



Fall Issue 2001

Class of 2002 Called to Candidacy

DeaconNews

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The thirty one men of the class of 2002 have been called to Candidacy with a liturgy on June 5, 2001 at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop McDonnell was assisted by Deacons Ed Porter, Joe Lubas, John Baltus and Bob Baker. A reception followed. They now enter into the "practicum" year after the completion of their summer Preaching assignments, which will include: Baptism, Mass with a Bishop, Exposition and Benediction, Funeral Rites, and Matrimony. Called to Candidacy: Joseph Dwyer, Daniel O'Neill, Michael Cechony, Michael De Roberts, Anthony Scalzo, Fred Smith, John Gray, Karl Pattermann, John Hogan, John Sarno, Joseph Caporaso, Phillip Rejat, Stan Fedison, John Lynch, James Petrozelli, Richard O'Hara, Joseph Kim, Pat Quagliaua, Joseph Mantinco, Willie Moore, Jr., John McKenna, Earl White, Robert Pontillo, Richard Searls, Marcelo David, Thomas Smith, James Tobin, Gary Tankard, Earle Connelly, Robert Gurske, Ernesto Abad. May Christ, who has started a good work in you, finish it.



In Memorium

Deacons at Peace, Awaiting the Kingdom.

Who have left us this century

Remember them in your prayers:

Vishno Brennan

Joe Cunningham

Tom Noone

Al Mistretta

Charles Kiley

Bill Shelhamer

Tom White

The Director Speaks



I can't let this opportunity pass without expressing my appreciation to Bob Baker, Ed Campanella and Tom Smith for resurrecting DeaconNews which has been published for many years by our dear friend Deacon Charles Kiley. I know that Deacon Kiley would be pleased. Keep up the Good Work.

This year of 2001 has been very exciting for both the Archdiocese and for our Diaconate. We are now in the process of welcoming our new Archbishop, John Meyers, who is a strong friend of the Permanent Diaconate.

During this year we have established a new class in formation in the English language consisting of 40 men. A word of thanks to our selection committee. This is our first class to conform to the new guidelines proposed by the National Council of bishops to the Vatican.

As of this writing we now have a total of 93 men in formation, with the next ordination (31 of these men) scheduled for June 1, 2002. The year 2002 also promises to be exciting for the class of 2003 who will be installed as Acolytes and Candidates.

I know there is much more to read in this first edition so I'll close by saying this to each of you: "Keep up the good works you are doing"

Deacon John Coffey Cited: Deacon John J. Coffey, a member of the Matt Talbot Retreat Group One, was cited with the 50 Retreat Medal & the honored title of Companion of Saint Ignatius Loyala. Father Patrick J. Sullivan, S.J., Director, Loyala Retreat House in Morristown gave the award to Deacon Coffey. Congratulations, Deacon John, from the entire Permanent Diaconate community on your prestigious award.

The Deaco Spotlight is on

Deacon Vince Accardi, ordained on June 5, 1999 by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, was born in Newark, NJ on September 4, 1934 and schooled at Oratory Prep and earned a medical degree in Barcelona, Spain. Vince and Sheila, married on June 6, 1959, have



reared four sons: Vincent, John, Joseph and James. They brag about their seven grandchildren constantly: Sheila, Aedan, Celia, Evan, Vincent, Kaitlin, &

Justin. A fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, Vince has served as PGK, PFN, FDD, and PFP (K of C code for "he has done it all") He is also very proud to be part of the Jubilee Interfaith Council of Northern New Jersey. Additionally, Vince directs Diaconate retreat activities for the Archdiocese. As a fully functional Deacon, Vince celebrates baptisms, weddings, wake services and funerals, and participates in the Lazarus bereavement support group. He also assists in temporalities, pastoral management and administration. Vince's service to the poor through a soup kitchen (newly renovated with funds from St Rose of Lima, Short Hills) feeds 160 weekly, with a parish volunteer crew of 40. Vince also manages the parish Food Pantry that has 20 helpers and serves 125 families. Msgr. Robert Harrington, Pastor, St. Mary the Assumption, had a few words to say about his Deacon as well: "We were very pleased to have Vince assigned to us as we had no Deacon and his diaconal service has exceeded all our expectations, with the added bonus to our parishioners of his ministering to them in Spanish as well as English. Vince has taken on many projects that go beyond his "call" to include removal of oil tanks and the complete renovation of the "soup kitchen" operating as the general contractor. Vince management skills helps keep the parking lots clean, and bushes trimmed. Of course the best part of having Vince as Deacon, according to Msgr. Harrington, is his wife Sheila, of 42 years, who teaches the Parish school's kindergarten and "got promoted" this year with her kids, to first grade!"

Retreat News



The Class of 1999 Deacon/Wives retreat was held at San Alfonzo's Retreat house, Longbranch, NJ. Attending were The Gimbel's, Klagua's, Maione's, Savo's, Fencik's and Campanella's. Fr. Peter Galdon, Pastor, St. Vincent DePaul, Bayone, was the Retreat Director. He led the 12 through a retrospective from formation to ordination in a series of four reflections, followed by introspective sharing. Wives & Deacons also had a session apart, considering the individual aspects of ministry and homelife. Prayer, by way of Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, and Benediction, as well as a seashore Mass, was experienced. The film "Conflict," a Theodrama, was viewed during a social event. Retreat Central (Deacon Vince Accardi) informed the Deaconews that future Deacon/Wives retreats will be multi-class only!



Input DEACONEWS Output

If you have deaconate items of interest you would like to see in this Deaconews, e-mail it to us, along with any digital artwork or pictures to Edcampy@honic.com. If you prefer "snail mail," send your article and pictures to Deacon Ed Campanella, 1801 North Wood Ave, Linden, NJ 07036. Want a picture? Ask via e-mail - its yours.

Class of 2005 Begins Study



The Diaconate community welcomes forty men and their wives into the formation program! Class of 2005. Deacon Director Ed Porter and Formation Director Deacon Joe Libas presiding. In the class are: John Bejrowicz, Joseph Carlo, Vincent DeFedele, Peter Emr, Alejandro Estremara, Keith Gibbons, Andrew Golden, Albert Ganter, James Guida, Richard Hamel, Dennis Havrilla, John Holoduk, David Hughes, Michael Keary, Ted Kotz, Stanley Kwiatek, Dennis LaScalla, Anthony LaTerza, Clod Leonida, Louis Loffredo, James Looby, Walter J. Maher, Pierre Merceus, Guy Mier, Michael Missaggia, Orlando Perez, George Puolo, Victor Puzio, Gregory Quinn, Kevin Regan, Jerry Rossi, Cesar Sarmiento, John Sarnas, Raj Srinivasa, James White Reynaldo Trinidad, Nicholas Valdez, Thomas Walsh, Jojm Wedemeyer, Michael York.

On the Lite Side!



Remember! Be prepared for the job!

A certain deacon, who is a "foot (or is it feet?) doctor", was overheard saying, and properly so, to a homebound communicant who asking him to look at her foot, 'I can only take care of one soul (sole?) at a time per visit'.

Deacon Bob Baker's parish, St Nicholas, Jersey, City, was actively supporting the Police by preparing as much portable food as possible to be brought directly to Liberty State Park, where the initial evacuees, injured and ambulatory, were taken. Fr. Kevin rushed to "ground zero" to provide counseling, anointing, pastoral care. Many parish families worked day and night. A local "Stop and Shop" provided much in the way of donations. On the second day these same parishioners after little sleep, fed 250 police, fire, and rescue personnel a hot breakfast and then lunch. On the third day Bob works with Det. Frank Sprague to provide ferry security. During the many trips to and from "ground zero." Bob led prayer and blessed the rescue workers during the ferry trips across the river. The site was impossible to describe. Bob met a girl named Rachel who had been working for two days straight. She couldn't sleep because she was waiting for word of three of her friends who were in tower #2. We picked up a Jesuit Priest from St. Peters Prep who was on day #3. He was completely white from all the dust and mud. When Bob's group stopped for sandwiches at a relief center, in his was the message. "Turkey on Oat Bread, God we love you. Thank You. Take care of yourself."

Alejandro Estremera, Class of 2005, who wrote of "Hearts of Darkness, Hearts of Kindness" was working in his NYMEX office across from the World Trade Center, on what began as an ordinary day. He suddenly heard a dreadful explosion. Looking out the window Alex could see a massive hole in one of the twin towers. Alex was in awe as he was witnessing, for a second time, a terrorist attack on the WTC (he witnessed the 1993 bombing too). Stunned at the sight in front of him, he turned away for a brief moment, only to return to see what appeared to be a second plane approaching the other tower. With great terror and disbelief he saw the unimaginable evil ball of fire engulfing the second tower. (Many people looking at the Brooklyn picture of the fireball report they can see the face of Satan) The horror of the occurrence and the aftermath is almost unspeakable and certainly incomprehensible, said Alex. The desperation of the victims and the remarkable resilient efforts of so many men and women, who responded with remarkable heroism, dignity, and immeasurable acts of kindness, are imbedded in Alex's mind forever. Alex said, "the majestic twin pillars not only signified a city but a great nation, were mortally wounded, leaving behind, among its ruins, a forever changed world."

Deacon Len Mackesy, a Port Authority Police Captain, in charge of security for the Lincoln Tunnel met the face of evil first hand on Sept 11 when 38 men and women in his charge were killed or injured. Len has spent untold hours since then consoling families, arranging funerals and memorial services. Unable to reach Len, this report is based on hearsay from friends. We heard that Len also had an opportunity to work with Fr. David Baratelli who was at "ground zero" saying mass for the rescuers, anointing the dead and injured, and consoling the grieving. Len's diaconal assignment to Our Lady of Sorrows in Kearny is certainly a prophetic one. Our prayers are with you both, Len and Fr. David.

A Hearse driver, who happened to be Jewish, told the writer about his best friend, a Deacon in Staten Island, who, upon hearing of the WTC tragedy, immediately responded to ground zero to assist in any pastoral way he could. Given a hard hat with a makeshift cross, made from electrical tape, he immediately began looking after those in need, consoling, praying, and comforting. He's been there ever since.

Deacon Joe Persinger arrived in NYC on his usual subway train and came through the WTC between the two plane strikes, around 9am. The ground floor of the South Tower (WTC #2) was filling with smoke from the fires in the north tower, so he walked briskly on his usual route. Joe passed a park filled with at least 2000 watching the fire in tower one. He could see flames shooting out of the tower 70 stories up. As Joe was going through One Chase's revolving doors he heard the second plane strike, but was not aware what it was at that time. When he got to his floor (46) his colleagues told him what happened but no one knew of the second strike. All stayed put through the collapse of both towers, which felt like an earthquake. The collapses rendered a bright blue sky completely black for about 15 minutes. Papers swirled passed Joe's window as in a tornado. At 11:15 the evacuation order came. Immediately upon exiting the building Joe headed to Our Lady of Victory Church for a brief visit then preceded to make his way home. The air was foul with blowing dust and paper. Initially refusing a facemask he gratefully accepted one a few blocks later from an angel disguised as a rescue worker. After a long walk to the Chelsea piers, a ferry ride, two bus rides and a train ride, Joe made it home at 4:20 pm. Thankful to be alive, Joe's appreciation for the outpouring of support and his own feelings about how unified this horrible event has made us all, cannot be conveyed in mere words.

David Hughes, Class 2005, was in Trade 1 when the first plane struck. He felt the tower reel back and forth and the floor flexed violently up and down. The air became misted with thickening foul smoke. The sounds accompanying these assaults on the senses were frightening and felt like they were straight from hell. The noise of the explosion continued, seemingly without end, as the steel in the tower resonated with a kind of grinding and groaning. The concrete and glass shook and vibrated. The building's crying sound was like that of a huge animal grievously wounded. Outside the windows the air was filled with flaming debris and a "snow storm" made of pieces of paper. There were bodies falling as well. Inside, the piercing, unremitting terrified screams of a co-worker riveted immediate attention. In the stairwell, the caring, solicitous, patient, gentle, loving behavior of everyone evacuating the building was noble. Help was on the way. Firemen, Policemen, and EMS were rushing up the stairs; they were passed bottles of water, wise cracks, and quips to help their journey up. "Everyone to the right - you get a free pass down." Many made it out, and many did not. David remembers the sweat streaked faces of the brave rescuers rushing up to help others. Their sacrifice will be remembered forever. Outside, minutes after leaving the concourse, Trade 2 came down. The cloud of dust chased the escapees up Broadway. They were too slow. In minutes David was engulfed in a "white out." After a slow clearing, everything was covered with powder. Trade 1 came down. It took David three long hours to finally contact his family. His kids were convinced he was lost. He gets through the tears of relief and sorrow that follow. David reports: "We're OK, sort of"

Deacon Ed Porter reported that on the evening of September 26, 2001, an elderly couple, brother and sister, stopped in to cancel an upcoming wedding at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. These were the parents of the bride-to-be and the maid-of-honor. Both daughters worked together in the World Trade Center. Both are missing. Ed consoled the couple and helped them arrange for a memorial mass. On leaving, the couple asked that the wedding date not be cancelled, hope transcends fear. Ed, of course, agreed to keep the date open.



As a community of love we pray that the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ comes to rest on all the Lost, the Grieving, and the Suffering from the Attack on WTC on 9/11!