



# THE FLAME

Volume 6 Number 3

[www.Deacons.ArchChicago.org](http://www.Deacons.ArchChicago.org)

June - July 2010

## Preparation begins for new Roman Missal

By Todd Williamson

Within the next year and a half, we in the United States will be worshipping at Mass with new words. We will have a new English translation of the Roman Missal - the book that contains all of the prayers (for both the priest and the congregation) that are used for every Mass that is celebrated.

In the year 2000, in order to celebrate the millennium, Pope John Paul II issued a third edition of the Roman Missal. Because it is a new edition, it needed to be translated into all the languages of the world. For the last eight years, leaders and experts in the English-speaking Church of the world have been working on translating the third edition into English. Recently, Rome has approved the English translation and it is expected to be used on the first Sunday of Advent, 2011.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## In This Issue:

From the Editor .....	2
Views from the Vicar .....	3
Mental Illness and the Parish ....	4
Good suffering .....	5
Phoebe's Corner .....	6
Community News.....	6
Stritch update .....	7
Marriage ministry .....	7
Looking for alumni.....	7
Deacon council notes .....	8
Holy Land trip .....	11
Calendar .....	12



Executive Committee of the Diaconate Council, from left, George Kashmar, vice-chair; Sal Lema, secretary; Dave Egan, outgoing chairman; Bill Stearns, new chairman; Chuck McFarland, treasurer.

## New officers for Diaconate Council

New officers for the Executive Committee of the Diaconate Council will be officially installed at the July council meeting.

Here is a brief description of these men and their backgrounds.

### William Stearns, chairman

Stearns and his wife Anne are residents of Oak Forest. Stearns who was ordained in 1994 ministers at St. Damian Church. His ministry involvement includes bereavement, training lectors and Eucharistic ministers, baptismal prep, works with the Evangelization Committee and is chaplain for the Oak Forest Fire Department.

Stearns has received the St. Phillip Award for Evangelization and the Humanitarian Award from the Oak Forest Fire Department. While on the Diaconate Council, he has served as treasurer for three years

and two years as vice-chairman.

One of the greatest challenges facing deacons today, according to Stearns, is "to realize the ramifications of achieving leadership through a totally self-sacrificial service to others. In real terms, this means that deacons divorce themselves from expressions, attitudes or behaviors that can be viewed as self-gain. Nor should we ever seek power or authority for its own sake."

He noted that deacons should always "bring unique diaconal and sacrificial elements to every assignment."

Stearns said the Diaconate Council faces a number of challenges. These include:

- Improving communications between the council and the community.
- Helping all deacons and wives build their spiritual lives.
- Encourage programs that

*(Continued on page 9)*

## How is God calling you?

*"Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."*

"Here I am, Lord," Dan Schutte

I celebrated my 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a deacon May 1. I had originally planned on going to morning Mass to mark the day, but the night before my pastor asked if either I or another deacon could do an interment service at a nearby cemetery because he had a second funeral Mass.

I offered to take it since I thought it would be appropriate celebrating an ordination anniversary by serving as a deacon to God's people who were grieving.

As I knelt in a pew in the back of church the next morning waiting for

the funeral Mass to finish, the music director began to sing those oh so familiar words .... "Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?"

The song, which I've heard and sang a thousand times, touched me in a special way. It was like I was hearing it for the very first time.

Anyone who has ever pondered a calling in life can relate to those words and have felt those feelings. We have all struggled to figure out God's will in our lives and debated how to answer God's call. By saying yes, how would that affect our lives and the lives of our family?

And once we do say yes, we've learned that it's a matter of putting ourselves in God's hands to lead us where we need to be and serve those who need to be served.

The next day a classmate called to wish me happy anniversary. We updated each other on our families and ministries. My classmate is moving on to a different parish because of difficulties with a new pastor. He seemed excited about the future and re-energized by the possibilities. He was ready for a new phase in his ministry.

I think all of us should examine our ministries and do a gut-check of our role as deacons whether we have been ordained one year or 30. Do we still have that enthusiasm? Do we still have that desire to serve? How have we changed since that blessed day of our ordination? Where is our Lord calling us and leading us today?

Keep the fire burning,

Deacon Dave Brencic, editor

## The Flame

A newsletter for the Chicago Diaconate community published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October, December  
 Publisher: Fr. Michael Ahlstrom  
 Editor: Dave Brencic

Staff: Dennis Colgan, Dan Dietsch, Clare Faherty, Chick O'Leary

Submit Articles and photos to:

**Office of the Diaconate**  
 Archdiocese of Chicago  
 816 Marengo

Forest Park, IL 60130

Ph: (708) 366-8900

Fax: (708) 366-8968

Deadline for submissions for the next issue is July 15, 2010  
 Email:

[DeaconNews@ArchChicago.org](mailto:DeaconNews@ArchChicago.org)

*The Flame* is also viewable online at

[www.deacons.archchicago.org](http://www.deacons.archchicago.org)

Printed by the generosity of J. S. Paluch Company, Franklin Park, Illinois. Publisher of bulletins, vocation and stewardship calendars, and of World Library Publications' assortment of music and liturgy resources.

## ¿Cómo te está llamando Dios?

*"Aquí estoy Señor. Soy yo, Señor. He escuchado tu llamado en la noche. Yo iré, Señor, si tu me guías. Yo guardare a tu gente en mi corazón."*

"Aquí estoy, Señor," Dan Schute

He celebrado mis once años de diácono, este 1ero de Mayo. Pensé haber ido a la misa temprano en la mañana para celebrar el día, pero la noche anterior mi Pastor me pidió si yo u otro diácono pudiéramos hacer un servicio en un cementerio cercano, porque el tenía otra misa de funeral.

Me ofrecí a hacerlo, pues pensé que sería apropiado el celebrar el aniversario de mi ordenación al servir como diácono a la gente que estaba sufriendo...

A la mañana siguiente, al arrodillarme en un banco de atrás de la iglesia para esperar que la misa de funeral acabara, el director de música comenzó a cantar esas palabras tan familiares... "Aquí estoy, Señor. Soy yo, Señor."

Esta canción que he escuchado y cantado unas mil veces, me tocó de una manera muy especial. Fue como si la estuviera escuchando por primera vez.

Cualquiera que alguna vez haya experimentado un llamado en su vida, puede relacionarse con esas palabras y sentir los mismos sentimientos. Todos

hemos batallado en entender el llamado de Dios en nuestras vidas y discernir en como le contestaríamos.

Al decir, si, ¿cómo ha afectado esto nuestras vidas y las de nuestras familias?

Y una vez que hemos dicho, si, hemos aprendido que solo teníamos que ponernos en las manos de Dios para que Él nos guíe donde debemos estar y a quienes debemos servir.

Al día siguiente un compañero me llamó para desearme felicidades por mi aniversario. Nos pusimos al día acerca de nuestras vidas y de nuestros ministerios. Mi compañero se está trasladando a otra parroquia porque tiene dificultades con el nuevo pastor. Parecía contento por el futuro y estaba lleno de energías ante las nuevas posibilidades. Estaba preparado para una nueva fase en su ministerio.

Pienso que todos nosotros deberíamos examinar nuestros ministerios y hacer una evaluación desde el fondo de nuestro corazón acerca de nuestro rol como diáconos, ya sea que nos hubiéramos ordenados hace un año o hace treinta. ¿Todavía tenemos entusiasmo? ¿Todavía tenemos el deseo de servir? ¿Cómo hemos cambiado desde el día bendito de nuestra ordenación? ¿Dónde nos está llevando el llamado de Dios hoy día?

Mantengan el fuego encendido,

Diácono Dave Brencic, editor

## Views from the Vicar

I would like to congratulate the new **Executive Committee of the Diaconate Council**. They are William Stearns, chairman; George Kashmar, vice-chairman; Salvatore Lema, secretary; Charles McFarland, treasurer; and David Egan, immediate past chairman. I also would like to thank the outgoing executive committee members: Edmund Gronkiewicz, who served as treasurer, and Daniel Welter, who was the immediate past chairman. Finally I am pleased to welcome three new members to the Diaconate Council and as Deanery Deacon Coordinators. All are from Vicariate V: Richard Voytas who will serve Deanery A and B West, and Thomas Bartholomew and Gregory Bartos who will serve Deanery E.

For some time our official **Diaconate Handbook** has been in need of updating. I am happy to

report that I was able to take some time with Bill and Anne Stearns to work on this project. We did a great deal of work and the council is reviewing it. Once the council has approved or modified the changes, they will be presented to Cardinal George for his approval. These changes will also affect the official policy books of our archdiocese. The draft for the handbook is on our Website. Call your DDC in case you have any wisdom to share. Speaking of Website, I am very grateful for Chick O'Leary who has become our new Webmaster. He takes over for Pete Lagges who did a great job.

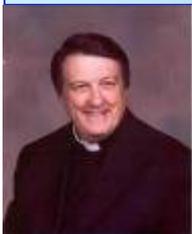
In the past, it has been my experience that many deacons misplace their policy book or never keep it up to date as changes are made. For this reason, I am thinking that rather than go to the expense of printing a book for everyone that will be put on a shelf and forgotten, it will make more sense to have the

official Diaconate Handbook on our Website. That way whenever a deacon needs to consult it to check on a policy it will be both at hand and up to date. If anyone still wants a hard copy they can print it, or if they have no computer access we will print it for them.

One thing I came across in reviewing our handbook is our **sabbatical policy**. While it is not uncommon for deacons to ask for some time off, it is extremely rare anyone has approached me for a true sabbatical. This means far more than time for R & R. It would include time for updating theology, pastoral skills, spiritual growth, as well as deepening the human dimension of a deacon's life. I believe in the wisdom of some time off for renewal is excellent. We need some creative thinking to put together some sabbatical options. If you are interested please get in touch with me.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Reflexiones del Vicario



Quiero felicitar al nuevo **Comité Ejecutivo del Concilio de la Comunidad Diaconal**. Ellos son: William Stearns, Director, George

Kashmar, Vice director, Salvatore Lema. Secretario, Charles McFarlan, Tesorero y David Egan como Pasado Director. También quiero felicitar a la junta directiva saliente. Edmund Gronkiewicz, que fue tesorero y a Dan Welter, el pasado director. Finalmente, estoy contento de dar la bienvenida al Concilio Diaconal y como Coordinadores de Denario a tres nuevos miembros. Todos pertenecen al Vicariato V: Richard Voytas, que servirá en el Denario A y B West, y Thomas Bartholomew y Gregory Bartos que servirán en el Denario E.

Por algún tiempo nuestro **Libro del Diaconado** oficial, ha estado necesitando una revisión. Me da gusto informarles que pude darles un tiempo y con la ayuda de Hill y Anne Stearns, trabajamos en este proyecto y ahora el Concilio lo está revisando.

Una vez que el Concilio apruebe los cambios, estos serán presentados al Cardenal George para su aprobación. Estos cambios también afectarán los Libros de Pólizas oficiales de nuestra arquidiócesis. El borrador del libro está en nuestro sitio de internet. Llama a tu representante de Denario si tienes algún comentario. Hablando de nuestro sitio de internet, estoy muy agradecido a Chick O'Leary quien se hará cargo de él. El tomará el lugar de Pete Lagges, quien hizo un gran trabajo.

En el pasado, ha sido mi experiencia que gran número de diáconos perdían su Libro de Pólizas o nunca estaban al día en los cambios que hicimos. Por esta razón, estoy pensando que en vez de hacer el gasto de imprimir libros para cada uno, que será archivado en alguna lugar y olvidado, hace más sentido el **tener el Libro oficial de Pólizas en nuestro sitio de internet**. De esta manera cuando un diácono necesite consultar algo de alguna póliza, este estará siempre a mano. Si alguien quiere de todas maneras tener una copia impresa, la pueden imprimir. Si alguien no tiene una impresora o no tiene acceso a una computadora, nosotros se lo

imprimiremos.

Una cosa que encontré al revisar el libro, fue nuestra póliza de sabático. Mientras que no es raro que algún diácono pida un tiempo libre, es extremadamente raro que alguien me pida un tiempo de sabático. Esto significa mucho más que "descanso y recreación". Incluiría también tiempo para ponerse al día en teología, habilidades pastorales, crecimiento espiritual, así como ahondar en la dimensión humana de la vida del diácono.

Yo creo que la sabiduría de tener un tiempo libre para renovarse, es excelente. Necesitamos pensar en algo creativo para crear una opción de sabático. Si alguien está interesado, póngase en contacto conmigo.

En el espíritu de sabático, quiero recordarles que tenemos una póliza oficial de que cada diácono debe **tener un fin de semana al mes, libre de todo trabajo ministerial**, incluyendo ministerio de litúrgica. Les recuerdo que su familia y su matrimonio son prioridades. Pensado

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Mental illness and the parish

By Deacon Tom Lambert

For the past nine years my wife Rita and I have been serving on the staff of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish. The parish is located just south of Wrigley Field in the midst of high-rise buildings and old hotels. Some of the old hotels now house people who are one step away from living on the street.

As I walk the streets surrounding the parish and further north, I am always amazed by the intersection of affluence and poverty that occurs in our neighborhood. Some of the people have lived here a very long time. Some of the people are from the suburbs whose children are grown and decided to move into the city. Some are young people who come to Chicago for jobs. Some are people who have lost their jobs and homes and now live in poverty.

Among both the affluent and poor, among those who have homes and those who are homeless, are people with mental illnesses. People struggling day to day to keep their lives together. If I have discovered anything over the years, it's that mental illness does not discriminate. It affects the rich and the poor, the young and the elderly, the suburbanite and the city dweller. No one who is mentally ill chooses to be that way.

Mental illness is also a "no casserole" disease. By that I mean when mental illness occurs in a family, no one comes to the door bringing casseroles. Twenty-five years ago my wife had heart surgery and while she was in the hospital the doorbell never stopped ringing. I never realized how many ways there were to cook chicken. Twenty years ago, when my daughter was hospitalized for mental illness, no one came to the door. Mental illness can be very isolating for the person and the family.

A year ago, a young woman knocked on the door of our parish ministry center and asked if she could talk to someone. I invited her in and she told me she just found out she was pregnant and she was very scared. She had always dreamed of being a mother, but she and her husband had not planned on having a child. She worried that she might not be willing to have the child. She hesitated and then said that I might not understand, but she is a person with a severe and persistent

mental illness, bi-polar disease and anxiety. She wondered if she could make it through the pregnancy and would God hear her prayers. She had a good psychiatrist, and a good therapist, but she needed something more. She needed to know God loved her and would comfort her during her pregnancy. I explained to her who I was and my ministry with people with mental illness. We both smiled at how God works! I talked to her frequently during her pregnancy and rejoiced with her at the birth of her beautiful healthy baby girl.

She experienced her pregnancy and the birth of her baby through the eyes of faith -- as a miracle from God. Both are doing fine, but she still needs support. She needs friends, people who aren't professionals but are spiritual. When she stopped at our parish door, she needed to know God loves her and now she knows she can find God's love in her Catholic faith community.

That young woman took a risk that she would be welcomed and valued. As a person with mental illness, she doesn't always feel welcomed and valued either in society or, sadly, in the Church. Those feelings were at times perceived and other times were very real experiences. She has felt a lot of the stigma associated with mental illness. Stigma is often due to misinformation about the illness. Often it is the stigma that keeps people from seeking help.

It is difficult to find help in Illinois. Many providers of mental health services do wonderful jobs, yet are under tremendous financial duress due to years of insufficient state funding and recent severe cutbacks. I know of mental health agencies around the state that are cutting programs and closing doors due to lack of funds. The tragedy and injustice is that we know that treatment works. We know that every dollar spent today will save five or more dollars down the road.

Recovery for a person with mental illness means living a life with dignity, finding work and housing. Yet Illinois, one of the richest states in per capita income, continues to rank among the lowest for funding mental health services. I often tell people that I am offended by the Illinois mental health system both as a person of faith and as a taxpayer. Because we underfund mental health services, many people are caught in a never-ending cycle of crisis, many do not ever recover from their illness and some who are in crisis take their

own lives.

With the current budget crisis, the state is threatening budget cuts to even more services which means more program cuts to those who are the most vulnerable in our society.

Pope John Paul II in his talk "The image of God in people with mental illness" said that "the church will not hesitate to become the voice of those who are not listened to ... not to demand charity, but to ask for justice."

Who will demand justice in Illinois for those who have no political clout?

One in 17 people who live in our neighborhoods are or will deal with a mental illness over the period of their lifetime and one in five families are or will be affected. We often don't hear their stories because of the stigma of mental illness. As church, we are called not to reflect the values of society, but to live the vision Jesus calls us to.

As parishes, we often use the phrase "welcoming," yet we are called to be more than welcoming, after all, Walmart is welcoming -- they have a greeter at every door! We are called to *welcome, to value and to invite* people into a deeper relationship with the Lord. To provide a place where people, like the young woman who came to my parish door, can feel they are loved unconditionally and where they can find hope. A place where ALL can experience God, who is love, through the love we have for one another.

What can we do? First, look at how we welcome and value the most vulnerable in our parish. Are they part of the parish life and ministries? What language do we use to describe people with mental illness, language that affirms a person's dignity or old stereotypes? Do we know where to get help for people with mental illness?

Some useful Web sites are NAMI [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org) for local chapters of NAMI; Mental Illness Ministry [www.miministry.org](http://www.miministry.org); or NCPD Council on Mental Illness at [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org). Show our new video "Welcomed and Valued" in your parish. Work for justice for people with mental illness and their families by calling for adequate funding of our mental health system. For more information, contact me at [olmcinfo2@aol.com](mailto:olmcinfo2@aol.com).

I would also like to thank the Diaconate community for its support of the Faith and Fellowship outreach ministry to people with mental illness.

## Creative 'good suffering' a matter of holy gumption?

By Deacon Don Grossnickle

What a strange combination of words selected for the title of this essay. I suspect that the words do not seem comfortable together? Creative and good are compatible, but hardly at peace with suffering? Hmm, let's explore this challenging thought for a moment.

The message of creative good suffering seems so filled with possibilities. The words together seem to portray my deep hope. Yes, I hope that somewhere deep within each of us we possess the transformative power, gumption and resilience to be so optimistic to think that we can create a mindset that can turn suffering into something good for ourselves and others.

I suppose that this challenge comes deep from within my heart, spirit and soul that perhaps had its profound origin in 1988 when Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, then archbishop of Chicago laid hands on me and bestowed the gift of Deacon Holy Orders. He challenged me to be a herald of good news. For the best part of some 20 years, I have truly enjoyed creating good news in the face of happy times which is easy, and worked hard at creatively finding the elusive silver lining when the dark clouds of storms and life disasters loom heavy all about.

In worse-case scenario situations, I have seen death and near-death and in the midst of the suffering seen never failing seeds of light, hope and redemption. Yes, I truly believe the Holy Spirit, the

Paraclete, visits our hearts when invited, when we call out in agony or pleading. I admit, sometimes it takes creativity to see a pathway out of misery, those dark valleys with the shadows of death and pain pressing down upon our soul.

Creativity can truly bring us out of despair. I find it so uplifting and true: "suffering may be inevitable, but misery is optional." Creativity is a gift, an antidote to the toxic poison of despair and suffering alone.

Most recently, I walked the creative suffering journey of hope with my younger brother who bravely struggled with cancer that wracked his body with agony. The Holy Spirit embraced us until a week ago when this valiant warrior with amazing holy gumption proclaimed creative good suffering news: "I think I am dying, and it is OK." The creative good suffering strategy he and I crafted was to pray for a miracle, trust God, embrace each other until the pain goes away, and hope for the best. Creativity helped us develop the strategy: "either way we win." His heavenly Easter was a winning homecoming celebration because he creatively invented that reality. His funeral Mass was good suffering because God helped us make it that way. His gumption and faith inspire me onward to keep creatively passing on hope.

Five boys who became my friends and teachers broke their necks playing high school football. Now young men, they continue to teach me profound insights and lessons about gumption, resilience and creative good suffering.

One quadriplegic boy told me tearfully that once he had wanted to be a car mechanic when he grew up. With a smile and peace that is

beyond all human understanding he told me; "now, with God's grace and the help of the Holy Spirit I am content and delighted to be a mechanic of the mind, heart, spirit and soul."

He laughed when he said, "being this kind of mechanic is truly a sufficiently demanding creative full-time job." He went on to share, "It takes real creativity and talent to restore the wreck of a totally paralyzed body that must breathe assisted by a mechanical ventilator.

"It is hard facing the suffering reality that I can do almost nothing for myself."

I am confident in knowing that there is good news: creative good suffering is possible. I have seen miracle transformations fueled by holy gumption faith, and resilience overpower ordinary suffering.

In her very creative and popular book "Eat Love and Pray," author Elizabeth Gilbert takes the reader on a whirlwind global journey as she attempts to transform an emergent life of painful suffering into something better. Her book gives another witness to the elusive and holy power of transforming creative good suffering. Check out Gilbert's lecture on the Internet at: [www.ted.com/index.php/talks/elizabeth\\_gilbert\\_on\\_genius.html](http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/elizabeth_gilbert_on_genius.html). She gives a powerful witness and a good solid lesson on how to be resilient when faced with suffering that threatens to break your heart and soul.

Yes, I am convinced that holy gumption and bounce come from the Holy Spirit. We each have the opportunity to use it, or lose it. Deacons need it, everybody needs it, Pass on the good news, won't you?



## Phoebe's Corner

### Women seeking input

To the Women of the Diaconate Community: As a result of coming together at the Diaconate Convocation this past January, there was considerable interest in sharing networking, ministry and support among the women of our community. A core group of interested women met April 28 to share ideas and vision in the areas of continuing communication and outreach.

We are initially looking towards celebrating a Women in Ministry gathering in October 2011 to strengthen our presence and to offer networking and ministry support for women. Look for our regular column

entitled Phoebe's Corner in The Flame to be used as a means of sharing information, as well as to present articles of interest in areas of personal and ministerial growth and development.

We are currently seeking volunteers to act as class representatives in gathering contact information and maintaining communication with our membership in a more comprehensive, cost-effective and efficient manner.

We welcome your ideas and participation as we continue to seek God's will and guidance for the future of our Women in Ministry. Please complete and return the following brief survey to assist our efforts to serve the women of our community.

## Community news

Your prayers are asked for those who have recently gone to the Lord: Deacon Leonard Olszak, '79; Andrew Michalowski, son of Ben and Sylvia Michalowski, '89; Margaret Woods, sister of Pete Morrissey '01; and Maria de Jesus Castro, mother of Gloria Favila '96.

Among the sick, we commend to your prayers: Maria Patiño, John Wilkenson, Ida Bohannon, Tony Navarro, Robert DeFiore, Robert Sassetti, Linda O'Donnell, Alicia Rivera, Mel Both, John Lucas, Robert Devereux, Susan Winblad, Janet Studer, wife of the late Deacon Marvin Studer, '85, Ed Ryan, Frank and Blanche DeVita, José Vazquez, Bienvenido Nieves, Maria Del Llano, Soledad Muñoz, Jim Deiters, Roberto Figueroa, Sabino Sanchez, Patricia Gniech, Angelo y Maria Cordoba, Ernestina Ponce, Edwin Martinez, Donald Palmer, Agnes Barrett, John Burt, José Uroza, Carmen and Wilmer Rodriguez, Santos Soto, Jose Marrero, Jose Alvarez, Joaquin Varela, Iris Diaz, John Simmons, Ronald Wiener, Cheryl Becker and Mary Gronkiewicz.



**Send completed surveys to the Diaconate Office marked:  
Attention: Marge Colgan**

If you prefer to respond by email please contact:

South Side: Helene Albano [ladyteardrop@comcast.net](mailto:ladyteardrop@comcast.net)

or North Side: Sue Szarek [DOGS34ME@comcast.net](mailto:DOGS34ME@comcast.net)

I am interested in attending future gatherings for  
Women in Ministry

I would be willing to be a Class Representative.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to suggest ideas for future Women's  
gatherings

Topics: \_\_\_\_\_

Speakers: \_\_\_\_\_

I look forward to sharing networking and ministry  
opportunities

## Stritch Retreat House update

By Deacon Richard F. Hudzik

I offer you three important items from *your* retreat house.

First, join noted speaker and radio personality Father Thomas Loya, Holy Name Cathedral's Associate Pastor Father Thomas Aschenbrenner and me for an intensive and challenging workshop on the topic of same-sex marriage.

This overnight offering at Stritch Retreat House will be for deacons, wives and other ministers and begins Friday and Saturday, July 23-24. It will provide tools to articulate with fidelity and charity at all times, the Church's teaching defining marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. Our endeavor is to demonstrate the Church's understanding of Scripture, anthropology and sexuality makes same-sex marriage an impossibility.

Topics to be covered will include natural law, theology of the body, Scripture, the minister's duty to pass on accurate teachings to those ministered to and the religious liberty ramifications of state-sanctioned same-sex marriage. Check Stritch's Web page at [stritchretreat.org](http://stritchretreat.org) for further details. Registration will be limited, so please reserve your spot now.

Second, some have asked for an explanation of the process of the directed retreat offered at Stritch from the evening of July 27 until noon Aug. 2. The directed retreat is an opportunity for significant quiet time with God. There is daily Mass and a daily one-hour meeting with one of the spiritual directors (you typically stay with the same director during the course of the week so that you might engage in a more in-depth conversation about the presence of God in your life). Other than that, you are on your own in the fertile desert of silence.

The spiritual directors for this year (the retreatants ask us to

engage them year after year) are Fr. Robert Schoenstene, Dr. Kate Wiskus and Sister Georgene Wilson, OSF. The retreat is open to all ministers of the Church.

Finally, the 2010/2011 calendar is shaping up. The dates and retreat leaders at this point are below.

- Sept. 10-12, 2010: Deacons and wives (Fr. Michael Ahlstrom)
- Sept. 17-19: Deacons and wives (Spanish language)
- Oct. 8-10: Deacons (Friar Bernard Kennedy, OFM)
- Oct. 29-31: Deacons and wives (Spanish language)
- Nov. 19-21: Deacons and wives (Fr. James Kubicki, SJ)
- Jan. 14-16: Deacons and wives (Fr. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S.)
- Feb. 11-13: Deacons and wives (Spanish language)
- Feb. 18-20: Deacons (retreat leader invitation pending)
- April 1-3: Deacons and wives (Dr. Kate Wiskus, D.Min.)
- May 20-22: Deacons and wives (Spanish language)

As always, if you find the need to get away for a few days of quiet, let us know. We want to welcome you here for prayer. Come away by yourself. *Venite seorsum.*

*Deacon Richard F. Hudzik is director of Stritch Retreat House.*



## Looking for alumni

I am active with the Notre Dame High School alumni and I would like to find out if there are any other deacons in our archdiocese who attended Notre Dame High School for Boys in Niles. If anyone did attend NDHS, please contact me at: [jernst@archchicago.org](mailto:jernst@archchicago.org) -- Deacon Jim Ernst, Our Lady of Hope Church.

## Marriage ministry resources

The new 2010-2011 edition of "How to Get Married in the Archdiocese of Chicago" should have arrived at your parish by now. This booklet contains all the upcoming diocesan marriage preparation dates and locations. Please give a booklet to each of your engaged couples who approach you to get married in your parish.

Last November, the USCCB approved a new pastoral letter on marriage titled "Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan." The letter and its shortened abridged version can be accessed on the bishops' marriage Web site [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org). You can find many other useful marriage-strengthening resources there as well.

The Catholic Conference of Illinois has published the document "Promoting Civil Unions to Undermine Marriage" that talks specifically about legislative attempts in Illinois to redefine marriage. Contact CCI at (312) 368-1066 to request copies of this resource.

Please continue to let your engaged and married couples know about the Family Ministries Web site [www.familyministries.org](http://www.familyministries.org). It has a wealth of information and resources.

If any deacons are interested in offering an easy-to-use six-week marriage enrichment series during Lent 2011, contact Frank Hannigan at [fhannigan@archchicago.org](mailto:fhannigan@archchicago.org). There is a new program that can fit ideally into what parishes offer during Lent. Don't replace your annual Lenten Mission. Rather offer this six-week program specifically for the married couples of your parish in addition to your mission.



## Diaconate Council Notes May 8, 2010

(A complete report of the minutes from the Diaconate Council meeting can be found at the Diaconate Website, [www.deacons.archchicago.org](http://www.deacons.archchicago.org))

**-- Treasurer's report, Charles McFarland:**

As of Feb. 28, the bank balance was \$39,726.92. Since then credits to the account of \$3,558.07 and disbursements of \$8,368.99 leave a current balance as of April 30 of \$34,916.00.

Donations are still coming in for the Diaconate Lenten charity collection. As of April 30, \$3,425.00 has been received.

Chairman Egan made motion that the Diaconate matches up to \$1,000 the amounts given to each charity. That motion was seconded, and approved.

Vice Chairman Sterns led a discussion on solicitation of deacons by charities. His first request was that no charity organization that the Diaconate community supports namely, Emmaus House, Friends of the Orphans, Hope's on the Way and Zacchaeus House be allowed to ask the Diaconate community for donations.

After discussion by the council, a motion was passed to inform the charities that the Diaconate community mailing list is off-limits for any solicitation during Lent as the Diaconate community sends out its annual Lenten appeal during this time.

**-- Executive Council Board Ratification, Daniel Welter:** With the nominations for the council executive board being closed at the April meeting, the names and positions were read for ratification by the membership. They are: William Stearns, chairman; George Kashmar, vice-chairman; Charles McFarland, treasurer; and Sal Lema, secretary. The new board will be sworn in at the July meeting.

**-- Miscellaneous:**

2010 St. Lawrence Day: Tom Coffey has agreed to chair the event this year, which will take place Aug. 8 at St. Barbara Parish in Brookfield.

2012 Convocation Planning: During the wrap-up meeting of the convocation planning committee and

the subsequent executive board meeting, it was agreed that the overnight convocation would become a bi-annual event. For this last convocation, \$16,000 came out of the office's operating budget. Father Mike Ahlstrom is proposing that parishes be asked to provide additional support. A request to raise the parish request from \$600 to \$750 is seriously being reviewed by the office.

**-- Money market funds:** The question arose as to how much money is in the money market fund and where it was located. The funds that are estimated at \$138,000 have been held at First American Fund of Milwaukee. It has been receiving .02% interest. This money is to be deposited in the archdiocesan bank, which is currently paying 1.7% on one-year CDs. Funds that will be transferred to the archdiocesan bank are FDIC insured.

St. Francis Day Report, Ron Morowczynski, chairman. Ron reported on the progress of his committee. A letter of solicitation that can be handed to a prospective ad purchaser will accompany the newly designed flyer.

**-- Reports:**

**State of the Union, David Egan:** As his term of chairman closes, Dave Egan reported on the accomplishments that have transpired under his leadership. "We now have better communication methods than we did in the past," he said. "Each deacon has an archdiocese e-mail account; we receive electronic batch mails, death notices and policy e-mails. The structure of the council has changed to enhance communication with the vicariates and deaneries. The sense of belonging to a larger community is much better than it was in the past 10 years or so. We recently had the first community-wide convocation."

Egan also said an ongoing challenge is to strive for better working relationships between the priests and bishops of the archdiocese.

**Vicar's report, Father Mike Ahlstrom:** Father Mike along with Bill Sterns, and his wife Anne made recent changes to the handbook,

which will be sent to the council members for review and approval prior to it being sent out to all the deacons. It will also be placed on the Website.

Policies in the handbook that will be reviewed: sabbaticals for deacons and the issue of having one weekend free of any parish responsibilities each month. An ad-hoc committee will be formed to consider these and other questions. Those council members interested in working on the committee should contact Fr. Mike.

**Associate director's report, Denis Colgan:** The next interim Convocation will be held March 12, 2011, at Concordia University. The topic will be the New Roman Missal.

Plans for this year's symposium are being made for the end of October or early November. The event will have a limited number of workshops given by members of the Diaconate community exclusively.

Colgan brought up the idea of acquiring a Photo ID system. He said using the machine from the archdiocese has been difficult. Having the unit at the office will allow for IDs taken anytime there is an event or at the office. A motion was made to underwrite the cost of this system and to purchase a laptop, which is also needed for a cost not to exceed \$4,000.00. Motion passed.

**Personnel Board, Daniel Welter, committee chairman:** A letter will soon be going out asking for a list of openings in all vicariates. The DDCs will be involved. Opportunities for assignment based on need will be developed.

**Women of the Diaconate:** The woman's gathering was held in late April. It was decided that they will hold one gathering a year during the opposite year of the convocation.

**Additional items:** Dan Welter stated that pins for significant years 10, 15, 20, and 25 years have been made. The first ones will be given at the St. Lawrence Day celebration honoring deacons who have served for 25 years. Pins for other significant years can be purchased from the office.

Next meeting – July 10, 2010.

**New officers for  
Diaconate Council**

*(Continued from page 1)*

support and improve married relationships.

- To encourage a strong bond within the Diaconate community.
- Develop a method of reporting and recording all phases of each diaconal event, program or committee.
- Update the Deacon Manual.
- Establish a list of expectations for every committee and position.
- Establish a closer relationship between Vicariate Deacon Coordinators and Deanery Deacon Coordinators.
- Encourage a closer working relationship between all the clergy in the archdiocese.

**George Kashmar, vice-chairman.**

Kashmar and his wife Mary of Libertyville have been married for 30 years in 2010. They have two children: Patrick, 17, and Annie, 14. He was ordained in 2006 and ministers at St Joseph Church in Libertyville.

In regards to ministry, Kashmar has been involved with baptismal preparation, Soup Kitchen Team, Worship Committee, CRHP, Admission & Scrutinies Board for the Deacon Formation Program and the Diaconate Council where he has served as DDC in Vicariate 1 Deanery C for two years.

Kashmar says he sees building upon the momentum and unity displayed at the Convocation “We are community and we are called to be a voice of Jesus in today’s world,” Kashmar said.

He said he is taking “a wait and see attitude” with his role on the council. “Whatever the Spirit calls me to I will answer,” he said. “I am honored and humbled to serve the

Diaconate in the role on the council.”

**Sal Lema, secretary.**

Lema and his wife Beth Ann are residents of Palos Heights. Lema, who was ordained in 2001, ministers at St. Rene Goupil Church in Chicago. He is involved with Hope is on the Way, parish ministry including baptism prep and liturgical duties, co-spiritual director for Christ Renews His Parish, works with the sharing parish of St. Benedict the African and provides PR assistance for the Convocation and St. Francis Day.

Lema is the 2007 recipient of the St. Lawrence the Deacon Award and recently received his master’s degree in religious education. He has served as representative for Vicariate V for five years and DDC for Vicariate V, A & B West for two years.

As far as challenges to the Diaconate Community, Lema said “deacons are called to serve, anywhere, anytime, anyway. Our challenge is to see the bigger picture and not just live within a parish circle, (although that is where our call originated), but to view our servant leadership as the opportunity to open the door to greater yet unthought-of requests. We must be open to God’s call for us to look outside the box. After all did not Jesus do that in His ministry?”

The main challenge for the Diaconate Council, “is to live our charism by remembering that we are here to serve the servant. We must conduct business as transparent as possible and always be available to assist to those who call on us. Our highest priority will be to respect our fellow deacon in all that we do,” Lema said. “The council is a representative body of the Diaconate community. It is my hope that the council will use all

the resources at their disposal to serve the servant.”

**Chuck McFarland, treasurer**

McFarland and his wife Terese of Tinley Park serve at St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr, Church. Ordained in 2005, he is involved with Confirmation as a Religious Education catechist, Spiritual Adviser to the Men’s Club, development of Hands On Ministry, recruiting volunteer teams to serve at PADS Homeless Shelters, Catholic Charities Meals Programs etc. McFarland has served as DDC for Vicariate V Deanery E for two years. He assumed duties of council treasurer six months ago to fill the unexpired term of the previous treasurer.

The Diaconate community is facing several challenges, McFarland noted.

“The average age of deacons is increasing. We need to bring younger men into our community,” he said. “(We also need to) help deacons find a balance between their commitment to God, to their family, to their career and to their Diaconate ministry.”

McFarland also said he would like to see increased participation in Diaconate events and to develop “a stronger bond of fellowship in our community.”

In regards to the new officers, Father Michael Ahlstrom, vicar for the Diaconate, said he is “excited about the new Executive Committee of the Diaconate Community Council and the new members who will be serving as Deanery Deacon Coordinators. They bring fresh enthusiasm and a new outlook. Yet there are enough seasoned members to provide continuity. I am also grateful for those who have stepped down after many years of service. God’s blessing on them all!”

## Preparation begins for new Roman Missal

(Continued from page 1)

The Archdiocese of Chicago will be offering numerous gatherings for priests, deacons, parish leadership, musicians, teachers and catechists. These will most likely be scheduled at the end of this year through early summer 2011.

In addition, there are already various resources that are prepared, and others that continue to be developed, that will help facilitate these gatherings. Materials will be provided to assist pastors and parish leadership as they prepare their own parishes for implementation.

Last year, the Committee on Divine Worship of the USCCB launched its Roman Missal Formation website. The site, [www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal), includes background material on the process of development of liturgical texts, sample texts from the English translation of the prayers of the Mass, a glossary of terms and answers to frequently asked questions. Content will be added regularly over the next several months. The bishop's Committee on Divine Worship hopes the site will be a central resource for those preparing to implement the new text.

The home page of the Bishop's Committee on Divine Worship's Roman Missal website includes a welcome-to-the-site video by Bishop Arthur Serratelli, of Paterson, N.J. who is committee chairman.

In his welcome video, Bishop Serratelli notes that now is a great opportunity "not only to learn about the changes and the revised texts, but also to deepen our own understanding of the liturgy itself. We encourage priests, deacons, religious, liturgical ministers, all the faithful to avail themselves of the information that we are making available."

On this website, you can

download a copy of the "Approved Translation for the Order of Mass." We encourage all priests and those in parish leadership to download and read through this. In it you will find:

- ... All four of the main new Eucharistic Prayers.
- ... All of the parts of the Mass that are dialogs and thus have assembly responses.
- ... All of the common prayers and acclamations (the Gloria, Confiteor, Creed, etc.).

With the revision of the English translation of the Mass texts, we have a unique opportunity to reflect on and to deepen our understanding of and appreciation for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Rather than simply being a time to prepare "to make changes," this can be a time when all Catholics can renew for themselves the sense that the Mass is the very source and summit - the very heart - of our Christian lives. This can be a time when parish leadership can lead the faithful in deepening their understanding of the Eucharist; a time when parish leadership can offer some continued catechesis on the Mass.

In 2003, in preparation for the revised GIRM, the Office for Divine Worship issued a series of eight inserts that can be downloaded and printed in the parish bulletin. Although it was in preparation for the Revised GIRM these inserts are still pertinent for general liturgical catechesis. They can be used as is or they can be modified as long as the copyright credit is printed as it appears in the inserts.

These eight inserts are:

- Insert 1: Sunday Eucharist
- Insert 2: Ministries and Roles
- Insert 3: Posture and Gestures
- Insert 4: Hearing the Word of God
- Insert 5: Eucharistic Prayer
- Insert 6: The Reception of Holy Communion

- Insert 7: Music in the Liturgy: Let All God's People Sing
- Insert 8: Baptism, Penance, Eucharist: Sacraments of New Life, Repentance, & Communion

On the feast of Pentecost 1998, Pope John Paul II published the Apostolic Letter "Dies Domini" - "Keeping the Lord's Day Holy." In the introduction to this wonderful treatment of the Lord's Day, the pope expressed, among other things, his hope that the age-old tradition and teaching of the Church be renewed: that Christian believers should come together to hear God's word and share in the Eucharist.

If Sunday is the "very heart of Christian life," then the celebration of the Eucharist is the very heart of Sunday. The Eucharist is the celebration of the living presence of the Risen Lord in the midst of his own people. The Eucharist is the "fountainhead" of the Church; it feeds and forms the Church.

This study guide is offered to parishes and other ecclesial communities for use with staffs, small faith sharing groups or ministerial gatherings.

These are just a few resources that the Office for Divine Worship can offer in regard to this general liturgical catechesis being called for in preparation for the Roman Missal.

In addition, the quarterly newsletter of the Office for Worship, *The Collect*, features information and resources to help in this general catechesis. (To receive a copy of *The Collect*, please send your request to ODW - [rsimonelic@odw.org](mailto:rsimonelic@odw.org).)

*Todd Williamson is the director of the Office for Divine Worship in the Archdiocese of Chicago.*

**Access The Flame  
online at  
[deacons.archchicago.org](http://deacons.archchicago.org)**



## Trip to the Holy Land

Stauros USA is planning a trip to the Holy Land Aug. 16-27.

The cost of the trip, entitled "Access to the Land of the Bible," is \$3,100 per person. The trip leaves from Newark, N.J.

First priority is given to persons with disabilities. Others are welcome to apply who wish to assist those on the tour.

The trip will be a program of travel and study in the Holy Land designed especially for persons with physical disabilities.

On the trip, you will:

- ... Gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible by experiencing the land and the cultures in which it was written. It is an experience that will impact your personal spiritual life as well as your ministry.
- ... Experience the richness of access and inclusion in the context of community.
- ... Celebrate the Gospel narratives in which people with disabilities were liberated by Jesus' actions on their behalf.
- ... Challenge yourself to new personal achievements and advance your understanding of inclusion and access in all aspects of your life.

Contact Deacon Don Grossnickle at (773) 484-0581 or by email at [dgrossnick@aol.com](mailto:dgrossnick@aol.com). For more information, visit the Stauros Web site at [www.stauros.org](http://www.stauros.org).

## Views from the Vicar

(Continued from page 3)

In the spirit of sabbatical, I remind you that it is official policy that every deacon should have **one weekend a month free** of any ministry, including liturgical ministry. Remember family and marriage are priorities. With that in mind be sure to take off that time to enjoy being with your loved ones.

Our **Personnel Board** continues to re-examine its operation. I am grateful for Dan Welter's willingness to accept the position of chairman of the board. Along with our Vicariate Deacon Coordinators our needs should be well met. Along with this copy of *The Flame*, all deacons should receive a letter reviewing our policy and inviting them to look at their own attitudes about transferring to another assignment. We hope to offer some workshops for deacons and wives to deepen their own awareness of the psychology and spirituality of transition.

I am happy to report that the initiative, begun by our deacons of color, concerning our **plague of violence** is making real progress. What they began has expanded to include pastors, lay ministers and religious. They are looking at offering education at many levels including sacramental preparation and religious education curriculum. Four areas to be addressed include: 1. Violence Awareness, 2. Conflict Resolution, 3. Peacemaking and 4. Parenting skills.

Be sure to save 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 8, for our **St. Lawrence Festival of Ordinations**. I will host it at St. Barbara in Brookfield. We will welcome 19 men who were ordained this year, along with their wives and children, into our Diaconate Community. We will also be honoring the 17 men and their wives of the Class of 1985 who are observing their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will have a Mass of Thanksgiving at 2 p.m. followed by a "picnic" in the air-conditioned Parish Center. While I love an outdoor picnic, the possibility of excessive heat prompts us to move indoors. God bless your summer!

Father Michael Ahlstrom

## Reflexiones del Vicario

(Continued from page 3)

en esto, asegúrense de tener este tiempo libre y de disfrutarlo con sus seres queridos.

Nuestro Directorio de Personal continua examinando esta operación. Agradezco a Dan Welter por aceptar la posición de Director de este directorio junto con nuestros diáconos Coordinadores de Vicariato. Cuando ustedes lean esto, ya todos los diáconos habrán recibido una carta de revisión de nuestras pólizas invitándolos a mirar dentro de su propia actitud acerca de cambiarse de asignación. Esperamos ofrecerles algunos talleres para los diáconos y sus esposas para ahondar su propia manera de pensar a cerca de la psicología y espiritualidad de la transición.

Me da gusto contarles que la iniciativa que comenzó con nuestros diáconos de color acerca de la **plaga de violencia**, está haciendo mucho progreso. Lo que comenzaron se ha expandido a incluir a pastores, ministros laicos y religiosos. Están planeando ofrecer educación en varios niveles, incluyendo preparación sacramental y educación religiosa. Las cuatro áreas que incluirán serán: 1. Detectando violencia, 2. Solución de problemas, 3. Hacer paz y 4. Habilidades de padres.

Por favor asegúrense de guardar el Domingo 2 de Agosto a las 2:00PM para nuestro Festival de Ordenaciones honrando San Lawrence, que se llevará a cabo en la iglesia de Santa Bárbara. Daremos la bienvenida a 19 nuevos diáconos y sus esposas y familias y reconoceremos a 17 diáconos de la clase de 1985 que celebran sus 25 años. Tendremos una misa de acción de gracias seguida por un pic-nic en el Centro Parroquial que tiene aire acondicionado. Mientras que me encanta tener un pic-nic al aire libre, la posibilidad de un calor excesivo, nos hace elegir hacerlo adentro del edificio.

Que Dios bendiga tu verano!

Padre Miguel Ahlstrom

## June

20-25 Summer Scripture Seminar

## July

4 Independence Day

10 Diaconate Council meeting

23-24 Workshop on Same-Sex Marriage

## August

8 Festival of Ordination

10 St. Lawrence Feast Day

15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The ordination class of 2010 from the English Diaconate formation program poses with Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Fr. Michael Ahlstrom, Vicar for Deacons, Deacon Robert Puhala, Director of Formation, Fr. Dennis Stafford, and Deacon Dan Welter, following their ordination on May 23, 2010 at Holy Name Cathedral. (photo courtesy of *The Catholic New World*)

Archdiocese of Chicago  
Office of the Diaconate  
816 Marengo  
Forest Park, IL 60130