



Fall 2009

Director Deacon Ed Porter Honored

The Executive Committee, Council of Permanent Deacons

Director(s) Rev. James Teti,
Director of Selection & Formation
Deacons John J. McKenna, Director
of Deacon Personnel

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Union Joe Caporaso Dan O'Neill

Hispanic Luis Lorza

Asterio Velasco

Publicity Ed Campanella

DeacoNews Editors

Ed Campanella SFO

Michael York Thomas Smith

In Memorial of Our Departed This Year

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Joseph J. Del Monte
Robert Botts
Marshall Andrews
Mary Soonja Kim
Rosemary Maier

Martin Macaluso
Vivian Hodges
Patrick Miney
Stephen J. Liptak
Donna Holoduek
Leon Johnson

A complete list of all deceased deacons
and deceased spouses is listed on this
newsletter's website:

http://www.sjanj.net/rcan_deacon/

Please also remember in your prayers all
the ill and convalescing members of our
Diaconate family.



Deacon Edward W. Porter Jr.

Deacon Edward
W. Porter, Jr., who
entered eternal life

on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008, was
affectionately known to all as "Deacon
Ed". A vigil Mass was celebrated at 7 p.m.
on Monday October 27, 2008 and a
Funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday
Oct. 28 at 10:15 a.m. in St James the
Apostle Church in Springfield.

After one year of Deacon Ed Porter's
entrance into eternal life, a memorial Mass
was offered at St. James the Apostle
Church in Springfield, by Rev. Msgr.
William C. Hatcher, Pastor, assisted by
Deacons Jerry Bongiovanni and Dan
O'Neill. Deacon Al McLaughlin was the
homilist. Deacon Ed's family, "students",
deacon colleagues, priests, nuns and
brothers and friends attended. Ed's family
was presented with a plaque
acknowledging his life and service. A
joyous reception followed.

On March 11, 1992, Deacon Porter was
awarded the Holy Cross Pro
Ecclesia et Pontifice. The
medal was established by Leo
XIII on July 17, 1888. The
medal is given for
distinguished service to the
church by lay people and
clergy. (medal info from



wikipedia.org)

Deacon Ed was honored to receive Holy
Communion from Popo John Paul II at
Giant's stadium in 1995.

Deacon Ed was a confidant and friend to
all in the diaconate he came in contact
with, from: applicants, to candidates, to
deacons and wives. We all miss his
presence among us.

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

DeacoNews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

Director's Column



Deacon John McKenna

By the time you read this, the deacons of Bergen, Essex and Hudson counties and the Hispanic Community should have received their ballots to elect one new representative to sit on the Deacon Council. The deacons of Union County have full representation and therefore will not be casting ballots. The deadline to cast your ballot is Friday, December 11, 2009. We will publish the results the following week. We look forward to a welcoming the new members at our regularly scheduled meeting in January 2010. I would like to thank the outgoing members, Al McLaughlin, Asterio Velasco, Tom Bulgia and Tom Barret for their past dedication and service to the Council.

A special memorial Mass was held at St. James Church in Springfield for our former diaconate director, Deacon Ed Porter, on November 7, 2009 at the 5:00 p.m. Ed's wife Doris and their children and grandchildren were present. Doris was presented with a plaque commemorating Ed's long and selfless service to the diaconate community. The plaque will be permanently displayed in the church.

The deacon formation class, which consists of 35 men of the Archdiocese, will be received into the Ministry of Acolyte on March 1, 2010 at the

Church of the Annunciation, Paramus. I will forward more details on the installation as they become available.

As we enter into the season of Advent, I pray that it will be a time for us all to deepen our relationship with Jesus in anticipation of his coming at Christmas and every day of our lives.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!

Deacon Spotlight Deacon Joe Caporaso



Born to Carmella and Joseph on March 21, 1948, in Elizabeth NJ, Joseph Caporaso was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate by Archbishop John J. Myers on June 1, 2002.

Joe was graduated from St. Anthony's parish school in 1963 and attended St Mary's HS in Elizabeth. In 1971 Joseph Caporaso was graduated from Kean College with a BA in Elementary Education. He first taught 5th grade in Elizabeth NJ.

Deacon Joe became a lector and CCD teacher while pursuing a Master's Degree in Reading Specialization, which he obtained in 1973. He obtained his Sixth Year Level in Administration and Supervision in 1976.

Joe Cap (as he likes to refer to himself) attributes his spiritual direction in life to the Sisters of Charity of Convent Station and the

Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco's influence, who always told him to ask "Mary – Help of Christians" to guide him along his life's pathway.

Wanting to maintain his allegiance to the Salesians, Joe became a Salesian Cooperator in 1982 and then on to the Provincial Council in New Rochelle in 1990. He was elected to the post of Regional for Salesian Cooperators for the English Speaking World, and remained in that post for eight years.

Joe entered formation for the diaconate after being accepted in 1998. Completing his position as Regional Cooperator he focused on his diaconal formation and work as a school principal. Retiring in June 2001, after 30 years in education and ordination in 2002, Joe became a full-time Deacon at St. Anthony's in Elizabeth.

Newark's Archdiocesan Newspaper, The Advocate reported that Veteran educator Deacon Joseph R. Caporaso has been installed as the first principal of the new Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy, Elizabeth. The academy was established out of the consolidation of Saint Mary of the Assumption School, Saint Anthony School and Blessed Sacrament School, and boasts 240 students.

Deacon Caporaso began his career as an elementary school teacher in 1971. In 1978 he was appointed principal of Continental School No. 3. From 1983-2001, Deacon Caporaso served as principal of Elmora School No. 12, where he instituted a variety of community outreach programs for needy families. He is a recipient of the Margaret M. Spirito Award in recognition of his services to special-education students in the Elizabeth school system.

Ordained to the permanent diaconate seven years ago, he has served at Saint Anthony Parish and Saint Genevieve Parish, both in Elizabeth. Deacon Caporaso has been chaplain of the local chapter of UNICO since 2002. The organization named him "Citizen of the Year" five years ago. He has

served as a representative on the Deacons Council of the Archdiocese of Newark since 2008.

On May 1, 2009 Deacon Joe's administrative colleagues in the city of Elizabeth, all members of "Elizabeth's Promise," honored Deacon Joe by awarding a scholarship, in his name. The scholarship will be awarded each year to an Elizabeth high school senior for academic excellence.

In an profile Joe wrote for the Elizabeth Chapter of Unico International he stated: "God has continually indeed blessed me with many graces this past year and I want to conclude by quoting the Psalmist who expresses the way I feel at this moment in my life: "I will bless the lord who gives me council, who even at night directs my heart. I will keep the lord ever in my sight; since He is at my right hand, shall stand firm."

Assisting at Mass, preaching, baptizing, wakes, funerals, committals, weddings, and holy hours in two parishes as well as "principaling" Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy, certainly provides Deacon Joe Caporaso - aka Joe Cap - with busyness in the Lord that suits his spirit just fine. Thanks be to God!

Retreat Report



Fr. Alan Guglielmo

The Deacons & Wives retreat - held at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Ringwood on the first weekend of August and our retreat master was Fr Alan Guglielmo. Helen Estremera,

Deacon Alejandro's wife was kind enough to write the following synopsis of our retreat.



During our retreat, Fr. Al reminded us that there is no such thing as a cross-free disciple. The Deacon's ministry is ongoing. The crowd is not always going to support you. At times, friends may turn against you. There's no such thing as a cross-free disciple!

Through his teachings on Jesus ministry and the luminous mysteries of the rosary, Fr. Al invited us to reflect on our own ministries. Deacons are the gospel bearers of the spirit of Jesus. How do we let the spirit work within us when: we are being bombarded by the challenges of every day life? When we are challenged with a chronic illness? When we have been betrayed by a friend?

Certainly these experiences can paralyze us and stun our spiritual growth if we allow them to. It is only normal to be hurt or shocked by these experiences and feel the rug pulled from under your feet. Life is not so much about the challenges we have, it's more about how we respond to those challenges. Jesus was not always supported by the community and many misunderstood Him and took Him for granted. His own friend, one He shared many meals with, betrayed him. When we think of Jesus, we think of the big cross that he carried on Good Friday. Let us not forget, the many crosses he carried throughout his life.

Fr. Al left us with a message of love and acceptance. He reminded us that

how we live our "Good Fridays" will give witness of how we live our "Easter Sundays". He encouraged the deacons to go forth and bear witness to the Gospel and encouraged the wives to support and love their husbands in their ministry. This weekend was not only one of faith renewal, it was a renewal to the commitment I made as a deacon's wife during my husband's diaconate formation.

The Deacon's retreat was held on Oct. 23, 24 and 25, 2009 at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch.

Deacon Herb Gimbel reports: As I recall, the day started out a little chilly and overcast but it was by no means a pall on the day itself, for I was on my way with two of my brother deacons Nick and Bill to our retreat weekend at Long Branch, New Jersey.

As I pulled into the parking lot, a feeling of Déjà vu came over me, as it does every year I return to San Alfonso; what a sacramental moment, feeling the cool air and watching the choppy waves hitting against the beach ("Where God and Sea come together").

We gathered our belongings went into the retreat house signed in and got our room assignments.

Fr. Alan Guglielmo was our retreat master for this retreat as well and it was dedicated to the memory of Deacon Ed Porter, our deceased diaconate director.



Our theme was "The challenge of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ". Fr. Alan pointed the special relationship the Deacon has with the

risen Christ. All of us must realize that Jesus' resurrection is a gift of life. (Eph. 4: 1-24) As deacons we are servants of the Lord. We are to proclaim from the Gospel that there is something better in life through the true faith that Jesus preached as St. Paul found out. (Acts 9: 1-19). Fr. Alan gave all of us a real challenge,



and somewhat of a quick refresher course to know what our Christian faith is all about, by having us read Mathew chapters 5,6, & 7.

We all enjoyed our yearly retreat as very spiritual, relaxing and challenging. We thank Deacon Earle Connelly, who does a great job coordinating everything for us.



(photos by Deacon Herb Gimbel)

Did You Know

Cardinal Cláudio Hummes, the congregation's prefect, wrote about Deacons in an Aug. 10, 2009 letter on the feast of St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr.

He reported that when bishops come to Rome for their five-yearly visits, they comment on the diaconate to the congregation.

The cardinal added, "The prelates are generally very much pleased and full of hope in regard to you, Permanent Deacons."

He affirmed, "At the same time, the Church would like to encourage you on the way of personal sanctification, in your prayer lives and in the spirituality of the diaconate."

"From a good disciple a good missionary is born."

According to the article in Zenit.org, there are 35,000 permanent deacons worldwide, a number that has grown from only 309 in 1970. The majority of these are working in North America, which claims some 47.3%, while 32.3% serve in Europe. For full text of the article, go to: www.zenit.org/article-6622?l=english

The St. Lawrence Fund is a program available for Deacons incardinated in the Archdiocese of Newark who are experiencing serious financial difficulty. Donations are always appreciated. Applications for assistance should be forwarded to director Deacon John McKenna through the applicant's county council member. The St. Lawrence fund overseers will determine the severity of need. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, St. Lawrence, Martyr; died 10 August, 258, He was one of the victims of the persecution of Valerian in 258. At the beginning of the month of August, 258, the emperor issued an edict, commanding that all bishops, priests, and deacons should immediately be put to death".

DEACON & WIVES NECROLOGY

For a complete listing of all deceased Deacons and Wives in the Archdiocese of Newark go to:

www.sjanj.net/rcan_deacon and select "Deacon & Wives Memorial Page"

A special thanks to Mary Stark who has been meticulous in researching and helping to keep the listing accurate and current.

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BIRMINGHAM (excerpt - Catholic Online 7/3/09 - see for full text at: http://www.catholic.org/international/international_story.php?id=33985) –

Pope Benedict XVI today recognized the healing of Deacon Jack Sullivan in 2001 as a miracle resulting from the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God John Henry Newman.

The miraculous healing from serious debility of the spine occurred in Boston in the United States of America following prayers for Cardinal Newman's intercession.

Newman, a major theologian and convert to Catholicism, died in 1890. The Pope's decision means that his Beatification is now certain.

"The prayers of Christ's faithful all over the world have now been answered" said Father Paul Chavasse, the Provost of Newman's community at the Oratory in Birmingham (UK).

Jack Sullivan, the permanent deacon who was healed through Newman's intercession, said: "Upon hearing of the recent developments in Rome regarding Cardinal Newman's Cause for Beatification, I was left with an intense sense of gratitude and thanksgiving to Almighty God and my intercessor Cardinal John Henry Newman. I have dedicated my vocation in praise of Cardinal Newman, who even now directs all my efforts."

Very Important

If you change your e-mail address mails, send your new e-mail address to edcampy@comcast.net.