend, I have learned of other deacons who have made a Cursillo and who have been involved with weekend teams. In a future issue of *The Flame*, I hope to have several deacons share their experiences working with Cursillo because it is a movement that certainly resonates with who we are as deacons.

Once people complete a weekend, they are asked to join what's called a reunion group that regularly meets and keeps them accountable to living their faith. People also are asked to invite others to experience Cursillo. I invited a woman from St. Barbara to the women's weekend in May and she too came back energized and on fire with the Holy Spirit.

So if you've never been invited to a Cursillo, consider this your official invitation. There is a men's weekend set for October and a women's weekend in November. Think about it. Pray about it and invite someone to join you.

De Colores!

Keep the fire burning,

Deacon Dave Brenic, Editor

The Flame

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Llamada Cursillo

Durante el año pasado, se mantenía saliendo. La gente mencionaba que habían ido a un Cursillo el fin de semana o me encontraba con una lista de información sobre talleres o simposios. Finalmente, cai en cuenta que el Señor me estaba diciendo que debería de decir que si y tener la experiencia de un Cursillo.

Termine yendo a un 3 días y más de un Cursillo a finales de Marzo y fue un tiempo lleno y edificante con 17 hombres más y un equipo dedicado y lleno de fe. Fue parte retiro, parte educación. El Cursillo es algo que da energías a tu fe como ninguna otra cosa había experimentado desde la formación al Diaconado. Los principios del Cursillo, -evangelización, con una rociadita de inspiración y la fuerza del Espíritu Santo usando los talentos que Dios nos ha dado para construir el Reino de Dios - tocaron las cuerdas más íntimas como diacono.

La mantra del Cursillo es : “ has un amigo, se un amigo y trae ese amigo a Cristo” No es eso lo que estamos supuestos a hacer como discípulo de Cristo? Como diáconos de Cristo?

Sirviendo como directores espirituales del Cursillo estuvieron el Diacono Dimas Fernández y Bill Karstenson que no solamente dieron presentaciones educativas y de testimonio pero

también estuvieron disponibles para consulta. Desde ese fin de semana he sabido de otros diáconos que han hecho un Cursillo y que han estado envueltos en los equipos de fin de semana. En una edición futura de Flame espero tener varios diáconos que compartan su experiencia trabajando en un Cursillo porque es un movimiento que ciertamente hace un eco a lo que nosotros somos como diáconos

Una vez que la gente ha completado un fin de semana se les pide que se unan a lo que se llama reunión de grupo que regularmente se encuentran y se hacen responsables de vivir su fe, También se les pide que inviten a otros a experimentar un Cursillo. Yo invite a una mujer de Santa Barbara a un fin de semana de mujeres en el mes de Mayo y ella también regreso con la energía y el fuego del Espíritu Santo

De manera que si tu nunca has sido invitado, considera esta como una invitación oficial. Hay un fin de semana programado para Octubre y un fin de semana de mujeres para Noviembre. Piénsalo, Ora en ello e invita a alguien a venir contigo.

De Colores

Mantén el fuego encendido

Diácono Dave Brenic, Editor

Views from the Vicar

I am excited! Cardinal George has appointed **Deacon Richard Hudzik to be co-vicar** for the Diaconate community. Dick is an excellent choice. He was the No. 1 candidate chosen by our search committee. Cardinal George shares our enthusiasm for Dick taking on this new role. As he begins with us in September, he will be winding down his commitment at Stritch Retreat House and looking for a new home closer to our office.

You may recall that when I consulted the Diaconate Council and the entire Diaconate community about future leadership, the consensus was that a deacon should have a larger leadership role, as is common in most dioceses. Yet it was also a consensus that a priest continue in a leadership role. My thought has been that a priest could

serve as part time vicar with a full-time deacon serving as co-vicar. Cardinal George agreed and told me not to wait until I retire to move in this direction. Accordingly for the next 12 months, I will continue to serve as full-time vicar. I will mentor Dick to take on much of what I do, as Fr. Ed Salmon did for me nine years ago. With God's help and our archbishop's approval, I will enter retired status in July 2013, while retaining the title of vicar. My intention is to then continue to work at least two days a week providing oversight, pastoral presence and arbitrating any conflict between priest and deacon.

I was very pleased by the **study day** we had on June 16 to prepare us for the Fortnight of Freedom concerning threats to religious liberties and the health care mandate. We had some 300 participants. The speakers were excellent and the participation was

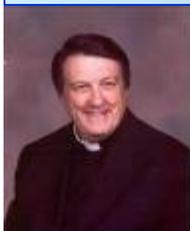
very lively. We are indebted to Deacons Bob Puhala, Dick Hudzik, Denny Mudd and Chick O'Leary who worked very hard to make this happen. Thanks to our Diaconate Council and to the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House, which picked up our expenses for the day, making it a free event for the participants.

Of course much more needs to be done both to inform our people of the critical nature of all this and to pray for a reversal of the terrible injustice as the government both redefines and narrows who we are as a Church, and forces us to pay for things we clearly teach are immoral. This is the tip of the iceberg for a loss of religious liberty and the Church not being able to fulfill its mission to proclaim God's truth.

I am hoping many of you will join us for our **St. Lawrence**

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Reflexiones del Vicario



Estoy emocionado ! El Cardenal George ha nombrado al Diácono Richard Hudzik Co-Vicario para la Comunidad Diaconal. Dick es una excelente opción. El fué el candidato número uno escogido por nuestro Comité de nombramiento. El Cardenal George comparte nuestro entusiasmo por Dick al tomar esta posición. El ha servido tiempo completo como Director de la Casa de Retiro Cardinal Stritch. El estaba también asignado a la parroquia de Santa María en Lake Forest y ha servido como Coordinador del Decanato C en el Vicariato 1. Cuando comience con nosotros en Septiembre él estará terminando sus responsabilidades en la Casa de Retiro y buscando un Nuevo hogar cerca de nuestras oficinas. El estará en la oficina por tiempo completo en el mes de Enero.

Ustedes deben de recordar que cuando consulté el Concilio Diaconal y a la Comunidad Diaconal acerca del futuro liderázgo, el concenso fué que un diácono debería tener un rol de liderázgo mas amplio, como es común en la mayoría de las diócesis. También fue el concenso que un sacerdote debería continuar en un rol de liderázgo. Mi opinión ha sido que un sacerdote podia servir como vicario de medio tiempo con un diácono de tiempo completo como co vicario. El Cardenal George estuvo de acuerdo conmigo y me pidió que no esperara hasta que yo me retirara para moverme hacia esa dirección. De acuerdo a eso yo estaré sirviendo como vicario de tiempo completo por los próximos 12 meses. Yo estaré entrenando a Dick en lo que yo hago del mismo modo que el Padre Ed Salmon hizo por mi hace nueve años. Con la ayuda de Dios y con la aprobación de nuestro arzobispo yo entrare en status de retirado en Julio del 2013 al mismo tiempo que retengo mi título de Vicario. Mi intención es seguir trabajando por lo menos dos

días a la semana para proveer ayuda general, presencia pastoral y servir de arbitrario en cualquier conflicto entre sacerdote y diacono.

Estoy muy contento por el día de estudio que tuvimos en Junio 16 para prepararnos para la Quincena de Oración concerniente al mandato sobre el cuidado de salud.. Tuvimos 300 participantes. Los presentadores fueron excelentes y la participación fue muy animada. Estamos en deuda con los Diaconos Bob Puhala, Dick Hudzik, Denny Mudd and Chick O'Leary que trabajaron fuertemente para que esto pasara. Gracias también a nuestro Concilio Diaconal y a la Casa de Retiro Cardinal Stritch que donaron el costo del dia e hicieron un evento gratis para los participantes.

Por supuesto que se necesita mas cosas por hacer tanto para informar a la gente de la naturaleza y lo critico de todo esto como para orar para que se de marcha atrás a

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Nine men join Diaconate ranks

By Deacon Dave Brencic

Nine men who have gone through years of formation and preparation were ordained by Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., on May 25 and became permanent deacons of the Catholic Church.

All of the men, who were ordained at Holy Name Cathedral, are married and have occupations ranging from lawyers to financial analysts to law enforcement.

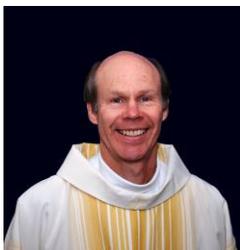
"A major emphasis of the National Directory is that candidates for ordination to the Diaconate be able to articulate their faith to various constituencies and bring to maturity a lively ecclesial conscience," said Deacon Bob Puhala, director of the archdiocese's Institute for Diaconal Studies (IDS). "These men have been beneficiaries of the institute's heightened preparation for diaconal ministry and, I believe, possess a well-integrated sense of the 'communio' ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council and a good understanding of their sacramental role with the Church.

"I also believe that the new elements of formation aimed at assisting wives to more fully integrate the mission and role of deacons with their sacramental marriages (as well as IDS co-journeing with them on their own personal quests for spiritual growth and discernment of their individual calls) have helped wives grow with their husbands while experiencing many elements of formation for themselves."

Meet our new deacons from the class of 2012:

Jack Herrmann

A member of the Church of St. Mary in Lake



Forest, Jack Herrmann is married to his wife, Catherine. The couple has one daughter, Patricia.

Herrmann, 56, is an attorney. After ordination, he says he's looking forward to "welcoming children into our Church through the sacrament of baptism. I also want to spend much of the coming year attending parish events that I was not able to attend when I was in the formation program, being alert for opportunities to be of service to our parishioners."

During formation, Herrmann said he was overwhelmed by the generosity of deacons who shared their time and advice when he had to shadow them doing their liturgical duties.

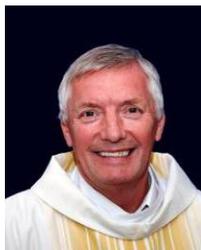
"I met many great role models," he said.

Another highlight for him was the Old Testament course taught by Dr. Pauline Viviano. "She showed how writings from thousands of years ago live for us today as the word of God," he said.

Catherine Herrmann said while she expected her husband to grow spiritually during his journey of formation, she was surprised that she developed an enriched prayer life. "This was the result of the theological reflection groups and the Women of Witness meetings I attended, and was influenced by the many faith-filled people I met in the program," she said.

Stuart Heyes

Stuart Heyes, who is semi-retired, belongs to St. Cletus Parish in LaGrange. Married to his wife, Marlene, and residents of Burr Ridge, they have two children, Haydon and Ruth, and two grandchildren.



Heyes, 63, said he wants to get involved in pastoral care ministry as the ministry of care coordinator dealing with the local hospital,

nursing homes and the homebound, the compassionate care ministry coordinator for funerals, vigil prayer services and follow-up, and with youth ministry as a chaperone and aide.

Heyes said there were many highlights during four years of discernment and formation. He especially enjoyed the after-aspirancy internships with the Learning Center in North Lawndale and working with Hope's on the Way refurbishing a rectory of a poor parish on Chicago's South Side. He also appreciated the Service to the Liturgy and Word internships, which "afforded me the opportunity to experience many of the Deacon's roles, and in so doing exposed me to the wider parish and enabled me to build even stronger bonds with clergy and staff of the parish."

Heyes said the retreats were important in deepening his faith, prayer life and his commitment to his wife and marriage. In addition, classes on the sacraments, canon law and homiletics, along with the practicum on rites and rituals were especially informative and useful.

"Through this program I have seen Marlene's confidence grow beyond my imagination. As a result in her role as a public person, she has blossomed into a great asset to the parish and me and found her own vocation/ministry," Heyes said.

Marlene Heyes acknowledges that she has grown in her faith and her involvement in the parish.

"Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this Diaconate journey has been how it led me to Kolbe House Jail Ministry. When I heard of this, I was filled with desire to get involved and filed my application in the summer of 2009. I was accepted as a Cook County Jail minister in May 2010 and have been visiting the detainees weekly, currently twice a week, ever since. I feel this was my calling -- visiting feels like God's work and of course it is, but I'm filled with such a desire to bring a caring presence and to understand

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and help that I wonder if I'm getting more out of this than the detainees!" Marlene said.

Michael W. Madison

Michael W. Madison, of Arlington Heights, belongs to Our Lady of the Wayside Parish. Madison, 54, is married to Mary Catherine McBride and works as business development director for his wife's civil engineering and land surveying consulting firm, McBride Engineering, Inc.



The couple has four children: Meagan, Daniel, Erin and David and two granddaughters.

After ordination, he would like to get involved in baptismal and marriage preparation, wake ministry, RCIA and a ministry for charity and justice.

Madison said the highlights during formation included an enriched relationship with his wife as they took the classes together and discussed the material; a close fellowship with his classmates and a "new awareness of the meaning and purpose for various liturgies and assisting at the baptism of my first granddaughter."

Madison said he appreciated the caliber of the instructors in the program and also feels that his prayer life has deepened. "Through it all, I have embraced my call from God to be a better servant to his people," Madison said. "The people of my parish, especially my pastor, Fr. Ed Fialkowski, have been very supportive of my formation, which is very welcoming and reassuring."

Mary Catherine McBride said while the years of formation have been challenging at times, the experience has been "overwhelmingly enriching! I feel so very blessed to have been given such a privilege to have this time to study and grow in faith and knowledge and love of our Lord. I am

confident the formation process has prepared us for the ministry experiences to come."

Michael S. McManus

Michael S. McManus, of St. Thecla Parish in Chicago, is married to his wife, Helen. The couple has three children: Jeffrey, David and Siobhan. McManus, 51, works as a senior financial analyst.



McManus said after ordination he hopes "to serve the bishop to best meet the needs of the archdiocese, to foster a ministry of service to the poor and those in need, to maintain a balance of service to the liturgy, word and charity." He also plans on being involved with children's Liturgy of the Word.

There were many highlights during formation for McManus, but he especially enjoyed the time he spent with his wife, Helen, in assisting his spiritual director in his ministry to residents of the Washington Park neighborhood.

McManus said he also enjoyed serving as a reader and acolyte, especially during the Easter *Triduum*. He acknowledges that he was touched by all of the support, prayers and instruction he has received from his pastor, priests, deacons, parish, IDS staff and instructors.

"This formative journey has nurtured a greater love of the faith and nurtured a purposeful curiosity to deepen my faith throughout my earthly journey," McManus said.

Helen McManus said the four-year journey has been a blessing for their family. "We have learned and grown in our faith as a couple. I look forward to supporting and assisting Michael and his ministry. I would like to thank all who have accompanied us on this faith-filled journey."

Gerald E. Nora

Gerald E. Nora of Indian Creek is married to his wife, Patricia. They belong to St. Mary of Vernon Parish in Vernon Hills. Nora, 60, is an attorney, a retired prosecutor, and a full-time instructor at Loyola University and an adjunct faculty member of Loyola Law School.



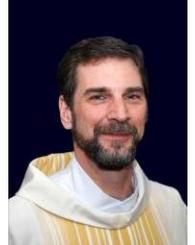
The Noras have four children: Gerald, Thomas, Mary Elizabeth and John Paul, and two grandchildren.

After ordination, Nora would like to be involved with jail and juvenile detention ministry and plans on pursuing ongoing graduate work in biblical studies at CTU.

Nora said the highlights of formation were "too many and too diverse."

Bob Pasdiora

Bob Pasdiora of Streamwood, is married to his wife, Eileen, and attends St. John the Evangelist Church. The couple has one daughter, Jenna. Pasdiora, 50, works as a professional technical architect.



Following ordination, Pasdiora plans to get reacquainted with ministries and parish life as per his pastor's request. He is hoping to get involved with ministers of care and he has been leading communion services at several nursing homes for more than a year.

"I have found these people are reaching out in order to remain connected to the world. Talking and praying with the residents brings them the comfort and love of Christ that he brought to many of the sick people he encountered," Pasdiora said.

He counts the three internships as highlights of his formation. "They

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Working to stop the violence

By Deacon LeRoy T. Gill, Jr.

Memorial Day Weekend, Chicago, 2012 -- At least eight people died and at least 46 others were wounded in shootings over a hot, bloody weekend in Chicago. Joseph Briggs, 16, was the youngest victim of gun violence during that weekend. He was shot in the head while standing with a group of people on the porch in front of his family's home, according to the Huffington Post in June.

Rashaun Stephany, 22, and Mario Jackson, 26, were killed in a single shooting on the 5100 block of South May Street just before 5 p.m. Friday. Three other males were injured in the same incident, reports the Chicago Tribune.

From late Saturday into early Sunday alone, 20 people were wounded by gunfire in Chicago. The victims of gun violence were mostly male. Homicides in Chicago so far this year were up nearly 50 percent when compared to last year, as of late last month.

To shine a spotlight on this scourge of violence, the Black Catholic Deacons of Chicago are organizing sunrise prayer services along the lakefront Aug. 25. This is the third year that services will be held.

Since 2009, the facts remain the same that homicide is the No. 1 cause of death for African Americans and the second leading cause of death among Hispanics between the ages of 10 and 24 years old.

This country has one of the highest rates of interpersonal violence of any industrialized country, and violence is the major cause of nonfatal injuries among youth.

Research suggests that one of the most effective or most

promising deterrence of violent behavior is by strengthening families and children. Additionally, according to the Center for Mental Health Services, children who witness violence between their parents are at increased risk to act violently toward and among other children.

In some communities, violence is a part of daily life. In a study of eighth-graders in Chicago, it was found that 73 percent had seen someone shot, stabbed, robbed or killed.

Many young people who become involved in violence come from families in which there is a long history of domestic violence. Many young people who are violent have been raised in homes that have been, if not physically abusive, hostile and conflict ridden. Children see -- children do. The more children are exposed to violence in their homes, in their neighborhoods and in the media, the greater their risk for aggressive, violent behaviors. The ultimate goal is to stop violence before it starts, focusing on early involvement with children and families.

Today's troubles are not much different from the issues faced by the peoples of the Old Testament. Communities were oppressed by violence, greed and self-servitude. There was a spiritual and physical drought along with a thirsting for peace, justice and prosperity. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had seemingly abandoned the believers, and the hope for a new day was beyond imagination. But a voice of hope encouraged the people to relent, to submit, to pray and ask God to forgive and heal their land.

"The Lord said, if my people, who are called by my name will



Last year, sunrise services were held along the lakefront to pray for an end to violence. Services this year will be on August 25.

humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

—2 Chronicles 7:14-15

This is the hope we share at the sunrise prayer services held. Our prayer and plea is for the healing of our families, schools and communities. This includes warm, supportive relationships with parents or other caregivers, along with extended family, schools and the community since everyone has an important role to play in strengthening families.

With hopeful joy, we pray that all will commit to the work of eliminating violence and join us on the beaches at 6:30 a.m. Aug. 25. Sunrise services will be conducted at: Montrose Beach (a new addition this year by St. Aloysius Church), 12th Street Beach, 31st Street Beach, Oakwood Beach, 63rd Street Beach and Rainbow Beach. Decide what your household can do to bring about peace to the people of God. Consider sponsoring a beach service.

The future of humanity passes by way of the family."

—Pope John Paul, II

-- Deacon LeRoy T. Gill, Jr. is chairman of the Black Catholic Deacons of Chicago.

Group enjoys pilgrimage retreat

By Deacon Ray Gavin

Many deacons have friends who have made humanitarian trips to Guatemala and El Salvador.

I recently participated in the 13th Annual Pilgrimage/Retreat to Central America sponsored by the Maryknoll Fathers, who have worked in Latin America for more than 100 years. It was a 10-day spiritual journey for bishops, priests, brothers and permanent deacons. Our group had 15 priests and three deacons from throughout the U.S. The retreat team consisted of three Maryknoll fathers and a deacon who was the retreat coordinator.

Upon arrival in Guatemala City, we stayed at the Maryknoll guest house. Guatemala City has many street gangs and most buildings have barbed wire on the roofs. Commercial establishments have armed guards even during daytime.

After an orientation in Guatemala City, the group went by minivan for several nights in San Salvador, El Salvador.

We visited the hospital chapel where Archbishop Oscar Romero was killed. Laying our hands on the altar and facing the open doorway from where the gunman killed Archbishop Romero with a single shot was very moving. It is difficult to describe the feeling of standing where an archbishop became a martyr.

After dinner on one of the evenings in San Salvador, the Maryknoll sisters and lay volunteers shared their experiences. I met a 30-year-old who had recently left the corporate world and signed on for three years as a Maryknoll volunteer. He spent several years in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood. As a native of Chicago's Northwest Side, we had many shared experiences about his neighborhood.

Later, we drove down a gravel



Priests and deacons from the United States who made the 13th annual Maryknoll Pilgrimage/Retreat to Central America prepare to celebrate Mass with the Tzutuhil Indian community in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala.

road to a remote field where four Catholic women were dumped after being brutally raped and murdered. We were on holy ground. A small headstone marks the gravesite.

Over the years, a chapel has been built in the field. Our group celebrated Mass with a priest from the Cleveland Diocese. The priest had spent 25 years as a missionary in El Salvador. He returned to Cleveland for parish ministry. Now 80, he has returned and plans to spend the rest of his life where he will be serving the poor in El Salvador.

After returning to Guatemala City, we took a trip to Santiago Atitlan, which is a Tzutuhil Indian community. We celebrated Mass with more than 1,500 men, women and children. The deacons distributed Communion; the line seemed to go on forever. I can't remember ever seeing so many smiling faces. Walking out, every child wanted to shake my hand, some even did high-fives.

At the Guatemala Cathedral, we visited the garage where Bishop Juan José Gerardi Conedera was attacked and brutally murdered. Yes, another emotional experience. We brought vigil lights and laid a wreath since once again we were on holy ground. The garage walls have beautiful murals describing the bishop's life.

We visited with the Human

Rights Commission of the Guatemala Archdiocese on the day a former Guatemalan dictator was indicted to stand trial on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. Efraim Rios Montt was a military general and the president of Guatemala for 17 months. Now that he is out of office he can be prosecuted. This will be the first case brought to trial as a result of the civil war in the early 1980s that saw more than 200,000 mostly Mayan Indians killed.

Driving back to the Maryknoll guest house, the Maryknoll Fathers did not know how the military would react to the indictment. I live in a country, which is not perfect, but in most neighborhoods I can go out at night without the fear of being shot.

I have made many retreats and several out of the country. Never have I experienced modern-day martyrdom. What keeps the faith alive in El Salvador where Archbishop Romero was killed saying Mass? Despite the persecution, the Catholic faith is still strong as evidenced by overflowing crowds at Mass at Santiago Atitlan.

The next Maryknoll pilgrimage/retreat to Central America is tentatively scheduled for January 2013. For information, contact www.maryknollpilgrimage.org or Deacon Ray Gavin at bovi1@prodigy.net.

Conference speakers focus on religious liberty

(Continued from page 1)

Collett's presentation was a comparison of the anthropologies of the human person as evidenced in secular culture and as presented in Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

Collett echoed the understanding of the Founding Fathers as she asserted, "Freedom requires morality, and morality requires religion, and religion requires freedom. Attack any one and all will crumble."

Professor John Breen of Loyola University Chicago School of Law followed with a presentation of United States case law pertaining to the issue of religious liberty. Breen said that a key determinant in the outcome of such cases is the level of scrutiny applied by the judiciary to the competing interests of the state and the individual or institution.

Following lunch, Fr. Thomas Baima, Vice-Rector and Dean of the Graduate School at University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, gave a thorough and practical presentation outlining suggestions for effectively discussing the issue of religious liberty while recognizing and respecting different constituencies in our communities. Fr. Baima built much of his presentation upon suggestions made by Austen Ivereigh in an article "How to Defend the Faith" published in Our Sunday Visitor.

Next up was Fr. Francis Hoffman, executive director of Relevant Radio, who spoke on Relevant Radio's efforts to support the bishops and of their response to the call for a New Evangelization. In addition to Fr. Hoffman's appearance, Relevant Radio ran several promotional spots promoting



Cardinal George addresses the gathering of some 300 deacons, wives and other interested parties during the Conference on Religious Liberties held on June 16 at St. Lambert Parish.

the event, which had been put together in a short six-week period.

The day culminated with an appearance by Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., Archbishop of Chicago, who spoke of the threats to religious liberties he sees in the current political climate.

Cardinal George pointed out that the HHS mandate is law and goes into effect Aug. 13, although there is a one-year grace period for compliance in some areas. Though a supposed "accommodation" had been suggested by President Barack Obama, the mandate was put into effect exactly as originally presented.

The cardinal also pointed out that, for the first time in the history of the United States, the government has claimed the authority to declare which institutions may be considered Catholic.

Cardinal George expressed his gratitude to the ad hoc committee which organized the conference and asked those gathered to continue to pray about this issue and educate the people in both the church and secular communities particularly during the Fortnight for Freedom, which ran from June 21 through July 4.

Community news

Your prayers are asked for those who have recently gone to the Lord: Deacon Joseph Lewis, '72; Deacon Manuel Del Llano, '96; Deacon Tommy West, '82; and Deacon Ronald Schultz, '80.

Among the sick, we commend to your prayers: Cory Reynolds, son of Deacon Kevin and Jen Reynolds; Candace Rottman, Pete Meehan, Philip Disparte, Janet Tipperreiter, Bill Reinhart, Tom Coffey, Steven and Millie Moore; Diane Leo, Richard Stojak, Florence Szady, Daniel and Maria Patino, John Wilkenson, Ida Bohannon, Robert DiFiore, Alfia and Robert Sasseti, Linda O'Donnell, Susan Winblad, Janet Studer, Frank DiVita, Rosa Dominguez, Gilberto and Maria Cintron; Antonio and Ernestina Ponce, Jorge and Nubia Roso, Teresa Ochoa, Jose Uroza, Jose Marrero, Gerry Skaja, Laura Deters, Cheryl Becker, Robert Brueggmann and Amparo Restrepo.

To add any names to the sick or deceased list, contact the Diaconate Office at (708) 366-8900.



Phoebe's Corner:

Answering the call to serve

By Chris Grable

Many years ago a small article under a photo in the Catholic New World started a journey into the fourth Diaconate formation class for my husband and myself. At that time, the program strongly emphasized that the journey was for both the husband and the wife to grow in their faith and in their relationship. These were exciting times to grow in faith and be of service as we were part of history unfolding after Vatican II. In fact, our class was the first one where the women were required to attend classes.

Members of those early classes became pioneers in fielding questions from parishioners and family members about the new ministry. At that period of time in the church, there wasn't much talk about "gifts" or discovering your gifts in ministry. The focus was on service. Like most other candidates and wives, my husband and I had already been involved in service projects in our parish, but now we were being opened to new opportunities of ministry for lay people. We were both called into many leadership experiences as we ministered within the parish community and wherever we were being called to bring God's light, love and hope to others.

Training in Diaconate formation certainly strengthened gifts we weren't even aware we possessed. A much greater appreciation of gifts within oneself and in others comes with time and experience. We primarily focused on ministering together as a couple as our children were young and we didn't want to be running in separate directions.

During the 25 years since my husband's passing, I know with

certainly that the call to service hasn't ended. God has been present in the many opportunities to bring people together in unity and to follow Jesus' example. Sometimes God's presence is in a gathering of people for a meeting. Sometimes a person invites you to lunch and then pours out their concerns and struggles. Sometimes people just ask for prayers because they trust that you will follow through.

About five years ago, a small article in the church bulletin brought me into a new ministry called Earth Stewardship, which focuses on raising awareness of our responsibility to care for God's creation and live in communion with all creatures. I have now chaired this ministry for several years and watched it grow in membership as we strive to bring this message to our parish community through the lens of stewardship.

Representatives of other faith communities in my area have also gathered to share information about what is happening in our churches in the way of recycling and environmental awareness. This group sponsors an annual educational Earth Day Fair for the community with a number of nonprofit exhibitors.

Diaconate training was a good beginning and I have grown as a woman of faith through many experiences. I feel a great sense of making a difference to help bring about the *fullness* of God's Kingdom on Earth. It's not to say there haven't been challenges.

I feel women have wonderful gifts to share. They bring mystery, wisdom, spirit, comfort, joy and wonder into life. Women have had an important role in passing on family traditions of prayer and loving God, maintaining close family ties, and being kind and generous toward others. Being a wife of a deacon isn't something to be feared. If we explore something new, we may find challenging, fun and fulfilling ways to serve God's people.

Deacons to lead trips to Holy Land

Deacons will be leading two different pilgrimages to the Holy Land in the coming months.

Deacons Rich Voytas of St. Daniels and Dennis Robak of St. Mary Parish will be leading a 12-day trip to Israel and Jordan from Aug. 27 to Sept. 7.

Deacon Dismas Fernandez along with Blessed Sacrament Parish will be guiding a 10-day trip from Jan. 14-24.

The Voytas-Robak trip leaves from Chicago and lands in Amman, Jordan. From there, the trip heads to the Dead Sea and Masada and on to Jerusalem. Points of interest there include the Mount of Olives, Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulchre, Upper Room and many other sights. The group also will visit Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, the River Jordan, Tiberias, Petra and returns to Amman for the return flight home.

Cost is \$3,590 plus other fees per person double occupancy. For more information, call Rich at (773) 586-3734 or Dennis at (847) 491-9260.

The trip led by Dismas leaves Chicago for Tel Aviv, Israel. Sights will include the Tiberias and Galilee region with stops at Mount of Beatitudes, Mount Tabor, Cana and Nazareth. The itinerary shifts to Jerusalem and its many points of interest along with visits to the Dead Sea region, Bethlehem, the Old City and others.

Cost is \$2,798 plus other fees per person double occupancy. There are also optional 3-night excursions to Jordan or Egypt for additional costs. For more information, call Dismas (773) 551-2902 or email deacondgf@gmail.com.

**The Flame online at
deacons.archchicago.org**

Diaconate Council Notes May 12, 2012

Meeting of the Diaconate Council was called. Roll call indicated that 27 members out of 40 were in attendance, a quorum was present.

Treasurers report: \$49,036.33 was the bank account balance as of Feb. 29. Archdiocesan Bank CD values as of March 30: \$35, 600.87 in a 12-month CD at 1.70%; \$35,507.73 in a 12-month CD at 1.70%; \$35, 478.26 in a 12-month CD at 1.70%; \$35, 453.04 in a 12-month CD at 1.70%.

2012 Deacon Charities: \$4,410 donated through May 3 (Down 40% from last year): \$1,205 Zaccheaus House; \$1,075 Friends of Orphans; \$625 Emmaus House; \$525 Faith and Fellowship; \$315 Hope's on the Way; \$665 no preference. (Hope's on the Way was left off most of the mailing envelopes by mistake)

Educational and financial grants, Vice-Chair, George Kashmar: No additional mutual aid or financial grants were requested.

Old business: election of Executive Council. Chairman Stearns announced that he did not wish to run again. He then turned the meeting over to Dave Egan, election committee chairman. Committee members Dan Welter, Paul Spalla and Dave Egan conducted the election of officers. Those nominated for chair were Sal Lema and George Kashmar; Chuck McFarland, vice chair; Dennis Robak, treasurer; and no one ran for secretary. The office will be voted on at the next meeting.

The first vote for chairman ended in a tie. The second vote of members elected George Kashmar chairman. Outgoing secretary Sal Lema, thanked members for their dedication during his nine years on the council.

Revised policy book: There was extended discussion regarding the policy book with a number of comments on the policy of moving deacons every 10 years and the vision of having a deacon at every parish. Members felt more discussion was needed before they were willing to vote to accept the policies. Motion to table the policy book passed.

Division and distribution of Deacon Charity Funds: Chuck McFarland stated that some envelopes were printed without the Hope's on the Way charity listed. He suggested that the council double the charities' money by taking funds from the no-preference category. The remainder of the no-preference money would then be distributed equally to all charities. A motion to match fund the donated funds up to \$1,000 to each charity carried.

Vicar's Report: Father Mike was not present due to the Presbyteral ordination. He communicated his wish to promote religious liberty and conscience rights and urged that the Diaconate community support and promote the Fortnight of Freedom.

Archdiocesan stole. The office set aside June 2 at St. Barbara for pickup of the deacon stoles. Each VDC and DDC will take the stoles that were not picked up.

Associate Director's report: Dennis Colgan informed everyone of upcoming dates. The St. Stephen Symposium will be Oct. 27 at Concordia University. The Convocation will be March 9 also at Concordia.

Reports of VDCs and DDCs:

Vicariate I, Ray Loman:

Transfers within the vicariate are being discussed. Hardest part seems to be finding locations for people to transfer to.

Vicariate II: Paul Spalla submitted a report from the Presbyteral Council. It highlighted the coming Year of the Sunday Mass; how to bridge the gap between the Year for Teens and Young Adults; discovering the needs of a pastor; preparing for year 2 with Circles of Witness; and collecting stories from parishioners.

Vicariate III, Jose Vazquez: Jose and Efrin Lopez met with Bishop Rojas last month. The woman of the vicariate have asked for a meeting with the bishop. He has agreed.

Vicariate IV, Giulio Camerini: Giulio wrote a letter to the deacons in the vicariate about the transfer policy. Many responded that they did not want to be transferred just because it was time.

Vicariate V, Joseph Truesdale: Vicariate V is set for their meeting with the bishop for Sept. 12. Nov. 28 will be their memorial mass.

Vicariate VI, Dan Ragonese, excused for the Presbyteral ordination.

Report from Black Deacons: ws. Those interested are asked to call either William Pouncy or Leroy Gill.

Permits are still being sought with the hope that the fees will be waived. William will prepare a letter to be sent to the Chicago Park District regarding the permits. He will ask for the cardinal's approval of the letter by his signature.

Diaconate Council Notes

(Continued from page 10)

May 14 was the date for the back-to-school rally.

Hispanic Deacons: Catholic Cemeteries came out to the Spanish deacons meeting.

Women of the Diaconate: Next meeting will be in October. Teresa Gill will speak on "Violence in the Home." The wives are encouraging all deacons and wives to support and participate in sunrise services run by the black deacons.

Evangelization Committee: No meeting has been conducted since the Convocation. To prepare deacons for Fortnight of Freedom. Richard Hudzik outlined the conference being developed to support religious liberty and conscience. A kick-off event was planned at St. Lambert's June 16. Motion to assist with presentation costs of the conference up to \$2,500 was approved.

Continuing education opportunities: "How to get along with difficult people" offered May 19. "Gangs in our Neighborhoods" presented May 22.

Presentation to Dave Egan: With a new council elected, there is also the change on the board of a past chairman. Having served for 18 years, past chair Dave Egan retired from council service. He was presented with a plaque honoring him for his years of leadership and wisdom.

-- Next meeting is scheduled for July 14.

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Stritch House update

By Deacon Richard F. Hudzik

This note comes to you as we wind down the regularly scheduled, Stritch-sponsored Diaconate retreats for this fiscal year. Still, you are always welcome at Stritch for private retreats. We can almost always find room for any last-minute guests.

For reasons explained below, spiritual direction has been on my mind of late. This prompts me to remind you that Stritch might serve as a place for you to take to prayer those thoughts and resolutions, which arise out of your spiritual direction. It seems helpful to have the space and quiet to ask how you might come to know and serve God better -- topics you and I discuss with our spiritual directors.

On the weekend of May 4, we had two expert spiritual directors lead a retreat for deacons and wives. The retreat leaders were women religious, members of the Apostles of the Interior Life. The report of the retreat goes was glowing -- they loved the sisters. I heard comments such as, "That was the best retreat I have ever been on."

The work of the sisters' religious community is spiritual direction and formation. They serve today at University of Kansas and at Texas A&M. In the past, they have been at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Additionally, the sisters are serving as spiritual directors and instructors for a program sponsored by the Archdiocese of Kansas City. The formation is called "Catholic Spiritual Mentorship," a two-year program comprised primarily of distance learning and several weeklong sessions in Kansas City. Knowing what I know of the Apostles of the Interior Life, the



instruction will be substantive, faithful and challenging.

The spiritual direction, the pastoral dimension, will rest in the profound love of Christ as articulated and lived by the sisters. The next program will begin approximately one year from now, with a residential week from May 27 through June 2, 2013.

The instruction, taken over the two-year term, includes topics on prayer, liturgy and sacraments, virtue and the moral life, the New Testament, the Theology of the Body and salvation history. At the end of the program, you will have been amply schooled in accompanying those to whom you minister in discerning how God is active in their lives. Of course, as we know, as we accompany others in opening themselves to God, we too benefit immensely and our own relationship with God flowers.

If you would like additional information about the program, I will be happy to try to get you answers. You can also go to www.schooloffaith.com.

As a final matter on spiritual direction, sign up for our directed retreat at Stritch, which runs from the evening of July 22 to lunch on July 28. Dr. Kate Wiskus, Fr. Robert Schoenstene and I will be the directors. Try it. You'll like it.

Call and come to the quiet.
Venite seorsum.

-- Deacon Richard F. Hudzik,
D.Min., is director of Stritch
Retreat House.

(Continued from page 5)

allowed me to experience the role of a deacon inside and outside of parish life. Each of these programs allowed me to connect what was being taught in the classroom to real-life experiences. It opened my eye to the many ways God reaches out to people through the Diaconate.

Looking back over the past four years, I can see how formation has developed my spirituality and catechism in a very considerable and substantial way so that I could both understand and articulate Church teachings as well as be better prepared to minister as a deacon," he said.

Eileen Pasdiora said the formation experience has been a rewarding one and she feels blessed by the people they have met along the way. She also has seen her husband change.

"I have witnessed my husband grow in so many different ways, especially spiritually. I see how he cares for the people he meets and does his best to help them. This is nothing new, but I see a deeper commitment after formation. I, too, have grown; formation has provided me the opportunity to develop an adult understanding of the God I learned about as a child. This was an experience I shall treasure the rest of my life."

Daniel Moore

Daniel Moore, of Indian Creek, is married to his wife, Noelle Altmann Moore. They belong to St. Mary of Vernon Parish in Buffalo Grove.

The Moores have one son, Charlie. Moore, 42, is a programmer analyst.

Following ordination, Moore said he wants to "serve where I am needed and useful."

The strong connection with the men of his class and their wives was a highlight for Moore.



"Our Church is made up of relationships and community; this is a community I am proud to be a part of. We have experienced both loss and joy on this journey with the Holy Spirit inviting us along the way. We are eager to find our place as servants in the church, mediating the grace and peace of our Lord to those who are lost. I am honored and blessed by God to know these men and share in this great ministry," Moore said.

He said he also appreciates the love and support of his wife and son and the families and friends who have been with them on the journey.

Noelle Moore agrees. "We have been blessed through the process of formation to offer support to and be supported by members of our parish, our cohorts and the IDS staff. Our family has grown in faith through formation, and we are eager to share the gifts we have received through this program with our parish and the community," she said.

Robert Montelongo

Robert Montelongo is married to his wife, Lili. They have two children, Bobby and Emily. The Montelongs belong to St. Bruno Parish in Chicago. Montelongo, 42, is a Chicago police officer and works as a chaplain for the department.



After ordination, Montelongo hopes to focus on youth ministry, and he will continue to serve as a chaplain for his brother and sister police officers.

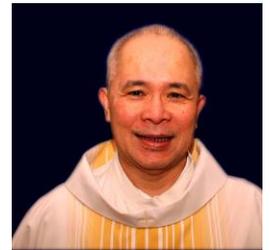
While acknowledging that the formation process was challenging, Montelongo said he is grateful because it prepared him to be a better deacon. "I'm sure it will be a firm foundation for my service to the Church as a deacon," he said.

Lili Montelongo said she is "grateful for the spiritual growth our family has made over these four

years. The friendships and support we have received from everyone have been invaluable to our family."

Ivan Siap

Members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Gurnee, Ivan Siap is married to Arleen. The Siaps of Waukegan have three sons: David, Michael and James. Siap, 54, works as a senior system analyst.



Following ordination, Siap said he wants to be involved with service to the liturgy, International Outreach and Knights of Columbus. The Service to the Liturgy project was the highlight of formation, Siap said. "This was as close as I got to doing 'the real thing.' In some cases, it was the real thing. I had the opportunity to build new relationships and strengthen existing ones, which made it possible for me to engage in such activities as leading a communion service, presiding over evening prayer with a short reflection, and being present to a grieving parishioner and making funeral preparations with her."

Born in the Philippines and now integrated into American society, Siap said he has often asked himself, "now that I have my American Dream, what am I going to do with it? Giving back in service to God and community is my answer."

Arleen Siap said, "It is a blessing to witness nine men grow closer to God in their prayer lives and ministerial works. The love of Christ and for Christ continues to manifest in a stronger faith that comes from the heart and works rooted in charity. Most of all, I feel a closeness borne out of love for each other. Unique though we all are, our shared laughter and tears strengthened our relationships with our spouses and each other. I hope that in the future more husbands and wives will be inspired to take this journey together."

Views from the Vicar

(Continued from page 3)

Celebration Aug. 5 at my parish of St. Barbara in Brookfield. We will be welcoming 19 new deacons with their wives and families into our community. We will honor 22 silver jubilarians ordained in 1987. It is a fun celebration, an opportunity to give thanks for the Diaconate Community, and to renew our commitment to be true servants of Christ and his people.

In our archdiocesan strategic plan, we have begun a new phase, the **Year of the Sunday Mass**. National statistics say only 22% of Catholics come to Mass every Sunday. Another 23% come once a month. Another 25% come on Christmas and Easter and 30% never come! We in the Diaconate Community are closer to many of these people, including family members. We need to be part of the solution as we address the issue

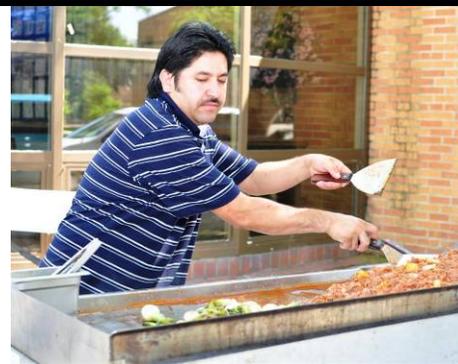
this year. The New Evangelization is needed now more than ever. I want us to be part of this effort. You will be hearing more about how we can do this.

Deacon Don Grossnickle has worked with Vicariate I to raise awareness of **servicing people with disabilities**. We are looking to have people in each Vicariate trained to assume a special role in this regard. If you are interested in finding out more about this, please contact him at DGrossnick@aol.com or call him at (847) 956-7432.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our **St. Francis Celebration** on Sunday, Oct. 7, and our **St. Stephen Symposium** on Saturday, Oct. 27. **Our convocation** is Saturday, March 9.

Finally, I hope you are managing to take some R & R this summer with a little spare time for extra reading and prayer. God's love and peace be with you always!

Father Michael Ahlstrom



**Reserve the date:
St. Lawrence celebration
August 5, 2012
St. Barbara, Brookfield**



Reflexiones del Vicario

(Continued from page 3)

esta terrible injusticia para que el gobierno haga una definición minuciosa de quienes somos como Iglesia y no nos obligue a pagar por cosas que nosotros claramente enseñamos como inmorales. Esta es apenas la punta del asunto por la perdida de la libertad religiosa y el hecho de que nuestra Iglesia no tenga la posibilidad de cumplir la misión de proclamar la verdad de Dios.

Espero que muchos de ustedes estarán acompañándonos en la Celebración de San Lorenzo en Agosto 5 en mi parroquia Santa Barbara. Daremos la bienvenida a 19 nuevos diáconos con sus esposas y su familia a nuestra comunidad. Honraremos a 22 Aniversarios de plata ordenados en 1987. Es una celebración divertida, una oportunidad para dar gracias a Dios por la comunidad diaconal y para

renovar nuestro compromiso de ser verdaderos servidores de Cristo y de su Pueblo.

En el plan estratégico de la Arquidiócesis hemos empezado una nueva fase, el año de la Misa Dominical. Las estadísticas nacionales nos dicen que hay solamente un 22% de Católicos que vienen a Misa los domingos. Que hay un 23% que vienen cada mes. Un 25% que vienen en Navidad y Pascua y un 30% que nunca vienen. Nosotros, la Comunidad Diaconal, estamos muy cerca de muchas de estas personas, incluyendo miembros de nuestra familia. Necesitamos ser parte de la solución mientras vemos este asunto este año. Ahora se necesita la Nueva Evangelización mas que nunca. Debemos ser parte de este esfuerzo. Ustedes estarán escuchando mas acerca de como podemos hacer esto.

El Diacono Don Grossnickle ha trabajado con el Vicariato 1 para

levantar conciencia para servir a personas con incapacidades. Estamos viendo para tener gente entrenada en cada Vicariato para asumir un rol especial a este respecto. Si estas interesado en saber mas sobre esto, por favor comunícate con el dgrossnick@aol.com o llámalo al 847 956 7432

Asegúrense de marcar sus calendarios para nuestra Celebración de San Francisco en Octubre 7 y el Symposium de San Esteban para el sábado Octubre 27. Nuestra Convocación será Marzo 9 del 2013.

Finalmente, espero que se organicen para hacer algo de recreación y de descanso en este Verano con un poquito de tiempo para leer y orar . Que el amor y la paz de Dios este siempre con ustedes.

Padre Michael Ahlstrom

Cardinal appoints Hudzik co-vicar

(Continued from page 1)

as a new opportunity to serve the Diaconate community.

"The Diaconate is so important to me. I wanted to help the Diaconate in a new way. I thought I had something to offer," Hudzik said. "I've gotten to meet a lot of the deacons going through here (Stritch). It's the advantage of having people stay at my house. It just seemed like a natural progression."

Hudzik said he will be able to put his skills as a deacon and a lawyer to good use whether in mediation in ministering to his fellow deacons or in communicating with the Diaconate community at large.

"The lawyering skills combined with the Diaconate call and that vision of the world -- I feel blessed to have those two things in my repertoire of skills," he said.

Going forward, Hudzik said he feels it's important that people know the many good works and service that deacons perform.

"I'm amazed and humbled in meeting the deacons and all the good things that we do and don't know about," Hudzik said. "We don't know each other well enough, what we do and the dedication of guys who have been deacons for 30 years or five years."

Hudzik said he already has a rallying cry and a challenge in mind for the Diaconate community.

"It's my slogan, if you will, if we are the biggest (Diaconate community) in the world, then why don't we also be the best in the

world? What does it mean to be the best? Let's challenge ourselves to excellence. We're capable of it," Hudzik said.

As he transitions into his new role and gets a better idea of priorities, Hudzik has set a goal for himself - visiting deacons where they minister.

"One of the things I would like to do is visit deacons in their natural habitats so to speak. I want to go out to the other parishes and see the guys and their wives teach a baptism class or assist at a Mass and see our community do what they do. We're not about meetings, we're about service."

Fr. Miksaid that he looks forward to working together with Deacon Hudzik and, notwithstanding rumors of his retirement, he fully intends to remain engaged with the Diaconate Community.

Highlights of NADD meeting

In April, Fr. Michael Ahlstrom, vicar for Chicago's Diaconate community, attended the National Association of Diaconate Directors meeting held in Long Island, N.Y.

Here are some of the highlights of the meeting, according to Fr. Mike:

In the 1970 and '80s, the Diaconate had its most growth. Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, Long Island, N.Y., who was one of the featured speakers at the meeting, said he originally believed the Diaconate was superfluous. He thought it took away from the laity. Now he admits he is a convert.

Bishop Murphy outlined strengths, challenges and opportunities facing the Diaconate.



Five strengths:

1. Apostolic origin: catechetical and charismatic - witness Stephen, Lawrence and Vincent.
2. Inspiration of Vatican II.
3. Vocational link to marriage - Eucharist is at its center.
4. Quality and diversity of men
5. Effect on people. (Currently doing a study on this in Rochester, N.Y.)

Five challenges:

1. Clericalism - comes from insecurity about role and being accepted.
2. Understand each role and give support Presbyterial college and relationship to bishop.
3. Get it right liturgically.

4. Readiness to collaborate with new challenges: evangelization, preaching.

5. Integration into life of diocese and Church - be connected.

Five opportunities:

1. Deepen theological and spiritual understanding
2. Communicate double vocation of marriage and Diaconate.
3. Available for new work and ministry.
4. Network for best practices.
5. Find a new way to witness to the world.

Conclusion: pray and think about what to do about above.

Another observation from the meeting: Justin Martyr gives a good summary of Eucharist -- the deacon takes Eucharist out with him!

In Memoriam

Deacon Henry N. Burke, Jr.

Ordained in 1974, Deacon Henry N. Burke, Jr., 71, died April 4.

During his 37 years in ministry, he served in a number of parishes with his last assignment being at Ascension/St. Susanna in Harvey. Deacon Burke was involved with prison ministry, senior citizen care, was a leader of rosary and prayer groups, helped multiple volunteer agencies, was a member of the Knights of Peter Claver and was involved with the Black Deacon community.

He lived out his last years caring for his ailing wife, Patricia, who died in 2009, and spending time with his family and grandchildren.

Deacon Burke served multiple years in the U.S. Army with tours in South Korea and attained the rank of sergeant. He worked various jobs in his lifetime including cab driver, postal worker, security guard and corporate accountant. He was the first black salesman for Brown and William Tobacco Company, breaking the color barrier during the time of the civil rights movement.

Deacon Tom Carlin, who ministered with him at the parish, said Deacon Burke had gotten a van and painted the name of the parish on its side and would use it to pick people up and bring them to Mass.

“He was a real nice guy – friendly, easygoing and self-effacing, with a good sense of humor and a very deep faith,” Carlin said.

Deacon Burke is survived by his three children and seven grandchildren.

Deacon Joseph Lewis

Deacon Joseph Lewis, ordained in 1972, died April 19. He was 75.

Deacon Lewis ministered at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Chicago. His wife, Louise, said he was a convert to the Roman Catholic faith and became a deacon five years after he was baptized.

During his 40 years of ministry, Deacon Lewis was involved in a variety of things in and around the parish including youth ministry, pre-Cana, RCIA, served as director of Religious Education and Ministers of Care. He raised money for scholarships and with his wife organized trips for the seniors. He also was involved in the community and was an activist for affordable housing.

Joseph was the first of 11 children and was born in Mississippi. He served in the Air Force and worked as an electronic technician at the U.S. Post Office.

“He always wanted to be of service to others,” Louise said. “Joseph was devoted to Our Lady of Sorrows.”

He is survived by Louise, three children and four grandchildren.

Deacon Manuel Del Llano

Deacon Manuel Del Llano died suddenly May 27. Ordained in 1996, Deacon Del Llano ministered at Our Lady of Mercy in Chicago. He was 68.

He arrived in the United States from Cuba at age 16. He and his late wife, Maria, had two sons - Robert, who also preceded him in death, and Manuel Jr. During his work life, he was employed as a shipping manager for S&C Electrical.

Deacon Robert Janega, who knew Deacon Del Llano for more than 20 years, said even before he was ordained a deacon Manuel was a man who was very active in the parish and served as a bridge for the Hispanic immigrants coming into the neighborhood and the established parishioners. His involvement included the school board,

managing the marriage preparation and overseeing the parish carnival and bingo.

“He was one of those very quiet people who made everyone feel welcome and respected everybody’s abilities,” Janega said.

After ordination, Deacon Del Llano started a Scripture sharing program in Spanish, counseled couples, was in charge of St. Vincent de Paul, taught for the Instituto de Liderazgo Pastoral, was a fill-in instructor for the Spanish Diaconate Formation program and was constantly recruiting people into ministries.

“He was a brilliant man. He had a blue-collar job, but he really had the intellect,” Janega said. “He was a cross-cultural bridge and just a marvelous human being.”

Deacon Del Llano and his wife Maria received the Award for Outstanding Couple’s Ministry in 2003.

He is survived by his son Manuel Jr. and four grandchildren.

Deacon Tommy West

Deacon Tommy West, ’82, died May 4. He was 74.

Deacon West ministered for 20 years at St. Catherine of Genoa Parish and for the last 10 years at St. Helena of the Cross in Chicago.

He was active in being a Big Brother to boys who needed a role model and in feeding the hungry. He had been a coordinator for Marriage Encounter and for the Black deacons of Chicago. He was a member of the Knights of St. Peter Claver and the Holy Name Society.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; four children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.





Clockwise from top left, Prof. John Breen, Prof. Teresa Collett and Rev. Thomas Baima were featured speakers at the Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Deacon Council, the Institute for Diaconal Studies and Cardinal Stritch Retreat House.

Photos by Deacon Dan Dietsch

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DeaconNews@ArchChicago.org

Deacon Memorial Cards available

Newly designed Deacon Memorial Cards are now available in both English and Spanish.

Each packet contains a memorial card, presentation envelope and reply envelope.

When a reply envelope is received, a replacement card packet will be mailed back. (A minimum donation of \$10 is requested for each card.)

If you wish to receive a replacement card in Spanish, please write Spanish at the bottom of the reply envelope

Please contact the Diaconate Office at [\(708\) 366 8900](tel:7083668900) to have a packet mailed to you.

Money raised helps to fund the ministry of the Diaconate Council including the education grant and mutual aid grant programs.

We hope you choose to use these cards when the occasion arises and help support the Diaconate community.

Through May 2012, memorial prayers have been requested for: Mike Fornino, Joseph Martin, Charles Meelins, Edward Kacmarek, Edward Swiech, Jeff Jenses, Anthony Adolf, William Lally, Elmer Willenberg, Greg Faust, Eileen O'Heir, Dorothy Sauer, Greg Kascewicz, Mrs. Waldeck, Mrs. Camargo, David Ramos, Greg Golec, Laverne DePaw, Mary Batti, Helen Paluch, Ted Cusack, Helen Gasper, Ryan Joseph Callahan, Albert Adomi, Noreen Lynch, Steve Quinn, Frank Mika, Chester Zajac, Melba

Becky Simon, Claude Fouchi, George Suchumski, Kathy Steelman, Frank Nowak, Thomas Dorenz, Daniel Priestley, John Gill, Edward Markovich, Ann Piloti, Geneva & Andy Fuentes, Chester Wilk, Ann Marie Cri, Donna Thompson, Alice McDonald, Estelle Danko, Carmella Bates, Lori Martin, Rosalie Thompson, Jack Kapala, Larry Moffitt, Michael Kinsilowski, Donna Wilkinson, Lynn Nolan, Bernard Sullivan, Elaine Waas, Irene Randelman, Kenneth Marten, Dorothy Barnish, Florence Szady, Flora Walsh, Jane Piper, Mildred Sklena and Mary Ann Taylor.

Also for the following deacons: Edward Scarbali, James Kenney, Herman Benthey, Rosario Ramirez, James Aschenbrenner, Michael Murray, Henry Burke, Joseph Lewis, Richard Stojack, Tommy West and Manuel Del Llano.