



# THE FLAME

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February - March 2011

## Prison book club sets captive minds free

By Deacon Dave Brencic

Once a teacher, always a teacher.

Paul and Clare Faherty, who both have years of teaching experience, are back in the “classroom.” It’s not young schoolchildren they are discussing literature with, but rather convicted inmates in Statesville, the maximum-security prison in Joliet.

For the last four years, the Fahertys have organized and led a reading club for inmates. Twice a month, the couple travels 40 miles to the prison to discuss books that have ranged from Herman Melville’s “Moby Dick” to William Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” to “Night” by Elie Wiesel.

Clare was the one who first got involved through her work with the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Through that group,



Clare and Paul Faherty have organized a book club for inmates at Stateville Prison in Joliet.

she met a woman who had received a grant to create a reading program for inmates at Stateville.

Paul, who was ordained a deacon in 1988 and had some prison ministry experience through Cook County Jail, also felt moved to get involved.

“Reading Luke’s Gospel, where Jesus talks about the things he had come to do ... ‘bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives’ ... I realized that as a Diaconate couple we had not done that.”

Clare said her previous work with an inmate on death row prepared her for more involvement with prison ministry.

“It helps get you over that hump,” Clare said. “It’s just people.”

Paul agrees.

“We were careful going there, but not apprehensive,” he stresses.

The book club is made up of 15 inmates. Requests to join the book

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Special retreat for women

By Chris Grable and Mary Lou Thompson

The next Diaconate Women’s Retreat will be March 25-27 at Stritch Retreat House and will be facilitated by Jo Giarrante with the theme “Tea and Empathy.”

Giarrante brings a great deal of personal interest, experience, energy and insight into the topic since she had received a heart transplant four years ago. She has an M.Div., is a spiritual director, a supervisor and certified life coach, staff member at the Institute for Spiritual Leadership and is a former Franciscan sister.

In keeping with the theme, tea will be served on Saturday afternoon. Bring your favorite teacup and saucer and share your story about the specialness of that set.

Share the news about the retreat with other Diaconate women and plan on relaxing in a Spirit-filled weekend. We wanted to remind you that sandwich fixings are available at the retreat center in case you haven’t had dinner when you arrive.

You may phone in your reservation to Eva at the retreat house (847) 566-6060.

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## A thank-you to mentors

There are certain people who hold special places of honor in our lives. Perhaps it's a parent or an older brother or sister. Maybe it's a teacher, mentor or a coach. Whoever it may be, they are precious to us because they helped to mold us and had a profound influence on us.

In trying to discern my call to the Diaconate, there were two deacons from my parish, John Debnar and Jerry Fox, who had a real impact on me. Their examples of service, their words of encouragement, their patience in answering my never-ending questions, their sharing of their own experiences as deacons helped to convince me that this was a path I was being called to follow.

But I think I owe my deepest gratitude to Paul and Clare Faherty, who served as a mentor couple for four years of formation. They welcomed our small group of five couples into their home each Thursday night. It was there where we broke open Scripture and shared and learned what those sacred words meant. It was there where we saw and learned how a husband and wife minister together not only in the parish, but serve the greater Church.

During those evenings together, we became a family where we shared our faith stories and intimate moments in our lives. It was a time when we were challenged and instructed and molded. It was a time that I'll never forget and will be forever

grateful for.

Several years ago, my wife Jane and I were aspirancy mentors for a year. We enjoyed it, but it was something we decided not to continue because our son was still in school and we didn't want to miss any more time with him. Maybe one day we'll become mentors again.

I would encourage anyone to consider becoming a mentor couple. It's a way of giving back to the Diaconate Formation Program and helping those who are on that journey of discernment. It's a path we've all traveled and probably continue to walk. And leading the way ... are those beloved mentors.

Keep the fire burning,

Deacon Dave Brencic, Editor

## The Flame

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## Un agradecimiento a los mentores

Hay ciertas personas que tienen un lugar de honor en nuestras vidas. Tal vez sea un padre o un hermano o hermana mayor. Quizá un profesor, un mentor o un entrenador. Quienquiera que sea, son especiales para nosotros porque nos ayudaron a formarnos y tuvieron una influencia profunda en nosotros.

Cuando estaba tratando de discernir mi llamado al Diaconado, fueron dos diáconos de mi parroquia, John Debnar y Jerry Fox, los que realmente me impactaron. Su ejemplo de servicio, sus palabras de aliento, su paciencia en contestar todas mis interminables preguntas, el compartir sus propias experiencias como diáconos, fueron lo que ayudó a convencerme de que este era el camino al que yo estaba llamado a seguir.

Pero creo que debo mi más profunda gratitud a Paul y Clare Faherty quienes sirvieron como pareja de mentores durante mis cuatro años de formación. Ellos dieron la bienvenida a su hogar, todos los Jueves por la noche a cinco parejas. Fue allí donde comenzamos a leer la Escritura y a aprender y compartir lo que significaban esas sagradas palabras. Fue allí donde vimos y aprendimos

como el esposo y la esposa hacían ministerio juntos, no solo en la parroquia, pero también sirviendo a todo la Iglesia.

Durante esas noches juntos, nos convertimos en una familia donde compartimos nuestras historias de fe y momentos íntimos de nuestras vidas.. Fue un tiempo donde fuimos desafiados, instruidos y moldeados. Fue un tiempo que nunca olvidaré y por el que estaré agradecido eternamente.

Hace algunos años, mi esposa Jane y yo fuimos mentores del aspirantado por un año. Lo disfrutamos mucho, pero decidimos no continuarlo porque nuestro hijo todavía estaba en la escuela y no queríamos perdernos el compartir nuestro tiempo con él. Tal vez algún día volveremos a ser mentores otra vez.

Quisiera animar a todos a considerar ser una pareja de mentores. Es una manera de devolver al Programa de Formación del Diaconado lo que recibimos de él y de ayudar a aquellos que comienzan su viaje de discernimiento. Es un camino por el que todos hemos viajado y que probablemente todavía lo hacemos. Y también de seguir así el camino de nuestros amados mentores.

Mantengan el fuego encendido,

Diácono Dave Brencic, Editor

Views from the Vicar

When I was growing up, a popular program on radio and later on television was “The Lone Ranger.” The masked man rode in and out of western towns. No one knew who he was or where he came from. He helped people out who were in trouble and rode off as quickly as he appeared. He had no community and related to no one (other than his faithful companion, Tonto).

One of my major concerns about our Diaconate community is that we have too many “Lone Rangers.” These are men who may be doing many good things, but do so quite independent of anyone else. They never participate in the events of our community. I am sure many of them see the Diaconate community and its activities as either irrelevant to their ministry or optional.

The problem is larger than the

Diaconate. Many who work at an archdiocesan level talk about the “silos mentality” where each agency is quite independent of the rest. The word “collaboration” is either misunderstood or seen as unnecessary. Jesus said “Where two or three gather in my name, there I am.” Being isolated from the larger community is contrary as to who we are and what we are about as Catholic disciples of the Lord.

One manifestation of this is the difficulty in surfacing leadership and responsibility within our community. For example one of our Deanery Diaconate Coordinators has been trying for many months to find a replacement for himself in his deanery. No one is willing to come forward. We are the point of looking outside the deanery for leadership!

Another difficulty is that in our Diaconate Community Council, we have a number of men who have not been to a meeting in over six months.

I expect each DDC to call every deacon in their area twice a year to see how they are doing. I also expect them to have Deanery meetings at least twice a year along with two other vicariate affairs planned in collaboration with their Vicariate Deacon Coordinator.

When these things do not happen our community suffers. I know many get disillusioned when there are events that are well-publicized and there is still very little attendance. I know some of you reading this may be thinking, “My time is at a premium; what counts is that I am doing ministry, and I don’t need meetings.”

As the great spiritual author Father Ron Rolheiser has written, there are four pillars to the spiritual life. One is our personal relationship with the Lord and our personal morality. The second is a mellowness of spirit. A third is charity and justice – how we treat the least of people. The fourth

*(Continued on page 10)*

Reflexiones del Vicario



En mi niñez, uno de los programas populares, primero en radio y después en televisión, era el *Llanero Solitario*. El enmascarado aparecía y

desaparecía de los pueblos del lejano oeste sin que nadie sepa quien era o de donde venía. Ayudaba a la gente que tenía problemas y se iba tan rápido como había aparecido. No pertenecía a ninguna comunidad, ni tenía familia, mas que su fiel compañero, el indio llamado *Tonto*. Una de mis mayores preocupaciones en nuestra Comunidad Diaconal, es que tenemos muchos “*Llaneros Solitarios*”. Estos son hombres que talvez estén haciendo muchas cosas buenas, pero que las hacen muy independientemente y nunca participan en eventos de nuestra comunidad. Estoy seguro que muchos de ellos ven a nuestra Comunidad Diaconal y sus actividades, ya sea irrelevantes a su ministerio u opcionales, solo para aquellos que creen que las necesitan. El problema

es más grande que el Diaconado. Muchos que trabajan a nivel arquidiocesano, hablan de la “mentalidad de silo” donde cada agencia es independiente de las demás. La palabra “colaboración”, ni es entendida, ni parece necesaria. Jesús dijo “Donde dos o tres se reúnen en mi nombre, allí estoy yo”. Estar aislados de la comunidad es contrario a lo que somos y a lo que hacemos como discípulos católicos del Señor.

Una manifestación de esto es la dificultad en encontrar liderazgo y responsabilidad en nuestra comunidad. Por ejemplo uno de nuestros Coordinadores de Denario del Diaconado, esta tratando por varios meses de encontrar alguien que lo reemplace y hasta ahora no a podido encontrar a nadie en su denario. Ya hemos llegado al punto de tener que buscar liderazgo fuera de su denario!

Otra dificultad es que en el Concilio de la Comunidad Diaconal, tenemos un número de personas que no han asistido a una reunión en más de seis meses! Yo espero que cada Coordinador de Denario llame a todos los diáconos de su área unas dos veces

al año para preguntarles como les está yendo. También espero que cada Denario tenga reuniones por lo menos dos veces al año, junto con otras reuniones en colaboración con su Vicariato y su Coordinador de Vicariato. Cuando estas expectativas no se cumplen, nuestra comunidad sufre. Sé que muchos están desilusionados de que cuando tienen un evento, y le hacen mucha propaganda, solo tienen una minina asistencia de personas. Sé que algunos de ustedes que están leyendo esto, están pensando “Mi tiempo es precioso; lo que cuenta es que estoy haciendo ministerio y no necesito reuniones.” Como el autor espiritual, el Padre Ron Rolheiser escribió, hay cuatro pilares en la vida espiritual. Uno, es nuestra relación personal con el Señor y nuestra propia moral. El segundo es nuestra madurez de espíritu. El tercero es caridad y justicia - como tratamos a todas las personas. El cuanto pilar, que no es negociable, es nuestra conexión con la Iglesia. Comunidad no es algo extra y opcional; es lo esencial si queremos ser verdaderos discípulos de Jesús. Necesitamos la dinámica de estar

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Why pray?

By Deacon Bill Stearns

There is nothing that defines who we are as deacons more than our prayer. Prayer is not so much that God can determine what we want since Jesus tells us that "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him." God wants us to pray because prayer expresses our need for God and our trust in God.

Prayer, therefore, creates a humble dependence upon God. And it is this very same humble dependence that indicates that we are genuinely convinced of God's wisdom, love, goodness and power - therefore all that we feel or think about God comes to expression in our prayer.

The very first words of the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father who art in heaven," acknowledges our dependence on God as a living and wise Father and also recognizes that He rules over all of us. Scripture emphasizes our need to trust God as we pray. Jesus says "Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive *if you have faith.*"

The second reason we pray is to bring us into a closer, more intimate relationship with God. It's a relationship that allows us to build trust as we show our love of God.

## Updates in the Office for Peace and Justice

We ask for your prayers and support for Carol Smith, the new archdiocesan CCHD director. Smith is a Tolton Scholar, with a Master's in Divinity from CTU, and has been an employee of the archdiocese since September 2006. She is the first African-American CCHD director in the 40-plus year history of the program in Chicago. In addition to serving as the CCHD director, Smith will also serve as the coordinator of the Parish

The third reason God wants us to pray is that in prayer we are involved in the building up of his kingdom on earth. Whenever we pray, the work of the kingdom is advanced. So prayer affords a significant opportunity to be included in the work of building up God's kingdom and thus gives meaning to us as creatures made in God's image.

St. James tells us "you do not have, because you do not ask." That implies that our failure to ask deprives us of what God would otherwise have given us. We begin to see the urgency to pray. In John 15:16, Jesus said "Whatever you ask in my name I will give you."

Perhaps the next time you put off praying or you just can't seem to find the time for prayer, remember the words of St. James, 4: 2-3: "You do not possess because you do not ask, you ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

We all experience a lapse in our daily prayer. For me, that may very well occur tomorrow morning and I will be forced to reread my own advice and once again start a new regiment of daily prayer.

Pray always!

*(This is the first in a series of reflections on prayer.)*

Sharing Program for the archdiocese.

The Office for Peace and Justice is looking for volunteers for the CRS Committee. Meetings are held three to four times a year. Duties include speaking at parishes/schools during Lent for Operation Rice Bowl and global solidarity issue, planning for the archdiocesan global solidarity partnership with Mongu, Zambia and planning for the Africa Summit. For more information call Adrienne Curry at (312) 534-8367 or email [acurry@archchicago.org](mailto:acurry@archchicago.org).

## 'Call to Serve' Mass targets high school students

Deacons are invited to a special Mass with Francis Cardinal George March 24 to promote service leadership in the Catholic Church among Catholic High Schools.

Organizers of the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Name Cathedral want to include every high school in the Chicago Archdiocese plus students from the Rockford and Joliet dioceses. The idea is to have 15 to 20 students present from all of the high schools along with the president, principal and clergy of the school.

While high schools have competed against each other in various extracurricular fields, this Mass would be first time students would come together to pray and share the Eucharist together as one Catholic family. The theme will be "A Call to Serve."

The team planning the celebration includes: Deacon Joe Ward and Conor Long, Marist High School; Sean Bergan and KC Vogt, Marmion Academy; and Ryan Mulcahy, St. Rita High School. The hope is to fill Holy Name Cathedral with as many bishops, priests, deacons and religious as possible to join with the high schools in a Celebration of the Eucharist.

Please contact Ward at (630) 430-6501 or [joeward729@gmail.com](mailto:joeward729@gmail.com) if you are interested and available to attend

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**Phoebe's  
Corner**

**No Ordinary Time**

By Helene Albano

Christmas is past with all of its celebration, a jarring hybrid of sacred and secular traditions. The angel choruses, Handel's "Messiah" and the electronic icicles adorning the Walnut Room tree downtown are all memories fading into the background of our lives. As the lights and music dim, the quiet hush of winter settles in with its snowy blanket.

Ordinary... the American Heritage Dictionary speaks of something "commonly encountered" or

"usual." Ordinary Time may seem like a letdown after feasting our senses during Christmas season, but, in reality, doesn't the incarnation have a stronger connection with the everyday experiences of our human existence? Jesus came unattended by royal midwives at his birth. He entered our world in a humble stable attended by animals who shared their feeding trough. On that night, the shepherds huddled shivering under the night sky, just like every other night. It was in this most ordinary setting that the Gospel was announced by the first angel chorus.

How about us? Do we expect to encounter Jesus in the ordinariness of our daily existence? Has his incarnation gone unnoticed in our hearts and homes? Does the love

and charity announced at Christmas continue to grow through our words and actions once the Christmas lights have dimmed?

These Ordinary days are perfect opportunities to practice the presence of Love who came to dwell among and within us. As our shiny decorations have been packed away, does the brightness of our kindness and charity continue to bring the Light of God's healing, hope and mercy to a weary, frightened and wounded world?

My prayer is that, during this most Ordinary of times, we may actively engage our daily opportunities to grow in holiness, transforming the frigid harshness of Chicago's winter with the warmth and brightness of our Savior's Love.

**Stipends – a matter of justice**

By Deacon Chick O'Leary

The compensation guidebook of the Archdiocese of Chicago details the amount of stipends to be provided to deacons for certain services including baptisms, weddings, funerals, committals and quinceneras. It is not a matter of local option as to whether such stipends may be provided, but rather a matter of archdiocesan policy and a matter of justice.

Romans 4:4 reminds us that, "A worker's wage is credited not as a gift, but as something due."

That being said, many deacons do not receive or accept stipends for their services. Some consider their parish too poor to provide a stipend. Some cite unwillingness on the part of their pastor to provide the stipend, while many refuse stipends out of generosity. Indeed, I know of no deacon who spent four or more years preparing for ordination who had been lured by the financial benefits that might accrue unto him as a result of his service.

But to the many who spurn stipends due to a lack of need or a desire to contribute to the church, I would make the following suggestion – take the stipend. If you so desire, you may then donate that stipend back, but take the stipend. Although many are in the fortunate position that they have no need for the incremental income, the next deacon to serve in the same location may have that need and could find it difficult to overcome a precedent that runs counter to archdiocesan policy.

If the pastor, administrator or business manager of the local parish argues that it is not local practice to provide stipends to deacons, refer them to archdiocesan policy books and perhaps inquire as to whether the priests receive the stipends to which they are entitled. (I can assure you they do.) In my role as business manager in a parish, I never begrudge stipends given to any priests or deacons. Indeed, I am grateful that we have retired deacons who make themselves available to handle things such as committal services on those occasions when no one from the parish can do so.

Stipends may also be used to provide assistance to other deacons through the mutual aid fund, which has been greatly impacted due to the economic downturn. Another suggestion would be to direct these funds as contributions to the Diaconate Formation Program. There are many parishes that lack the financial resources to offset the cost of formation for those who would be qualified to enroll.

Funds for financial assistance or scholarships for those in formation have been nearly exhausted and the program's budget has been slashed by over one-third, so any contributions can be put to good use to benefit those with a vocation to the Diaconate.

In short, stipends are a matter of justice and are a responsibility of every parish. Whether those funds are used by the deacon to meet his own needs, are donated back to the parish which provides them or are put to any other use is a decision for the individual deacon and his wife. For the sake of those who are in need of this income, each deacon should receive and accept those stipends to which they are entitled.



It was disheartening to learn from the most recent issue of *The Flame* that the wives of candidates for the Diaconate are no longer allowed to take courses in the programs for credit.

Leaving aside the question of whether it is wise to separate men training for the Diaconate from the men and women training for lay ministry (they studied together successfully for many years) what is the reason for inviting the women

## Stritch Retreat House update

By Deacon Richard F. Hudzik

I am pleased to report that the refurbishing of the library and dining room is largely complete. As I prepare this memo to you, we are wiping away the last of the dust which seemed to inhabit every nook and cranny of the remodeled rooms. The major work is complete and I think you will enjoy the rooms freshened now with new carpeting, paint, ceiling and expanded floor space in the library.

I believe the increased comfort will facilitate your prayer here. Right now, we await the arrival of some furniture and window treatments. As we complete the work, we are prayerfully grateful for the gifts from the estates of several deceased Chicago priests (Revs. Leo Lyons, Ed Szlanga and Edmund Siedlecki), as well as your donations and the donations from others, which have allowed this project to go forward.

Below is the schedule of the remaining Stritch-sponsored retreats for this fiscal year. Call us

to take the courses, but not permitting them to take the examinations and receive credit? Is it a fear that they wouldn't succeed -- or a fear that they would succeed too well? Surely many women who would be interested in the classes will not take them under these humiliating conditions. Doesn't our Church want its daughters to be educated (especially in theology) to the fullest degree possible? Why not?

These are difficult days for women in the Church. As mothers, we suffered greatly at the revelations of sexual abuse of our children by the priests we had respected so much and by the cover-up of that abuse by the bishops that continued to put children at risk. It is a rare Catholic mother who did not question her

own (often middle-aged) children about their experiences with priests. We are saddened by the investigation of the Sisters, our teachers, mentors and role models. And many of us struggle to accept that the prohibition of the ordination of women is now doctrine.

We want to believe that the Church we love and serve values us as full human beings. We cling to the words of St. Paul that "all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:28)

-- Clare Faherty



Refurbished library at Stritch Retreat House

today to register. Note that for the Spanish-language retreats, both the Diaconate Office and Stritch can accept reservations.

Feb. 11-13: Deacons and wives  
(Spanish language)

Feb. 18-20: Deacons (Fr. Kurt Boras)

April 1-3: Deacons and wives (Dr. Kate Wiskus, D.Min.)

May 20-22: Deacons and wives  
(Spanish language)

In addition to the above retreats, the women of the Diaconate have arranged a retreat for wives and widows March 27-29.

Jo Giarrante, M.Div., a spiritual director, supervisor and certified life coach, will present "Tea and Empathy," a retreat which will

include reflections on her heart transplant four years ago.

Please accept my continual reminder that you are welcome here for your own private stays for retreat and renewal. Also, if you feel it would be helpful to give voice to what you are praying, certainly, I would be honored to sit with you and pray together. Truly, it would be a gift to me to help in that way.

Also, remember that, as the archdiocese's retreat house, we are most interested in hosting your parish groups – committees, staffs, prayer groups, planning sessions. An increasing number of parishes are availing themselves of this opportunity.

As always, if you have any questions, let me know. If you are in the neighborhood, stop in to say hello. Stop in to the chapel for a visit. You are always welcome at your retreat house.

Come away as Stritch enters its 60<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Archdiocese of Chicago. Come away by yourself. *Venite seorsum.*

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

## Fragomeni presides at preaching workshop

By Deacon Dan Dietsch

On a cold Saturday in January, the Rev. Richard N. Fragomeni led a group of about 30 deacons on “Preaching the Lenten Lectionary” at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii in Chicago.

Assisted by Susan M. Pudelek, M.Div., the goal was to provide a palette of colors from which deacons could enliven their voices in parishes.

Focusing on the myriad baptismal themes in the readings for Lent, Fragomeni also presided at a baptism later in the morning. Nuggets from that experience included the admonition to “read the rubrics.” He also recommended



Father Richard Fragomeni, Associate Professor of Liturgy and Preaching at Catholic Theological Union shares insights with deacons during a workshop at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii in January.

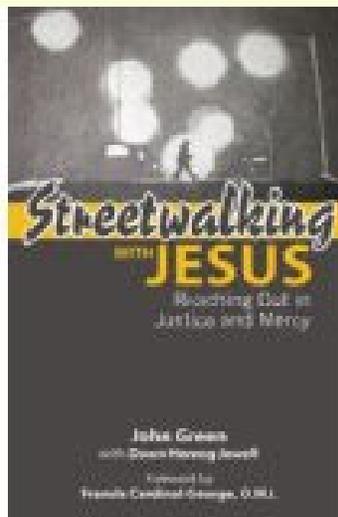
that deacons review the document “Fulfilled in Your Hearing” to hone their homiletic talents.

Where Fragomeni discussed scriptural themes of Lent for the coming year, Pudelek also shared some spiritual themes for the season.

## Deacon’s book due out soon

Soon to be available is a new book by Deacon John Green entitled: *Streetwalking with Jesus: Reaching Out in Justice and Mercy*. Authored by Deacon Green with Dawn Herzog Jewell and featuring a foreword by Cardinal Francis George, the book tells the story of Deacon John Green and Emmaus Ministries.

John Green didn’t set out to be another Dorothy Day or Mother Teresa, and would be quick to tell you he hasn’t become one. A product of middle class, churchgoing comfort and values, he heeded God’s challenge to found Emmaus Ministries, which serves some of the modern-day lepers that are in our midst.



Struck by the words of Micah 6:8 and the act of a homeless man who gruesomely ended his life in Green’s presence, Green vowed to constantly ask himself: *How can I live justly? To whom do I show mercy? How may I walk humbly with God?*

Deacon Green’s lessons learned

regarding these hard questions are set against stories of men who struggle to escape poverty, addiction, and sexual sin—while encountering Christ in the process. But this book is much more than the account of how one ministry combats a social problem to which most of us wish to remain blind. It is about finding joy in service to others and experiencing love in reaching out to the suffering, all under the shelter of God’s unconquerable, abiding love.

*“Streetwalking With Jesus will leave you examining your own love of God and your own Christian faith with new eyes, and a new hunger to do more.”*

— Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Denver.

Copies may be pre-ordered from Amazon.com.

## Diaconate Council Notes January 8, 2011

Treasurers Report, Charles McFarland:

Secretary Sal Lema read the treasurer's report in place of Treasurer McFarland who was absent. As of Oct. 31, the bank balance was \$45,770.31. Since then credits and disbursements to the account leave a current balance as of Dec. 31 of \$42,660.82.

Archdiocesan Bank CD values as of Nov. 30: \$42,105.12 in a 90-day CD; \$96,974.41 in a 12-month CD.

Villa Rosa Restaurant on Archer Avenue in Chicago is interested in providing food for the Hot Meals program at St. Blasé once a month.

Fr. Mike asked about moving some of the money from the 90-day CD to the 12-month CD to gain more interest. The Executive Council will evaluate his request.

### Vice Chairman Report George Kashmar:

Vice Chairman Kashmar reported that the Policy and Procedures manual was complete except for the table of contents and introduction. An e-mail of the most recent update would be forthcoming to all the VDCs and DDCs. Any questions or ideas should be sent prior to the March meeting. It is the council's hope to endorse the manual at that meeting. Fr. Mike stated that the manual would be available online. No copies will be sent out.

Deacon Council E-Mail, Secretary, Sal Lema:

An updated copy of the council members' e-mail addresses was handed out. Lema asked that those who have not given their e-mail address to him should do so at the end of the meeting. A revised copy will be given to the members at the March meeting. The secretary will use the e-mails to send out minutes and other pertinent information prior to council meetings. It will

also allow the council to send out important information as it happens.

### Vicar's Report, Fr. Mike Ahlstrom:

Fr. Mike accepted the resignation of Rich Voytas, Vicariate V, Deanery A.

Fr. Mike stated that one of his major concerns is that we have too many "Lone Rangers." These are men who may be doing good things, but do so independent of anyone else. They never participate in events of our community. The problem is larger than the Diaconate. Fr. Mike said that many who work at an archdiocesan level talk about the "silo mentality" where each agency is quite independent of the rest. He asked the council members for honest input as to the causes of this and suggestions as to what we can do to address it.

One manifestation of this is the difficulty in surfacing leadership and responsibility within the community. He listed the example of Tom Coffey who has asked to step down from his role of DDC of Vicariate IV, Deanery E, and as yet no one has come forward to replace him. Fr. Mike is considering looking outside the Deanery for leadership.

The Diaconate Council also has several members who have not been to a meeting in over six months. For those who want to move on, replacements must be found. Fr. Mike is hopeful that some of the more recently ordained men will fill some of the vacancies.

Vicariate V, Deanery A/B west was divided into two Deaneries in two different Vicariates. With Rich Voytas resigning, we now need to seek two DDCs or have people joined with another deanery.

March 12 is the date for our next Convocation at Concordia and will focus on the new translation of the

Roman Missal. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. While there are other groups discussing the changes, the Convocation will discuss items that are particular to deacons. While it is not mandatory that deacons attend, Fr. Mike said it is "highly expected" that deacons come. Also at the Convocation, Cardinal George's Vicar General, Father John Canary, will address the new Five Year Strategic Plan for the archdiocese. The Convocation is also the time that recognition plaques are given to those who our community has chosen to acknowledge.

Volunteers are being sought for the 2012 Overnight Convocation. If you are interested in assisting, you are asked to contact the Diaconate Office.

The Vicar General has asked that we form some leadership in each vicariate to address the issue of domestic violence. Please let the office know if you are interested in getting involved in this initiative.

Topics or opportunities are being sought for ongoing education and ministerial formation. What areas would you like to know about? Fr. Mike also wants everyone to know that the office has an excellent library of books, audio and video resources that are available free of charge.

Report from Associate Director Dennis Colgan:

Preaching workshop is being held Jan. 15 at Our Lady of Pompei. Fr. Fragomeni will present this workshop for the Lent and Easter seasons.

The convocation will be held at Concordia University, River Forest. Guest Speaker will be Todd Williamson from the Office of Divine Worship.

Colgan asked if the Diaconate Council as in the past would pick up

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Diaconate Council Notes January 8, 2011

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the tab for the continental breakfast at the Convocation. The motion was made and approved.

Reports of VDCs and DDCs:

Vicariate I Ray Loman: Deacon John Lucas resigned from the position of Vicariate I, VDC for health reasons. We thank him for his faithful service. Deacon Ray Loman has been appointed as the VDC for Vicariate I, and attended the December personnel meeting. We welcome Deacon Richard Hudzik, the new DDC for Vicariate I, Deanery C.

Vicariate II Paul Spalla: Paul reported that their vicariate gave \$1,000 to Zacchaeus House to help in their support. Four deacons in the vicariate are eligible to be moved. Because of the positive assistance of the personnel board, the transition is becoming a good experience for those involved.

Vicariate III Jose Vazquez: Vicariate met with Bishop Manz on Dec. 4. Thirty-five people attended. Fr. Mike led a productive question-and-answer discussion. Moving deacons in the vicariate appears to be a challenge. The bishop heard their concerns.

Vicariate IV Giulio Camerini: They are still looking for a replacement for Tom Coffey's (DDC 4E) position. They have begun talking with deacons regarding transfers.

Vicariate V Joseph Truesdale: Fr. Edward Upton is now the interim vicar until a new bishop is appointed. They are still missing a DDC replacement for Vicariate V, Deanery B.

Vicariate VI Dan Ragonese: Dan reported that one deacon is being transferred and a new delegate is being sought.

Black deacons, Hispanic deacons and Representatives at Large:

Black deacons are securing beach permits for this year's Beach Prayer Service. Those interested in running either a prayer service or Mass at an additional beach should contact Deacon William Pouncy to work out the details. At this point, the August date is not confirmed.

Hispanic deacons are planning for the National Conference that will be held in Chicago July 7.

Women of the Diaconate. Women of the newly ordained have brought some much needed excitement to the group. They plan to do a phone network to contact each woman to let them know about upcoming activities.

Old business: policy transfers

Dan Welter said that the priests' personnel board is helping out on the parish profiling. He stated that if anyone wishes to make a statement to the personnel board regarding a transfer, they are asked to put it in writing either by e-mail or a letter form.

International priests will meet in early June to talk about the role of diaconal ministry in their parishes.

New business:

Father Canary's presentation will be available online for those that want to review it. Each year of the five-year plan for the archdiocese will focus on a different challenge.

The Lenten ministry envelops will be going out on time this year. The ministry list was changed based on a placement hat pull. It was viewed that the ministries on top got the most money in the past. This alignment of positions gives the other ministries a chance to receive more than they did in previous years.

Next meeting will be at 9:15 a.m. March 5 in Farron Hall, next door to the Diaconate Office meeting room.

Community news

Your prayers are asked for those who have recently gone to the Lord: Deacon Redondo Newhall, '76; Mary Actaboski, sister of Deacon Bill Warmouth, '07; Deacon Max Jinkens, '88; and Deacon Richard Jay, '83.

Among the sick, we commend to your prayers: Diane Leo, Gregory Bzdou, John Lucas, Mel Both, Richard Stojak, Florence Szady, Marilyn O'Leary, Phil Fragassi, Beatriz Chairez, José Alvarez, Antonio Navarro, Maria Patiño, John Wilkenson, Ida Bohannon, Robert DeFiore, Robert Sasseti, Linda O'Donnell, Alicia Rivera, Susan Winblad, Janet Studer, wife of the late Deacon Marvin Studer, '85, Ed Ryan, Frank and Blanche DeVita, Maria Del Llano, Soledad Muñoz, Carlos Nazario, Maria Cintron, Ernestina Ponce, Edwin Martinez, Teresa Ochoa, José Uroza, Santos Soto, Jose Marrero, Iris Diaz, Bill Walters, brother of Deacon John Walters, '88, Rich Werner and Mary Gronkiewicz.

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



## Reflexiones del Vicario

(Continued from page 3)

conectados los unos con los otros. No es aceptable el ser un *Llanero Solitario*, y tenemos muchos de ellos en el diaconado!

Y hablando de eso, nuestra próxima reunión de la comunidad diaconal, es nuestra Convocación anual, que será en la Universidad Concordia el 12 de Marzo. Se espera que todos asistan. Nuestro tópico del día será la nueva traducción del Misal Romano. Esto cambiará la manera de nuestra devoción. Además de que las oraciones son un poco más largas, serán más formales y humildes, técnicamente precisas, acercándose más al latín original. Como analogía, será más como una Catedral gótica que una iglesia adornada. Tenemos que comprender el porque y como esto ha cambiado. Tenemos que poder compartir con la gente un entendimiento de lo que será esto.

Otra de las reuniones del diaconado, para que la pongan en su calendario, es la Convocación del 2012. Tendremos otro evento de fin de semana combinado con el Simposio San Esteban, con el medio día para la convocación, para crear todo un fin de semana. Será del 27 al 29 de enero de 2012. Todavía no sabemos donde será. Estamos planeando que comenzará el viernes en la noche para los que quieren tener más tiempo para socializar y encontrarse con amigos de la comunidad diaconal. Tendremos talleres el sábado, para finalizar el domingo con la Eucaristía celebrada por el Cardenal George.

Recuerden que estoy muy orgulloso de todo lo que hacen ustedes, hombres y mujeres de la Comunidad Diaconal. De verdad pienso que el rol de ustedes en sus parroquias será cada vez más indispensable mientras nuestros sacerdotes se vuelvan más internacionales. Ustedes serán el puente que una a los feligreses con los sacerdotes. Sigán con su trabajo tan bueno que ustedes hacen y que Dios los bendiga siempre!

**Padre Michael Ahlstrom**

## Views from the Vicar

(Continued from page 3)

non-negotiable pillar is our connection to Church. Community is not an optional extra. It is essential if we are to be true disciples of Jesus. We need the dynamic of being connected to one another. Being a Lone Ranger is unacceptable. We have far too many of these in the Diaconate.

Speaking of which, our next all-Diaconate community gathering is our annual Convocation being held at Concordia on March 12. It is an expectation that all will be present. Our topic for the day will be the new translation of the Roman Missal. This will change the paradigm of our worship. Besides the prayers being a little longer, they will be more formal and humble, technically precise, while resembling more of the original Latin. By analogy, it will be more like a gothic cathedral than an unadorned church-in-the-round. We need to understand how and why this came to be. We need to be able to share with the people an understanding of what is coming.

One more all-Diaconate gathering to put on the calendar is our 2012 Convocation. We will have another weekend event combining the St. Stephen Symposium with the usual half-day convocation to create a full weekend. It will be Jan. 27-29, 2012. Location is still being decided. We are thinking of beginning Friday night for those who would like more social time to visit classmates and other friends in the Diaconate community. We then will have all day Saturday for workshops and conclude Sunday with Eucharist celebrated with Cardinal George.

Remember that I am very proud of what you, the men and women of the Diaconate community, do. I truly believe your role will be ever more indispensable in our parishes as our priests become more international. You will be a bridge between parishioners and priests. Keep up your good work and may our Lord bless you always.

**Father Michael Ahlstrom**

## In Memoriam

### Deacon Redondo Newhall Jr.

Deacon Redondo "Deacon Don" Newhall Jr. died Jan. 6. He was 81. Deacon Newhall, class of '76, served at St. Cajetan Church in Chicago throughout his years as a deacon.

When he was younger, he was a member of the Army National Guard and worked as a chief financial officer for a company. He later worked as the business manager of the parish.

During his years of ministry, he was involved with the RCIA, Food for the Poor and spent many hours visiting the sick in hospitals and a nearby nursing home.

Deacon Joe Roccasalva said Deacon Newhall "talked with everybody. He was very outgoing. He was always talking with someone." He noted Deacon Newhall "really did a lot for the sick of the parish and in the nursing homes."

Deacon Newhall was preceded in death by his wife Marion. He is survived by seven children, 18 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

### Deacon Max Jinkens



Deacon Max Jinkens, class of '88, a man with 30 years of military experience who received two Purple Hearts, died Dec. 23. Deacon Jinkens, age 73, who was a 3<sup>rd</sup> Order Secular Franciscan, served at

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Our Lady of Humility Church in Beach Park/Zion.

During his years of ministry, Deacon Jinkens was involved with CHIRP, Share Food, Bible study, the parish food pantry and Catholic Charities' Christmas baskets.

Deacon Michael Mercure, who served with Deacon Jinkens at Our Lady of Humility, said he was someone who wanted to remain active.

"He didn't want to retire. He wanted to remain an active deacon. He had an opportunity to be retired, but didn't want to be," Mercure said.

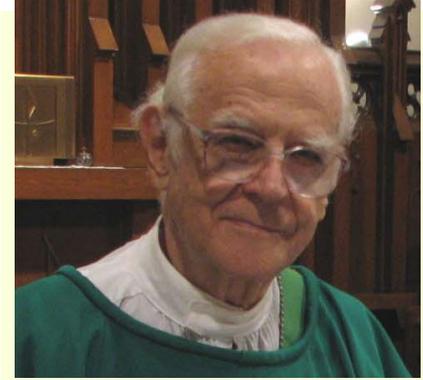
Mercure described Deacon Jinkens as "a very caring giving person.

Between he and (his wife) Ruth they would give the shirts off their backs. He was very generous, especially with the person on the street. He was a good homilist and speaker."

Deacon Jinkens, who had a career as a business manager, is survived by his wife Ruth, four children, 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Deacon Richard Jay**

Deacon Richard Jay joined St. Athanasius Parish with his wife and two daughters in 1962. When his wife died in 1975, he decided to become more involved in the church. He began courses of study to become a deacon and, in 1983,



was among the first class to be ordained by Cardinal Bernardin. He was the first deacon at St. Athanasius Church. Retired for several years, Deacon Jay passed away on January 21, 2011. He is survived by his daughter Penny Jay.

**Prison book club sets captive minds free**

(Continued from page 1)

club are made through the prison chaplains. Some inmates have continued with the program for years, while others come and go.

The Fahertys say it is hard to know what is happening with various inmates, and they are given little or no information. If a particular incident occurs, a whole cellblock can be locked down and inmates are not allowed to attend.

The couple tries to choose books with characters the inmates can relate to, such as sailors confined on a ship for long periods of time as in "Moby Dick." A work like "Twelve Angry Men" provided a glimpse at how the jury system works.

"We don't preach on it. But we certainly get into the morality of it," Paul says. "One of the best examples is Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird." They really got into the character of Atticus Finch and recognized him as a righteous man."

Clare says the inmates are always interested in anything about

African-American culture, especially August Wilson's "Fences" and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom."

The format of the reading club involves an introduction to the book, having the inmates go around and orally read passages and then come back and discuss issues brought up by the book.

Clare says they have seen an improvement in the reading skills of some of the inmates, and it is nice to hear the inmates help each other with difficult pronunciation or offer words of encouragement.

"They are very respectful of each other," Paul says. "They don't want to offend anybody."

Clare says they have never encountered any problems during their visits.

"They are very respectful to us. I think they think we're 100 or something. They're always telling us to be careful going home," Clare says.

Being involved in the book club shows a commitment by the inmates, Paul says, because the reading requires concentration amid the distractions, noise and crowded

conditions of the cellblocks.

This isn't the first shared ministry for the Fahertys. Over the years, they have served as a mentor couple for the Deacon Formation Program and have spearheaded the sharing parish ministry at St. Luke's Church in River Forest. They were originally involved with Blessed Sacrament Parish, which has since closed. Now they work with St. Agatha's. All of this is in addition to their numerous other ministries in and outside the parish.

Paul and Clare say the reading club has helped the inmates, but has been a blessing for them as well.

"We realize how fortunate we are," Clare says, "and how life can be so hard for others."

**Mass Memorial Cards**

Mass Memorial Cards are available through the Diaconate Community.

To request cards, please email or call Deacon Chuck McFarland at [ctm728@aol.com](mailto:ctm728@aol.com) or call (815) 464-4760.

## February

26 Parish Leadership Day

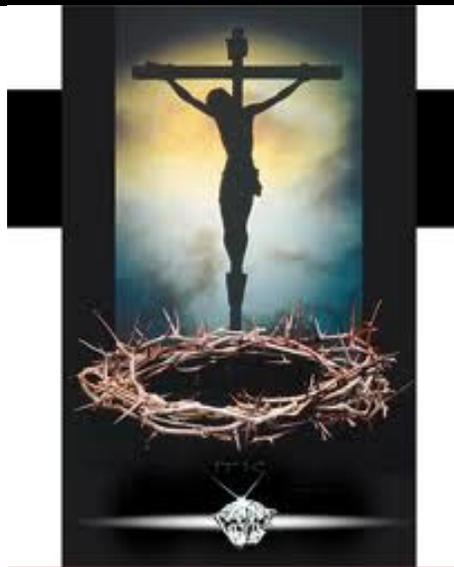
## March

9 Ash Wednesday  
12 Convocation  
17 St. Patrick's Day  
19 St. Joseph's Day

## April

21 Holy Thursday  
22 Good Friday  
23 Holy Saturday  
24 Easter

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



*"Whoever wishes to come  
after me must deny himself,  
take up his cross, and follow  
me."  
Mt 16:24*

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