



THE FLAME

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Deacon Richard Hudzik and Fr. Michael Ahlstrom congratulate the Outstanding Ministry Award Winners: Marvin and Peggy Kocar, Rose Marie Duffy, Tom Carvlin, John Smith and Gary Kupsak.

Pilgrimage to Spain a journey of discovery for 2 couples

By Deacon Dave Brencic

It was a journey that Deacon Paul and Clare Faherty, and Deacon Terry and Renee Norton will not soon forget.

Walking from 14 to 18 miles a day, for five days for a total of close to 80 miles, the two couples were pushed to their physical limits. The trip was more than just a good stretch of the legs - it was a holy trek that pilgrims have been taking for centuries.

It's known as El Camino de Santiago Compostela or the Way of St. James and is a holy journey that was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages in medieval times as it traces the 500-mile trek across northern Spain. Legend has it that the remains of the apostle St. James were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain where he was buried on the site of what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela.

The pilgrimage has seen a revival since the 1980s and was popularized by the 2010 movie *The Way*, starring Martin Sheen and his son Emilio Estevez.

The Fahertys and Nortons did part of the pilgrimage - between 70 and 80 miles with all of its twists and turns and hills and were able to qualify for the official certificate of accomplishment or compostela given to pilgrims who have successfully walked a minimum of

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Big turnout for 2013 Convocation

By Deacon Dave Brencic

A well-attended 2013 Diaconate Convocation not only heard an informative presentation on marriage preparation by an award-winning expert and author, but also

honored six people for Outstanding Diaconal Ministry.

Dr. James Healy, a psychologist and director of the Office of Family Ministry for the Joliet Diocese since 1989, was the keynote speaker at the Convocation, which attracted 220 deacons and 75 wives.

Attendees to the Convocation received a binder of information from Healy, whose presentation included foundational issues in marriage prep ministry, taking a psychologically sensitive approach to marriage preparation, dealing with and even challenging cohabiting couples and ministering to the "spiritual but not religious" couples.

Fr. Mike Ahlstrom, vicar for the Diaconate Community, said he was impressed with Healy's talk.

"I was very pleased with Dr. Healy's presentation for our Convocation. We are losing too many young people from our Church. His presentation will enable us to better minister at a very

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A fond farewell

As the saying goes, all good things must come to an end. I wanted to share with my brothers and sisters of the Diaconate Community that this is my last issue as editor of the Flame newsletter.

Deacon Chick O'Leary and I, with Fr. Mike's urging and guidance, got the Flame off the ground nearly nine years ago. Chick, who lays out the newsletter, put it best: "It's been a good run."

I'm stepping down for various reasons. My job has gotten more demanding, I have little or no free time and I basically need to somehow cut back a little on the stress in my life.

I've enjoyed overseeing and writing articles for the Flame during these years. I'm a journalist by trade and I saw it as way of using my talents to benefit our Diaconate Community.

Not only have I tried to inform the community of things going on and covered events like the symposium and convocation, I have tried to feature the good work and ministries of deacons and wives. I've also shared and reflected on the things going on in my life, whether it was the birth of my granddaughter, my work with Hope's on the Way or a particular experience with our Lord that had an impact on me, such as Cursillo. I think I'll miss writing the column the most.

I want to thank so many of you for your compliments and support. It's nice to know that people appreciated what we were doing.

I also wanted to thank Chick, Clare Faherty and Dan Dietsch for their help and support with the newsletter.

There is one thing I've been meaning to share with all of you for a long time. When I was going through Diaconate Formation, it was a very inspiring and

creative time for me in my writing.

I wrote a psalm, which I feel sums up who we are as deacons and it is my parting gift to you.

Accept me Lord, as your humble servant – let me be thy instrument.

I seek to serve your people, Lord, giving of myself in all I do. Your words of hope are on my lips, Your message of peace will I proclaim.

The cries of the poor move my heart, help me Lord to ease their burdens.

The grieving long to be consoled, use me Lord to bring them peace.

Lord pour forth your Holy Spirit that I may share your sacred grace.

Accept me Lord, as your humble servant. Let me be thy instrument.

Keep the fire burning,

Deacon Dave Brencic

The Flame

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Una alegre despedida

Como dice el dicho: "todas las cosas buenas deben de tener un fin" Quiero compartir con mis hermanos y hermanas del Diaconado que este es el ultimo numero de Flame para mi.

El diacono Chick O'Leary y yo con la urgencia y guía del Padre Mike iniciamos Flame hace casi nueve años. Como dice Chick, quien es el organiza el boletín, "ha sido una buena carrera".

Estoy terminando por varias razones. Mi trabajo requiere mas de mi. Yo tengo muy poquito tiempo libre o casi nada y básicamente necesito cortar un poco tanto "stress" en mi vida. Yo me goce mucho viendo y escribiendo algunos artículos de Flame durante estos años. Yo soy un reportero de profesión y vi esto como una oportunidad de usar mi talento en beneficio de la comunidad diaconal.

No solamente he tratado de informar a la comunidad las cosas que están pasando y cubrir eventos como el Simposio y la Convocacion. He tratado de mostrar el buen trabajo y ministerio de los diaconos y sus esposas. Tambien comparti y reflexione en las cosas que pasaban en mi vida, como el nacimiento de mi nieta, mi trabajo como Ayuda en el Camino o alguna experiencia personal con el Señor que me impacto, como el Cursillo. Creo que voy a extrañar escribir esta columna.

Quiero agradecer muchas de las

felicitaciones y apoyo que recibí de parte de ustedes. Es bueno saber que la gente aprecia lo que estamos haciendo.. Quiero también agradecer a Chick, Clare Faherty y Dan Dietsch por su ayuda y apoyo para el boletín. Hay una cosa que he querido compartir con ustedes por mucho tiempo. Cuando estaba en el proceso de formación del Diaconado fue un tiempo de inspiración y creatividad para mi mis escritos. Escribi un salmo que resume lo que somos como diaconos y este es mi regalo de partida para ustedes.

Aceptame Señor como y tu humilde siervo - déjame ser tu instrumento

Yo busco servir a tu pueblo Señor - dándome a mi mismo y todo lo que yo hago

Tus palabras de esperanza están en mis labios - tu mensaje de paz proclamare

La voz de los pobre mueve mi corazón - ayúdame Se164or a aliviar sus penas

Los que están aflijidos desean ser consolados - usame Señor para traerles paz

Señor derrama tu Santo Espiritu - para que pueda yo compartir tu gracia sagrada

Acepteme Señor como tu humilde siervo - déjame ser tu instrumento.

Mantengan el fuego encendido

Diacono Dave Brencic

Views from the Vicar

This is the time of transition. Many pastors, associate pastors, and deacons begin new assignments. Some of us move into the status of senior clergy. There is a big transition for The Flame. Dave Brencic is in his ninth year as our editor. This is the 50th issue of the Flame that he has put together. He requested and deserves a rest from this big responsibility. He has done an outstanding job as our editor. Dave is a newspaper man in his regular occupation, working for the Daily Herald – an increasingly demanding job. Taking his place as our new editor is Bob Puhala who is the full-time director of the Institute for Diaconal Studies. Bob also has newsprint in his blood, having worked as a feature writer for the Chicago Sun-Times. His being our new editor will help

bridge the relationship between IDS and the ordained community. We are grateful for all of Dave's hard work and congratulate Bob in his added new role.

I myself am facing a major transition in my own life. On April 7, I celebrated my 71st birthday, a year beyond the ordinary age of retirement for Chicago priests. I have requested Cardinal George to make me a senior priest with the title of Vicar Emeritus for the Diaconate Community. As envisioned when Dick Hudzik was named Co-Vicar last July, he will be ready to take the helm as sole Vicar on July 1, 2013.

Like many senior priests, I would like to continue to be quite active with the community I have served. Part of this is to provide the pastoral presence of a priest. This is something all of you said you

wanted when we first considered having a deacon as the Vicar. Concretely, I see serving in the office two days a week. I will be available to listen to deacons when they need an ear to bend, or someone to offer them some counsel about their ministry. A priest can sometimes better mediate conflicts between a pastor and a deacon. As a friend put it, I will be a chaplain to the Diaconate Community. I can be present for special gatherings of deacons, visit them in times of serious illness and be present at funerals. I will also be available for continuing education efforts and be able to offer the perspective of a priest and a pastor. Nevertheless, Dick Hudzik will clearly be the Vicar who exercises governance over the Office of the Diaconate. In summary, I will provide the priestly presence of a

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Reflexiones del Vicario

Este es un tiempo de transición. Varios pastores, pastores asociados y diáconos empiezan nuevas asignaciones.



Algunos de nosotros nos movemos a un status de "senior" clerical. Hay una transición para el "Flame". David Brencic está en su noveno año como editor. Este es el número 50 de esta edición que el ha completado. Él ha pedido y merece un descanso de esta responsabilidad. Él ha hecho un magnífico trabajo como editor. Dave es un editor por profesión que trabaja para el Daily Herald. Es un trabajo que requiere mucha demanda. Tomará su lugar como editor Bob Puhala quien es el director para el programa del Instituto de Estudios Diaconales. Bob también tiene sangre de impresor en sus venas habiendo trabajado como un colaborador de invierno en el periódico Sun Times.

Al ser nuestro nuevo editor ayudara a ser puente de relación entre el Instituto y la comunidad de ordenados. Estamos muy agradecidos por el trabajo de Dave y felicitamos a Bob en su otro nuevo rol.

Yo mismo estoy enfrentando una mayor transición en mi vida. El 7 de Abril festeje mi cumpleaños número 71. Un año más al tiempo ordinario para retiro de un sacerdote de Chicago. He pedido al Cardenal George que me haga un sacerdote "senior" con un título de Vicario Emérito de la Comunidad Diaconal. Como se propuso cuando Dick Hudzik fue nombrado Co Vicario en Julio del año pasado, el estará listo para tomar la responsabilidad completa como Vicario en Julio 1 de este año.

Como muchos sacerdotes "seniors". Me gustaría continuar activo en la comunidad a la que sirvo. Parte de esto es proveer la presencia pastoral de un sacerdote. Esto es algo de lo que todos ustedes querían cuando se consideró por

primera vez tener un diacono como Vicario. Concretamente, yo estaré en la oficina dos días a la semana. Yo estaré disponible para escuchar a los diáconos cuando ellos necesiten alguien que los escuche o para algunos que requieran consejería sobre su ministerio. Algunas veces un sacerdote puede ser un mejor mediador de conflictos entre un sacerdote y un diacono. Como lo puso un amigo, será como un capellán para la Comunidad Diaconal. Yo puedo estar presente para algunas reuniones de diáconos, visitarlos en tiempo de enfermedad o funerales. También estaré disponible para algunos esfuerzos de educación continua y poder ofrecer la perspectiva de un sacerdote y un pastor... Sin embargo, Dick Hudzik será claramente el Vicario que ejercerá el gobierno de la oficina del Diaconado. En una palabra, yo proveerá la presencia de un "pastor" a la comunidad. Al mismo tiempo que estoy oficialmente retirado puedo ofrecer asistencia a la oficina y a la Comunidad Diaconal. Todos ustedes serán

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New efforts to fix broken immigration system

By Deacon Dismas Fernandez

Recent political developments have served to stir the conversation regarding the reform of our broken immigration system. It seems as if, finally, the 113th Congress is ready to discuss legislation to correct inequities in the current system.

The current system is not reflective of the original immigration laws. The system has been allowed to develop over the years not so much by well-thought out legislation, but by legislation done in bits and pieces to correct perceived problems and by decrees when legislation was not forthcoming.

The result has been a hodgepodge of rules (many contradicting previous legislation) that no one can accurately interpret thus leaving individual Immigration Control Enforcement officers without clear directions. The effect has been unjust and disastrous.

Families are being torn apart. Our undocumented sisters and brothers are being turned over to ICE after having been stopped for such minor offences as driving with a burned-out tail light; and then they are treated as if they were major criminals or terrorists.

Even after having been acquitted of more serious offenses the undocumented are turned over to ICE and in many cases only because the bond on the immigration "offense" is set so high they are issued orders of deportation. A bond can be as much as \$15,000 reduced to around \$2,500 if one can get a lawyer. Also the entire bond must be paid in cash, thus in the case of a \$10,000 bond an undocumented person must come up with the full \$10,000 bond, not the customary \$1,000 or 10%.

Only about 25% (give or take) of detained immigrants have been convicted of serious crimes. That means that about 75% percent of undocumented individuals in detention are facing deportation for minor infractions. Infractions that you or I might incur, but that do not lead to such drastic measures.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has established a program called Justice for Immigrants and has issued a statement entitled "Stranger No Longer." Since approximately 2005, the bishops have been proactive in this area.

In the Archdiocese of Chicago, Francis Cardinal George has established the Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigration Education headed by Elena Segura. A large group of priests has organized Priests for Justice for Immigrants and numerous religious communities have come together as the Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants.

Through the efforts of these various groups, several positive changes have been affected, such as:

There is a weekly rosary prayed outside the ICE Deportation Center in Broadview on Fridays before the deportees are transferred to the airport. This happens *every* Friday, regardless of the weather.

Clergy and Religious are allowed on the busses to pray with the deportees.

Pastoral visitation is now allowed at the detention center in Woodstock every Tuesday, where as many as 90 to 95 detainees receive a pastoral visit by a Christian or Jewish minister. I have the privilege to be included in this group of dedicated ministers.

When an undocumented person is released another program helps them with transportation to their out-of-state home or temporarily puts them up until they can find permanent lodging.

All this is great and good, but we have an obligation to put an end to the system that makes all these good deeds necessary. It is time to fix our broken immigration system.

Congress seems willing to take up the debate. We must let our legislators know that the country requires immigration laws that are just and do not break up families or are more punitive than the original infraction would require. Congress is fickle; and we must strike while the iron is hot. So our time is short.

We are being asked to contact our legislators and ask them to enact laws that include the points covered by our USCCB:

- ... A path to citizenship.
- ... Family-based Immigration reform and the reunification of families.
- ... Restoration of due process protections.
- ... Future Worker Program.
- ... Inclusion of the Dream Act .
- ... Address root causes of migration, such as under-development (migration should be driven by choice and not necessity).
- ... Border enforcement that is targeted, professional and humane.

During these weeks, 1 million postcards are being distributed throughout the nation to be returned to legislators asking for a comprehensive and compassionate reform of our immigration policy. If you have not signed one yet please obtain one and send it in. If your parish has not participated in the postcard campaign, please ask your pastor to get involved. It's what our bishops have asked us to do in response to the Scriptures.

Please contact me if you require postcards or have any other questions: Deacon Dismas G. Fernández: deacondgf@gmail.com or (773) 551-2902.



Phoebe's Corner:

Priscilla award winner an example of service

By Helene Albano

This year's St. Priscilla Award recipient was Rose Marie Duffy, who has offered her entire life to God in service of others.

Her nomination letter recounts that, *"Eighty-six-years-young, Rose Marie is a selfless, enthusiastic servant of the Lord and has for many years touched thousands of lives with her enthusiasm, compassion, caring and cheerful dedication, sharing her many gifts and hard work with others ...[She] has established an unparalleled exemplary role model legacy for all men and women ministers in today's Church. She zealously continues to be involved in dozens of ministerial positions as well as serving as mother of seven, grandmother of many, friend, neighbor and widow of her beloved deacon husband, Robert Duffy, ordained with the Class of 1989."*

In a telephone interview, Rose Marie spoke enthusiastically about her 45-year membership at Our Lady of the Wayside Parish in Arlington Heights. Looking back, she pointed to her Cursillo Weekend in 1970 as a beginning and preparation for her journey of ministry. She worked on many teams afterwards and found her participation in a reunion group offered an important source of support for her ministry involvement.

Rose Marie fondly recalled working with Father Ed Salmon and many fine priests in Cursillo finding them to be signs of life and hope for the Church.

Rose Marie was involved in many other ministries of evangelization, as she continued to share Christ's

love. She was instrumental in beginning a parish CRHP program, and was actively involved in CFM and RCIA. Her activities spread well beyond her parish as she and Bob faithfully served the Diaconate community as a mentor couple and worked on teams for Diaconate Initiation Retreats.

Another facet of Rose Marie's ministry demonstrates her deep generosity and loving spirit as a Minister of Care for 30 years. Her cheerful, healing presence is greatly appreciated by patients and staff alike at Northwest Community Hospital where she brings Christ's love through her compassionate presence, prayer and communion.

Rose Marie also has been a grief minister for many years, conducting wake services and supporting grieving members of the parish and surrounding community. Her own experience of the loss of beloved family members makes her especially understanding of those who grieve, and her presence offers a reminder of God's love and healing touch.

One of Rose Marie's favorite quotes recalls that "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, but learning to dance in the rain." She has learned this lesson well and shares the beauty of the dance with all those she meets.

During our conversation, Rose Marie spoke with great enthusiasm about the many areas of social justice she has been involved with. During the Vietnam War, she and Bob led a parish effort to adopt an immigrant Vietnamese family and took the responsibility for supporting and integrating them into the parish and surrounding community.

Rose Marie was also the co-founder of the PADS program at Our Lady of the Wayside, inaugurated in 1991, and she has continued her uninterrupted involvement to this day.

She and Bob also helped to organize the ecumenical outreach Faith Community Homes, a settlement program offering mentoring and guidance to develop life skills and successful independent integration into the community.

In addition, Rose Marie is an active member of the Our Lady of the Wayside SVDP Chapter, which tends to the needs of those who face job loss, economic hardship and other life challenges.

Rose Marie spoke fondly of her participation in the Diaconate Formation Program where she met many wonderful people and made precious memories. Bob and she ministered both together and separately, but were always supportive of each other's ministries.

She continues to live a full and active life of ministry and still finds time to assist people as a part-time travel agent, working from her home.

I was honored to learn about Rose Marie through our conversation and I was deeply moved by her beautiful legacy of sharing God's love throughout her life. In this small space, I cannot begin to recount all of Rose Marie's contributions and involvements, but God knows well her heart of love, blessed and broken for so many others.

In closing, Rose Marie spoke of the new hope she sees for the Church in the election of Pope Francis and offered a beautiful and familiar word of encouragement, reminding us that, "Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the moments that take your breath away."

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News from the Co-Vicar

I had the advantage of reading Father Mike's letter in this issue of *The Flame* before composing my offerings. Thus, I am able to respond to what Father Mike has had to say – let me second his expression of gratitude to Deacon Dave Brencic for his years of hard work on this publication. David, you will be missed and you are to be congratulated for showing such leadership. Also, with Father Mike, I look forward to working with Deacon Bob Puhala in the days ahead.

The other cue I gratefully take from Father Mike is to look to Scripture for guidance – a natural orientation for us to take. Father Mike quotes both John and Genesis.

Let me offer to you two passages that have been meaningful to me for years. The first is Jesus' seemingly exasperated question to the disciples, "Do you still not understand?" (Mk 8:21). Like the disciples, so often I must say, "No, Lord, I do not understand." Perhaps all of us as a community can help each other in understanding what the Lord is saying to us.

The second passage has been something of a mission statement for my ministry, a way of explaining to myself why I want to minister. Perhaps that will introduce me to you somewhat further as I stand on the cusp of beginning as Vicar. In abbreviated and somewhat "tweaked" fashion, I offer 1 John 1-4. This speaks to what helps get me up in the morning:

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim We have seen the life and we testify to it, and we proclaim to you ... eternal life...

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

We say and write all this to make our joy complete."

Let us come to know the Lord together. Let us make our joy complete by proclaiming that Good News to all we meet. When we share in the Lord together, there is nothing more that we need.

Deacon Richard F. Hudzik

Pilgrimage to Spain continued

(Continued from page 1)

100 kilometers.

The two couples say the idea for doing the trek was originally inspired by the film. The idea was to get connected with a larger group that was going. It all came together when the Fahertys were vacationing in Massachusetts and saw a flier advertising the pilgrimage to Spain.

The trip, which ran from Oct. 28 to Nov. 7, was led by Fr. Tim Joyce, a Benedictine, and consisted of 21 people ranging in age from 27 to 83. The two couples say they "were among the older ones" on the pilgrimage. Paul is 79, Clare, 76, Terry, 68, and Renee is 67. The average age of the group was in the mid to late 50s.

Looking back at the trip Paul said "we were really very lucky. We had reasonably good weather, a great spiritual leader and a native who did a lot of the work in finding restaurants for us and places where we would be sleeping overnight. It



Paul & Clare Faherty, and Terry & Renee Norton at *La Cruz del Ferro* on the Camino de Santiago.

was terrific all the way around."

Every town where the pilgrims stayed had a church and almost every day began with Mass, after which there was a special blessing for the pilgrims before they started walking.

Clare noted that Fr. Joyce would give the group something to reflect on each day while they walked. "It

was a very prayerful trip," she said.

Throughout the day, the pilgrims walked at their own pace. Along the trail, which was marked by yellow arrows, there were checkpoints where the guide would make sure all the members of the group were accounted for and moving. If someone missed a marking and got off the trail, the local townspeople often helped point the walkers in the right direction and back on the trail.

"The locals were friendly, nice and helpful," Terry said.

The two couples agreed that part of the attraction and experience of the trek is the idea that they are walking the same trail thousands of other pilgrims have journeyed on.

"That was the real impressive part," Renee said. "When you're walking along and think, 'My God this little path that has been here for all these years and those people who have passed this way.'"

Terry said there is a monument along the trail that has the carved names of famous people who have walked the trail including Dante and Charlemagne.

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Hope's on the Way is on the go again

Volunteers for Hope's on the Way are making their first mission trip to Visitation Relief Center in the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey, in support of the over 3,000 families who need assistance to help rebuild their homes, because of Hurricane Sandy. Visitation Relief Center, affiliated with Visitation Parish, services an area that sustained 28% of the damage from Hurricane Sandy.

The trip is scheduled for June 22 to June 29, and volunteers will leave from Darien, Illinois. Deacon Sal Lema, founder of Hope's on the Way, says that the deacons of the diocese of Youngstown, Ohio in a

show of diaconal support will provide overnight lodging for the group as they head toward New Jersey.

All transportation, fuel, and lodging for the trip, and meals while at the site will be covered by Hope's on the Way, so the volunteers need only provide for their meals while traveling and incidental personal expenses.

Deacon Lema is hoping to have 12-16 volunteers for this trip although there is room for a few extra hands to cover contingencies.

Exact worksite and work requirements will be received a few weeks prior to arrival so the volunteers can hit the ground running.

This trip serves as a follow-up to the Buckets of Hope campaign run from Thanksgiving to Christmas 2012 in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. This initiative provided emergency cleaning supplies to those struggling to recovery from the destruction along the east coast.

Have a Question? Want to Volunteer? From making sandwiches or driving volunteers to a work site...to the labor of hauling material and preparing the project...to the skilled labor of a professional...all who volunteer are a gift of service to those in need.

Those interested in participating or supporting this effort should contact Deacon Sal Lema through www.HopesontheWay.org

Pilgrimage to Spain continued

(Continued from page 6)

To prepare for the trip, the Fahertys trained throughout the summer. Paul admitted while the practice was helpful he didn't take into consideration the challenge of the hills along the trail.

Clare said compared to some of the other pilgrims they did not train nearly enough since some people walked five or more miles a day in preparation for the trip.

The couples agreed that the experience really gave them an opportunity to meet and talk and bond with other people along the way.

"I think any time you do something like that, that's difficult and you do it with a group of people and you have the time to get to know them, you get pretty close," Renee said.

Clare said fellow walkers would help each other along the way whether it was offering words of encouragement or helping each other get items out of their backpacks.

Paul agreed and said one of the strongest impressions he had of the trip was how quickly people in the group bonded together.

"It was like an instant community that formed and it made me think of the actual movie where they're very diverse in the beginning and eventually they sort of melded together and you could sense that concept of community, which I always felt was an important part of Catholicism -- community."

The trip for the four pilgrims was also a journey of self-discovery.

"I'm a wimp," Renee joked. "I'm not as strong as I thought I was. I never thought it would be so hard. I never thought it."

Clare said the physical challenge of the trip helped her to reflect on the potential spiritual challenges we often face in life.

"Sometimes you think things will be too hard to do, but when you accept a challenge it's a really good feeling when you complete it and I think that's true of spiritual challenges, too," Clare said.

For him, Terry said the trip helped him feel part of the worldwide church.

"We met people from England, Spain, France - all over the place," Terry said.

He noted the trip gave him an opportunity to not only let God speak to him in his life, it was a chance to appreciate God's creation.

"I think of some of the times when we were just walking along with the beautiful scenery, all created by God, and it was just a chance to think about what life was all about," Terry said.

Paul said he appreciated the chance to be alone and think, but also the encounters he had with other pilgrims and the chance to talk with them, hear their stories and learn about their lives.

Terry said he goes back to the sense of community that formed among the group of pilgrims.

"That's when God is really present. When community is forming when we're sharing food, we're sharing stories, we're sharing laughter ... God is present. It was really a good opportunity to be part of that," Terry said.

Big turnout for 2013 Convocation

(Continued from page 1)

critical time in the lives of young couples -- when they seek marriage. I was also pleased at the turnout. It was the first time we had more walk-ins than no-shows. I heard many very positive comments on the day from deacons and wives," Fr. Mike said.

In between Healy's morning and afternoon presentations, six people were recognized for Outstanding Diaconal Ministry.

Honorees include a retired deacon who remains very active by ministering at two parishes, has served as a field advocate for the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal, visits the sick and homebound, and is involved in a variety of other ministries in and around the parish; an evangelizer who ministers not only in his parish but at a nursing home and with a ministerial association; a deacon who actively works with his sharing parish, in prison ministry and organizes a Catholic Charities supper program; an 86-year-old wife of a deceased deacon who serves as an RCIA catechist, grief minister and is active in many other parish ministries; and a couple who have ministered together over the years working at a soup kitchen, delivering food to needy families and serving as catechists in the parish.

Tom Carvlin, an 86-year-old retired deacon, received this year's St. Stephen Award. The honor is given to a deacon who receives the most votes among all those nominated for either the St. Lawrence or the St. Philip Award. The St. Stephen Award is named after the most renowned of all the earliest deacons.

Nominated by his pastor, Carvlin who was ordained in 1977, has been very active ministering at Ascension

-St. Susanna and at St. Gerard Majella. He was a field advocate helping with the annulment process for more than 30 years and for 35 years he has visited the sick and brought communion to patients at area hospitals and the homebound. He also is very active in the parish performing liturgical ministries, preaching, leading prayer services and teaching religious education.

"There is great cooperation and support between Tom and his wife in ministry. Both Deacon Tom and Evanne are diamond disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Tom is a humble and holy man, a self-starter, a strong leader and he has loved the Church so much," read the nomination.

Deacon John Smith received the St. Philip Award for evangelization.

Smith ministers at St. Zachary Parish and works as DRE, leads the RCIA team and serves as a minister at a nursing home in Park Ridge. He also heads the Des Plaines Ministerial Association, a venue for the ministers of Des Plaines to meet and discuss issues across denominational lines.

Deacon Gary Kupsak was given the St. Lawrence Award for his work with the poor.

Kupsak has taken the lead in establishing a working relationship between St. Mary's Parish and their sharing parish of Most Blessed Trinity and he serves on the Community Social Services Advisory Board. He also is active in prison ministry in Lake County; organizes and leads the Catholic Charities supper program at one site; serves on the St. Vincent de Paul Society board; has initiated and led a food pantry collection and diaper collection; and has established the "Just Neighbors" program on social teaching and ministry for deacons and others.

Rose Marie Duffy, 86, was honored with the St. Priscilla Award. In the words of the nominating petition,

"Eighty-six years young, Rose Marie Duffy is a selfless, enthusiastic servant of the Lord and has for many years touched thousands of lives with her enthusiasm, compassion, caring and cheerful dedication."

Duffy's home parish is Our Lady of the Wayside where she has served as a catechist with the RCIA, as a grief minister, as a leader and participant in the Christian Family Movement, is a co-founder of the homeless ministry, volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul ministry, is a Cursillo leader and an advocate for immigrants and equal housing. She continues to serve the Diaconate even after the death of her husband Bob in 2004.

Receiving the Shared Ministry Award, were Deacon Marvin and Peg Kocar who have been active in ministry at St. Pius Church in Stickney for the past 26 years. The Kocars originally worked in the soup kitchen when the Port was first started on the Southwest Side. They have worked as coordinators of the St. Pius X Needy Family Ministry; started small faith sharing groups in the parish; taught Confirmation classes; ministered at Cook County Jail; have ministered in the RCIA program and Baptism preparation; are ministers of care at MacNeal Hospital; and have co-coordinated and facilitated Pre-Cana conferences throughout the Chicago Archdiocese for more than 20 years.

Selection Committee members choosing the winners included Fathers Mike Ahlstrom and Ed Salmon, Marge Colgan, Sue Szarek, and Deacons Enrique Alonso, George Kashmar, Alfred Coleman, William Pouncy, Dan Welter, Davis Fair, Larry Chyba, Chuck McFarland, Pedro Sedano, Asuncion Valadez and Richard Hudzik.



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Diaconate Council Notes April 19, 2013

The Deacon Community Council of the Archdiocese of Chicago met on Friday, April 19, for its planning session at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein.

The following Executive Committee members were present: George Kashmar, chairman; Chuck McFarland, vice chairman; John Gaughan, secretary; Dennis Robak, treasurer; William Stearns, immediate past chairman; Father Michael Ahlstrom, Vicar; Richard Hudzik, Co-Vicar; and Dennis Colgan, associate director.

VDCs present were: Raymond Loman, Paul Spalla, Giulio Camerini, Joseph Truesdale and Dan Ragonese.

DDCs present were: David Tiemeier, Stephen Stecker, William Warmouth, Daniel Welter, Ubaldo Munoz, David Keene, Paul Stanton, Efrain Lopez, William Pouncy, Rodrigo Silva, Christopher Virruso, Joseph Walsh, John Shopp, Richard Tryjefaczka, James Dieters, William Schultz and Thomas Knetl.

Also present were: Pedro Sedano representing the Hispanic deacons, and Margaret Virruso and Susan Szarek representing the wives of the Diaconate Community.

Black Deacons, William Pouncy: The Black Deacons of the archdiocese have scheduled an end-of-the-school year Youth Prayer Service to be held May 15th from 10 a.m. until noon at the 63rd St. beach. About 300 students are expected to attend. Food is being donated, but deacons are needed to cook, serve and participate.

Deacon Pouncy reported that West Side Catholic parishes are participating in Faith on Fire, an evangelization revival being held at four different parishes during the month of May. The dates and

locations are: May 19 at St. Agatha, 10:30 a.m. Mass; May 20 at St. Malachy/Precious Blood, 6 p.m. dinner and 7 p.m. prayer; May 21 at Our Lady of Sorrows, 6 p.m. dinner and 7 p.m. prayer; and May 22 at St. Martin de Porres, 6 p.m. dinner and 7 p.m. prayer.

This July 28th through Aug. 1, the Black Deacons will be hosting the 45th Annual Joint Black Clergy and Sisters Conference to be held at the Marriott Hotel at Midway Airport in Chicago.

The annual sunrise prayer service to mark back to school and pray for an end to violence on our streets is planned for Saturday, Aug. 24th starting at 6 a.m. This is the fourth year the Black Deacons have organized and promoted this event. This year, three new beaches have been added to make a total of seven beaches holding prayer services. Deacon Pouncy says that the Chicago Park District is expected to waive permit fees as it did last year.

Hispanic Deacons, Pedro Sedano: The Hispanic Deacons have elected a new president for their group. In July, The National Association of Hispanic Deacons will hold its annual conference in Orlando. Deacon Sedano asked for our continued prayers for council member Jose Vasquez who is still recovering from surgery.

Women of the Diaconate, Susan Szarek: The recent retreat for deacon wives and widows was well received. Sue thanked the Office of the Diaconate for its underwriting of the retreat.

VDCs reports:

Vicariate I, Ray Loman: Two presentations of Critical Conversations have been held in Vicariate I with the final scheduled

April 20. John Szarek has accepted the position of Deanery Deacon Coordinator for Deanery E. Arrangements are being made to hold the Aug. 4 St. Lawrence Day celebration hosted by Vicariate I at USML. Ray has tentatively reserved the date at the seminary while details are worked out. There was discussion of whether the council would assume the cost of \$8 per person for everyone attending, or only for the newly ordained and the anniversary class. Attendance was estimated at about 300 persons and a minimum number would have to be guaranteed for food provided by the seminary. It was proposed that we have Mass in the field and, in case of rain, gather at St. Joseph Church in Libertyville. The question of presenting the newly ordained deacons with archdiocesan stoles was raised. Fr. Mike Ahlstrom will investigate whether a benefactor would be willing to assume the cost.

Vicariate II, Paul Spalla: Two presentations of Critical Conversations have been held and a final session is scheduled. Spalla has been visiting Vicariate II deacons and wives who have been hospitalized or are in nursing homes. He also distributed his report on the March 19th meeting of the Presbyteral Council.

Vicariate III, Efrain Lopez: VDC Jose Vazquez, who recently had surgery, has been able to attend the monthly meetings of the Hispanic Deacons.

Vicariate IV, Giulio Camerini: One Critical Conversations presentation has been completed and another is scheduled. Camerini met last month with Bishop Manz who requested a list of deacons in Vicariate IV with the names of their parishes.

Deacon Council Notes

(Continued from page 9)

Vicariate V, Joseph Truesdale: About 66 deacons and wives have attended the first two presentations. There will be another session held at St. Damian, and another at St. Linus. An awards dinner is planned at Lexington House to recognize young people who serve their parishes in ministry and liturgy.

Vicariate VI, Dan Ragonese: One last Critical Conversations class remains to be held.

All of the VDCs concurred that the program has been well received by those who have attended.

Co-Vicar's report, Richard Hudzik: The Diaconate Office is in need of a new database of deacon contact and status information. He will distribute to the DDCs and ask them to update the phone and email information we now have. It is a hope to transition to a system whereby deacons will be able to have email sent to their personal email addresses if preferred over the archchicago.org address. Hudzik noted that the office has spent \$7,000 on postage thus far this fiscal year, thereby underscoring the need for the cost-free email communications.

Treasurer's report, Dennis Robak gave an update on the financial status of the Deacon Council and suggested that \$30,000 be moved from demand deposit accounts into higher yielding certificates of deposit. He reported that our Lenten charity collection took in only \$3,475 this year compared to \$4,695 last year. Chuck McFarland offered an amendment to the

motion to open a new CD. His proposal that \$7,500 be added to each existing CD as it matures quarterly was passed. Dennis Colgan said we ought to keep open the charity accounts and not close them out while donations were still being received.

Vicar's report, Fr. Michael Ahlstrom: The deacon policy book has been completed and will be available online through the Diaconate website. It will be 92 pages long in pdf format and won't be printed. The book has been submitted to Cardinal George for his approval.

May 19th, the feast of Pentecost, will be Diaconate ordination at Holy Name Cathedral. All deacons are invited to attend and vest in alb and Archdiocesan stole.

As he transitions to his new status as senior priest and vicar emeritus on July 1st, Fr. Mike promises to be available to assist at the office 2 or 2^{1/2} days a week and provide a priestly presence to the Diaconate Community. He plans to attend meetings, be involved in continuing education and participate in conflict resolution. On June 30 at his parish of residence, St. Barbara in Brookfield, Fr. Mike will offer Mass and provide dinner for all wishing to help him celebrate.

Associate Director's report, Dennis Colgan: Much positive feedback has been received regarding the March 9 Convocation. Presenter Jim Healy provided many good ideas for deacons involved in marriage preparation. For the first time ever, there were more walk-ins than no-shows.

The next meeting of the council is scheduled for June the 8th at the Diaconate Office.

Seminar to examine 'Hard Sayings'

The Summer Scripture Seminar, the premier continuing education program of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, will present its 2013 offering on the topic "Hard Sayings in the Bible" at USML from Sunday June 23, through Friday, June 28. The seminar is a cooperative venture by the Institute for Ongoing Formation and the Department of Biblical Exegesis and Proclamation of Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake under the direction of Fr. Martin Zielinski and Dr. Elizabeth Nagel.

Presenters at this year's seminar include: Mark Smith, M.T.S., Ph.D.; Anatheia Portier-Young, M.A.B.L., Ph.D.; Maria Pascuzzi, C.S.J., S.S.L., S.T.D.; Rev. Stephen Lampe, S.S.L., S.T.D.; Rt. Rev. Vincent Bataille, O.S.B., M.A., M.Ed.; Rev. Laurence Dowling, D.Min.; and Catherine Sims, M.Div.

Speakers and audience come from across and outside the United States. With an intended audience consisting of any lover of Sacred Scripture, since the early 1970's, the Summer Scripture Seminar has enjoyed the loyal commitment on the part of participants with nearly 90% of attendees returning each year.

The seminar includes ample opportunity to pray, relax, study and share in casual conversation with some of the foremost scripture scholars as well as others deeply dedicated to ministry in the church. Interested parties may register for the full seminar or individual days on either a commuter basis or with overnight accommodations.

For more information or to register, go to www.summerscripture.org, or contact Associate Director, Megan Deichl at mdeichl@usml.edu or phone 847.837.4558.

Reflexiones del Vicario

(Continued from page 3)

invitados a mi celebración de transición como Vicario el día 30 de Junio, mi último día como Vicario.

Como esta será mi última Reflexión del Vicario. Me gustaría ofrecer alguna reflexión sobre la espiritualidad de la transición. En Génesis 12 vemos la historia de Abran pasando por una transición mayor a la edad de 75 años. Sus años más significantes están frente a él con metas consumadas inimaginables: una nueva tierra, un nombre nuevo, hijos e innumerables descendientes. Yo siempre digo que los últimos 10 años que he ocupado como Vicario de la Comunidad Diaconal han sido mis favoritos pero a lo mejor Dios tiene algo mucho mejor preparado por venir. Igual que Abran me doy cuenta que esto es de Dios y no mío. Mi trabajo es entregarme a las sorpresas que él tenga preparado para mí.

Mi otra reflexión de las escrituras es Juan 21: 18. Le dicen a Pedro que su futuro estará más dependiente de otros. Jesús no habla solamente de la edad sino de la cruz a la que Pedro se tendrá que entregar. Yo no conozco mis futuras cruces pero si sé que eso es lo que nos lleva a la resurrección. Tengo que morir muchas veces antes de morir para estar listo para morir y entregarme a Dios. Si ustedes están enfrentando transiciones en su vida vean el Misterio Pascual en ellas. Uno muere a algo y gana una nueva vida que es mejor a la que teníamos. Quizá algunos de ustedes necesitan considerar un cambio de asignación, ser diáconos “seniors” o una jubilación completa.

Quiero terminar con una palabra que es amor. Este es mi propósito en la vida. Resume mi ministerio. Es lo que siento por todos ustedes. Dios es amor.

Father Michael Ahlstrom

Views from the Vicar

(Continued from page 3)

“pastor” to the community. While officially retired, I see myself able to offer assistance to the office and to the Diaconate Community. You will all be invited to my transition celebration on June 30 -- my last day as Vicar.

As this will be my last *Views from the Vicar*, I would like to offer some reflection on the spirituality of transition. In Genesis 12, we see the story of Abram going through a major transition at the age of 75. His most significant years lay ahead of him with accomplishments beyond his imagining: a new land, a new name, children and countless descendants. I always say the past 10 years I have spent as Vicar for the Diaconate Community have been my favorite, but maybe God has even better things yet to come. Like Abraham, I realize that this is God’s doing and not mine. My job is to surrender to the surprises he has in store for me.

My other transition Scripture is John 21:18. Peter is told that his future holds more dependence on others. Jesus is not just talking about old age, but the surrender to the cross that Peter will have to do. I do not know my future crosses, but I do know this is what leads to resurrection. I have to die many times before I die so I can be ready to die and surrender to our God. If you are facing transition in your own life, see Paschal Mystery in it. You die to something and gain a new life that is better than what you had. Perhaps some of you need to consider changing assignments, becoming senior deacons or even fully retired.

One word I want to end with is love. This is my purpose in life. It sums up my ministry. It is what I feel for all of you. God is love.

Father Michael Ahlstrom

Transfers and status change

Jim Doyle from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to St. Luke

Timothy Sullivan from the Archdiocese of Detroit to St. Clement

William Pyrek from the Diocese of Arlington to St. Mary of the Lake

Mark Plaiss from the Diocese of Gary to St. Gilbert

Patrick Clemens from the Archdiocese of Mobile to St. Alphonsus Liguori

Michael Monteleoni from the Diocese of Rockford to Hospice Ministry

Ivan Lazcano from St. Stephen Protomartyr to St. Nicholas (Evanston)

Roberto Rivas from Immaculate Conception (44th St) to Blessed Sacrament

David Wagner from St. Patrick (Wadsworth) to Santa Maria del Popolo

Ross Alcos from St. Lawrence O’Toole to Old St. Mary

Luis Perez to Senior Deacon status

Mass Memorial Cards

Mass Memorial Cards are available and help support the works of the Diaconate Community. To request cards, please email Deacon Dennis Robak at DRobak@archchicago.org or call (708) 366-8900.

In Memoriam



Deacon Philip Disparte, Jr.

A member of the class of 1980, Deacon Philip Disparte, Jr., died March 12. He was 69.

A resident of Elgin, he ministered at St. Hubert Church in Hoffman Estates.

For 10 years, Deacon Disparte was director of the Share Foods Program, which served 2 million people in three states. He worked as a certified hospital chaplain at Alexian Brothers Medical Center and his "favorite" ministry, according to his wife, Cathie, was as chaplain at O'Hare International Airport.

Cathie described her husband as "very faithful, that was his life - his faith. And of course his family. He always tried to make others feel

better."

Deacon Disparte, who served four years in the U.S. Air Force, is survived by Cathie, his wife; four children and eight grandchildren.



Deacon Thomas Maloney

Deacon Thomas Maloney, class of 1988, died March 6. He was 83 and a resident of Lake

Zurich.

Deacon Maloney served at St. Thomas of Villanova Church in Palatine for 25 years.

Deacon Tom Dunne, who worked with Deacon Maloney over the years, said his main ministry was serving as spiritual director for Christ Renews His Parish in the early 1990s. In fact, Dunne said Deacon

Maloney has such a passion for the ministry and evangelizing that he was known as "Mr. C.H.I.R.P." in the parish.

Dunne also said Deacon Maloney was willing to do whatever was asked regarding baptisms, weddings and funerals.

"He was a humble servant. He was passionate in his faith," Dunne said. "He always kept an Irish twinkle in his eye. He always had a pleasant disposition and was very respectful of others. He was a very humble person and was never interested in the spotlight."

A Notre Dame graduate, Deacon Maloney worked in accounting and marketing. He also was a Korean War veteran.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Bernadette, two sisters and two brothers.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia; two children and five grandchildren.

Community news

Your prayers are asked for those who have recently gone to the Lord: Deacon Thomas Maloney, '88; Deacon Phil Disparte, '80; Deacon Louis Wojtowicz, '97; Deacon Roberto Figueroa, '89; Deacon Thomas Bresler, '74; Joseph Swiderski, Helen Hyde (mother of Thomas Hyde), Mena Silvio (mother-in-law of Dan Dietsch, and Robert Lapen, brother-in-law of Dennis Colgan.

Among the sick, we commend to your prayers: John Ficker, Tom Coffey, Kevin Reynolds, Leonard Richardson, 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, Arturo de Luna, José Uroza, Jose Marrero, Mona Heyes (mother of Stuart Heyes), Gerry Skaja, brother of Larry Skaja, Dustin Fejdasz (nephew of Michael and Marge Hogan), Laura Deters, (daughter of Frank and Carolyn Beil), Robert Zimmerman (father of John Zimmerman), Chery Ann Gaca (daughter of Ron and Linda Morowzynski), Cheryl Becker, Robert Brueggemann and Marion Jelcz.

To include someone on the sick or deceased list, contact the Diaconate Office at (708) 386-8900.

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The Upper Room (ph 888-808-8724) offers skilled listening, para-professional counseling, information and referral, suicide prevention and crisis intervention 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is staffed by trained volunteers.

This program desires to contribute to the spiritual development of diocesan priests, religious and deacons. All calls are confidential and anonymous.