



Office of the Permanent Diaconate of

DEACONews

The Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

Fall Issue 2003 Our Diaconate Community Grieves Losses

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We Mourn

Over this past summer our Diaconate community grieved the loss of two Deacons, a Deacon in Formation and two Deacons' wives. While we are saddened by their leaving our presence we rejoice in their passage to Eternal Life with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacon Osiris Molina After recently marking his fifth anniversary as a Deacon, Osiris died on Friday, June 6, 2003. Ordained by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick on May 10, 1998 he served at the Church of Saint Catherine of Siena in Hillside.

Deacon James P. McNulty died on July 11, 2003. Ordained by Archbishop Peter L. Gerety on December 12, 1976, Deacon McNulty was assigned to Ascension Church, Bradley Beach, NJ

James Joseph White Jr., Deacon in Formation in the Class of 2005, from St Joseph's Church in Oradell, received his baptismal promise of Eternal Life on June 27, 2003.

Deacon Walter Lynn's ('95) wife **Geraldine (Geri)** went to her eternal reward on July 6, 2003 from St. Joseph's Church in Bogota, NJ.

Deacon Jim Petrozelli's wife **Angela**, who went to her eternal rest on July 19, 2003 was honored at St. Lawrence Church in Weehawken with Christian Burial.

The Council is humbled by having the opportunity to prayerfully implement the Funeral Guidelines as a response to the Lord's urging of our hearts for the consolation of families and friends of our deceased brothers and sisters. We prayerfully praise Him for this guidance. Additional copies of the guidelines are available from the Director's office.



In Memorial

Pray for the our sisters & brothers who
have left us during this 21st Century

Vishno Brennan	Tom Noone
Joe Cunningham	Tom White
Al Mistretta	Charles Kiley
Bill Shelhamer	David Garcia
Joe Heinrich	Henry Keturwitis
Ed Hildebrandt	John A. Allgair
Theodore J. Glogoza	Edwin J. Alsing
Rafael Vargas	Vincent M. Messina
Osiris Molina	James J. White Jr.
Maureen Niland	Geraldine Lynn
Angela Petrozelli	James P. McNulty

Our Director Speaks



Deacon Ed Porter

The summer has just ended and, although the weather has been poor, I've found much relaxation resulting from fewer than normal telephone calls. I might add that the traffic here in Newark has also been considerably less than usual. Consequently, much delayed paperwork has been taken care of. But now, we start a new year – not a calendar year but a new year of church activity. Our class in formation returns on Monday, September 15th and all other activities are about to begin – retreats, family life programs, CFM courses, etc. The phone is ready to start ringing. Two important events are about to happen. Firstly, our pastor of St. Michaels Church here in Newark, will be installed as Auxiliary Bishop on September 3rd. Bishop Edgar deCunha is known as a good friend to many of us and we offer our prayers for him as he begins his journey. Secondly, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Camden has been named Bishop of Brooklyn and will assume that position in the near future. Before becoming Bishop of Camden Bishop DiMarzio was Auxiliary Bishop of Newark and is well known as a good friend of the Diaconate. We offer our prayers for him as he begins his new assignment. As is always the case, I look forward to seeing you in the near future. May God bestow his blessings on each of you, your wives and your families.

The Deacon Spotlight



Deacon Robert A. Baker, Sr.

Born Robert Allen Baker on April 27, 1954 in Newark, New Jersey, Deacon Bob is the oldest in a family of 7 (5 brothers & two sisters). Bob's dad, Charles, was a machinist and fabricated parts for the space program.

Mother Arlene was a loving and adept homemaker. Grade school for Bob included South 17th Street School in Newark and #8 school in Jersey City. He is a graduate of Dickinson High school in Jersey City. After 8 long years of night studies and raising a family, Bob finally completed his degree in Banking and Business through Jersey City State College and the American Institute of Banking.

Though Bob knew his wife Debbie from childhood they didn't begin dating until 1969. They were married on October 16, 1976 at Saint Nicholas Church in Jersey City. Debbie and Bob have two sons Robert Jr. 25, and Christopher 23. Both of them are Jersey City Police Officers working in the South and West Districts.

Bob was raised a Presbyterian, but his wife, family and fellow parishioners played a big role in his conversion to Catholicism. On October 5, 1985 Bob became a Catholic. Bob tells of his beautiful *Romans 8:28* experience as it relates to his personal faith journey and its tie to his then new born son Christopher's miraculous recovery

from a life threatening illness. In adversity we grow strong as we acknowledge Christ's involvement. After Bob's conversion he "dove headlong" into all the committees and ministries that Saint Nicholas had to offer. In the winter of '94, Bob answered the call to the Diaconate. Bob was ordained by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick on June 5, 1999. Deacon Bob serves full time at Saint Nicholas Church in Jersey City as a Pastoral Associate. Bob's wife Debbie is a Pre-Kindergarten teacher at Saint Nicholas School in Jersey City.

In the summer of 2002 Bob was appointed to the Parish Assistance Committee (PAC), along with Deacon Tom Pluta, by Archbishop John Myers. Bob is also a facilitator for the Archdiocesan "Protecting God's Children" program. Bob serves with Deacon Tom Barrett as the Hudson County delegates on the Executive Committee of the Archdiocesan Council of Permanent Deacons. Bob is part of Deacon Ed Porter's staff in the training of men in formation. On July 8, 2003, Archbishop John J. Myers appointed Deacon Baker as Chaplain for the Hudson County Sheriff's Office.

Without a doubt Deacon Bob Baker's response to his call to ordained ministry is a distinguished one despite his short four year tenure. Deacon Bob certainly fits the adage: Need something done? Ask a busy person.

Deacon Joe Lubas is Grand Marshall

Our very own Deacon Joe Lubas has been named Grand Marshall of Elizabeth, New Jersey's contingent to the General Casimir Polaski Day Parade in New York City on Sunday October 5, 2003. If you would like to join in the parade with Marshall Deacon Joe call him at 908-862-4832. Free transportation will be made available for Deacons, wives & family.

“Can I Assist as Deacon & Interpreter, at the same Mass?”

**by Deacon Thomas M. Smith
BA, CSW**

**Director-Ministry with the Deaf,
Vicariate for Human Services,
Catholic Community Services
and DeacoNews Co-Editor**

This question stayed on my mind for months. With the shortage of Religious Interpreters and so much need throughout the Archdiocese, I knew I was personally called to provide access to the liturgies for Deaf Catholics. I also knew I was ordained to bring ASL and Deaf Culture to the altar as a member of the clergy. Both are important signs of inclusion. But how do I do both? I need to use my hands for the role of Deacon and certainly for the role of interpreter. And, of course communicating simultaneously in two languages is never easy. I thought “impossible”! But once again God showed that with Him nothing is impossible!

I was supposed to interpret at the 3rd Sunday Mass at Assumption Church in Roselle Park. Fr. Ken Evans had invited me to serve as Deacon before so we decided to give it a try. First I went over with the priest the parts of the Mass during which I needed to have my hands free. Then I explained to the Deaf people present what was happening. I took a deep breath and processed into the church with the priest and ministers holding the *Book of the Gospels*, venerated the altar and proceeded to accomplish my deacon duties while interpreting. As Deacon of the Mass, I needed to voice the *Penitential Rite*, the *Gospel*, *Intercessions*, *Memorial Acclamation*, *Sign of Peace*, *Introduction to the Blessing* and the *Dismissal*, so I signed and spoke at the same time during these parts of the Mass.

The Hearing had never heard my voice before. The Deaf had never seen me “deacon” before. Perhaps there is a

little more pressure on me, but a lot of new grace and full inclusion. Its’ all about being willing, taking informed chances, stepping out of “the box,” and following the call of the Lord into new territory.

We are now in the process of setting up the same kind of arrangement at St. Thomas the Apostle parish in Bloomfield on the 4th Sunday of the month. We tried having a separate Deaf Prayer Service there on Saturdays but very few people showed up – probably because everyone is so busy on Saturdays. So we are moving “with the Spirit” again and will hopefully have a *Signing Deacon* in 2 parishes soon. Not exactly a Deaf or Signed Mass but not an Interpreted Mass either. Perhaps God wants us to be integrated with the Hearing so they can become sensitive to Deaf language and culture or maybe it’s so we can benefit from the many spiritual gifts our non-deaf brothers and sisters in faith have to offer.

Judgment and Presence

**By George Poulo, ‘05
Contributing Editor**

Dear God, please help me to set aside everything I think I know about myself...so I may have an open mind and a new experience. Please help me see the Truth. Amen

So begins the set-aside prayer. To be able to appreciate myself, one another, the world, what I read, spiritual concepts, and God without judgment lends itself to spiritual awakening, revelation, answered prayer, and union with God and neighbor. It is to be fully awake and free from the conditioning of my environment and the heredity of my human nature. “Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free and be not entangled again in the yoke of bondage” (Gal.5:1). The possibility of being made free rests entirely on the grace of God and my ability to be aware of the times when I judge too

quickly. It is practicing presence not judgment that enables me to stay free from the yoke of bondage.

Part of becoming awake and free resides on our ability to see how we are conditioned to react to things without thinking. A prejudice runs along these lines. A prejudice is a pre-judgment. A pre-judgment is to reach a conclusion before one has all the facts. It divides us and separates us from reality. It is to make unequal, either better or worse. For example, I meet someone for the first time and right away I begin to draw conclusions. “He’s too fat. She’s too tall. He’s very smart. She is shy.” These are all conclusions and judgments I am making about the person, and it is on the basis of these judgments that I decide how I am going to treat, respond, and engage with that person. We can only associate with those people we categorize as worthy and we can discriminate both consciously and unconsciously against those we think unworthy. By being aware of our conditioned response, we might be able to get past the judgment to love, appreciate, and be present to the persons we meet, and open ourselves up to a deeper knowledge of them and ourselves. Jesus says it well. “Judge not, lest you be judged. With whatever measure you judge another by the same measure will you be judged?” (Matt.7:1-2). That is a sobering thought!

Not only do we judge other people critically, we also judge ourselves critically as well. Our conscience is the judgment we use to assess the rightness and the wrongness of our thoughts and actions. It is one of our greatest aids to do good and avoid evil. But to be scrupulously critical of ourselves, what we think and how we behave, leads to self-condemnation which Christ does not want us to have. “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.” (Rom.8:1). If we desire to be awake, if we desire

to follow the Spirit and not the flesh, then we should not be so quick to judge or condemn ourselves or others. By being mindful of our conditioning, mindful of our tendencies to judge, we will begin to live in the freedom of Christ and judgment will give way to presence and revelation and healing. This is born out in scripture. *"How much more will the blood of Christ, who offered himself, blameless as He was, to God through the eternal Spirit, purify our conscience from dead works so that we can worship the living God"* (Heb.9:13-14). Our freedom resides with Christ who purifies our conscience from dead works and the consequence of that freedom is our ability to worship God more fully. Our ability to gain a clear conscience has several benefits and also explains why so often our prayers seem to go unanswered.

This will be the proof that we belong to the truth and it will convince us of His presence, even if our feelings (conscience) condemns us, that God is greater than our feelings (conscience) and knows all things. My dear friends, if our feelings (conscience) do not condemn us, we can be fearless before God, and whatever we ask we shall receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do what is acceptable to Him (*1John3:19-21*).

Who would place fearlessness before God and answers to prayer in the conscience? It was the position of St. Thomas Aquinas that the root of ignorance, hatred and division, loss of spiritual insight and intolerance was in reaching a judgment too soon. John in his epistle tells us that a clear conscience opens the door to answered prayer, because we believe that God can make us holy and complete. God can do for us and in us what we can not do for ourselves. When we hear and read scriptures like *"Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of God"* (Matt.5:20), or *"Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matt. 5:48). Do we quickly

judge that we can not do it? Do we condemn ourselves calling to mind where we have failed? Unless one suspends judgment, God can not make these and other scriptures like it come alive for us. It is your conscience that judges your unworthiness and keeps you in bondage. Only by reading these scriptures with an open mind can God make what is seemingly impossible, possible. *"It is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is a gift God, not of works lest any man boast"* (Ephes.2:8). Grace and a mind free from scrupulosity bring about the kingdom of God. By judging others, yourself, and the word of God too quickly, we lose the openness to see the Truth and live a victorious life. Amen

Did You Know???

The Newark Cursillo Movement is accepting candidates for its 165th & 166th Men's weekends, on October 9 thru 13, 2003 & April 29 thru May 2, 2004 respectively. Interested? See: mycursillo.com or write to John Tronolone, 155 Krone Place, Hackensack, NJ 07601 or email; johngodislove.johnt@verizon.net or call John at 201-488-0145.

Ann Ball has introduced a book **"Faces of Holiness - Modern Saints in Photos and Words"**, about contemporary exemplary Catholic figures included is a emotional chapter on a young Cuban martyr Rogelio Gonzalez Corso, in the prison of La Cabaña in 1961.

The Building of Prisons is the largest urban industry in America and represents half of all public housing built in the last ten years. America also has the greatest portion of its citizens behind bars than any other nation in the world. Rikers Island houses 20,000 and is the largest penal colony in the world. "Rikers" is a short distance from Mott Haven, So. Bronx, NY, where 95% of children live in poverty and 25% of young mothers are HIV+! Source: *"Healing the*

Soul of America" by Marianne Williamson. Interested in Prison Ministry? Call: Deacon Dave Loman 201-236-5107.

On the Lighter Side **Signs seen on Church Lawns**

The best Christian vitamin is B1.

Under the same management for over 2000 years.

Soul food served here.

Tithe if you love Jesus! Why honk!

Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this week!

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church. Come today.

Life has many choices. Eternity has two. What's yours?

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.

Wal-Mart isn't the only "saving place"!

We preach the gospel at all times and use words if necessary. (St. Francis of Assisi)

Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible.

It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees!

A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.

"The wages of sin is death". Repent before payday.

Can't sleep? Count blessings!

Forbidden fruit creates many jams.

Christians! Keep the faith -- but not from others!

If you don't want to reap the fruits of sin, stay out of the devil's orchard.

To belittle is to be little.

Input-To-Output

Send input: edcampy@comcast.net or mail to Deacon Ed Campanella 1801 NorthWood Ave, Linden, NJ, 07036 or Fax 908-925-8718.