



Winter 2012 Issue

Deacon & Wives Convocation

November 5, 2011 at Seton Hall University

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

DeaconNews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey



Jeff & Emily Cavins

Jeff Cavins writes: "This last weekend, Emily and I spoke at the Newark Archdiocese Deacons Convocation. The theme was the Gospel of Matthew. What a privilege it was for me to share the great truths of this magnificent Gospel. Emily shared with the Deacons wives about how their participation in their husbands calling is so very important.

Deacon Jim Tobin and his lovely wife, Elizabeth were such great hosts. Thank you. Deacon John McKenna, who heads up the Deacons in Newark, was such a gracious host. His vision for the Deacons is inspiring. Bishop Cruz gave a powerful homily at the closing mass".



From jeffcavins.com we read that Jeff Cavins is recognized both nationally and internationally as an exciting public speaker who has a deep love for Jesus Christ and who communicates his zeal with clarity and enthusiasm. After twelve years as a Protestant pastor, Jeff Cavins returned to the Catholic Church under the guidance of Bishop Paul Dudley.

Cavins received his MA in Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville with Catechetical Certification. Prior to that, Jeff received a BA with honors in Humanities from Antioch University, Yellow Springs, Ohio and then went on to receive Bible training from Christ for the Nations

Institute, Dallas, Texas and the Institute of Ministry, Bradenton, Florida. Cavins also graduated from Brown Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota, a school for radio and television broadcasting.

Jeff is the editor and writer of Catholic Scripture Study, along with Dr. Scott Hahn, Mark Shea and others. It is available weekly online through CatholicExchange.com, a non-profit website for Catholics, and also in workbook form. Dr. Scott Hahn and Jeff Cavins also taped a thirteen-week one-hour series entitled "Our Father's Plan." The format of the show is a journey through the historical periods of the Bible and is currently shown on Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

(Continued from page 1) For six years, Jeff produced and hosted "Life on the Rock," a live talk show for young adults on EWTN. He also substituted for Mother Angelica on her live shows when she was ill or traveling, and he continues to appear from time to time on EWTN. Jeff was more recently employed by Relevant Radio™ to host a nationally broadcast, live, drive-time show called "Morning Air"™. He is currently the Adult Faith Formation Minister at the Church of Saint Paul in Ham Lake, Minnesota.

The story of Jeff's return to the Catholic Church is now available in his autobiography, *My Life on the Rock*. Jeff is also co-editor of Ascension Press' *Amazing Grace* book series (*Amazing Grace for the Catholic Heart*, *Amazing Grace for the Mother*, *Amazing Grace for those Who Suffer*), as well as a contributing author for the new books *Catholic for a Reason: Scripture and the Mystery of the Family of God* and *Catholic for a Reason II* published by Emmaus. In 1997, Jeff Cavins was presented the Envoy of the Year award for his work in evangelization.

Over the past several years, Cavins developed a practical and extremely useful interactive bible timeline system - *The Great Adventure: A Journey through the Bible*. The Great Adventure enables students to understand the chronological flow of the Scriptures in a way that helps each book of the Bible have more meaning for the reader. Jeff used this approach at Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio, where he taught "Introduction to Scripture" and also presents it in seminar form across the country. In its video and audio formats, *The Great Adventure* is being used currently in parishes all across North America.

Jeff Cavins and his wife Emily reside in Minnesota with their three daughters, Carly, Jacqueline, and Antonia.

"Jeff Cavins' spiritual pilgrimage is quickly becoming one of the most well

known and inspiring stories of our time. We are all searching for meaning in our lives. Where did we come from, who are we, and what is the goal of life? In short, we are all in search for the narrative thread of our lives. "My Life on the Rock" is the story of one man's quest for that narrative thread. How Jeff found it will not only inspire you, but also help equip you to be a better witness to others." Bishop Robert Carlson (Sioux Falls, SD)

Emily is the author of *My Heart Is a Violin: The Autobiography of Renowned Violinist/Composer and Holocaust Survivor Shony Alex Braun* and co-editor of *Amazing Grace for Mothers*. She is the developer of the "Great Adventure Kids" bible study materials that center around teaching children the plan of salvation history, based on her husband Jeff's "The Great Adventure: A Journey through the Bible" available through Ascension Press.

She is currently a student at the University of Minnesota finishing her degree in Classical and Near Eastern Archeology. She has participated in several archaeological digs in Israel. Here's a video of her with Prof. Dan Bahat, foremost archaeologist on the Western Wall Tunnels.

Some of her favorite hobbies are drinking tea, gardening, writing and traveling with her husband of over thirty years, Jeff Cavins.

From: <http://jeffcavins.com/>

Did You Know?

The "St Lawrence Deacon's Fund" is a donation supported fund instituted to assist Deacons who are seriously challenged financially. To donate, contact Deacon John McKenna.

Requests for new or replacement Clergy Identifications cards are to be made directly to Deacon John McKenna's office 973-497-2125

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

Director's Column **Deacon John McKenna**



Happy New Year!

This past year we witnessed 35 men enter our ranks as permanent deacons! These men add a new vitality to our community and they bring with them many gifts and talents. The community will support their ministry through mentoring, retreats and continuing education and formation. Please keep our brothers, their wives and families in your prayers.

I want to thank Jim Tobin for his tireless effort in organizing the Deacon and Wives Convocation this past November at Seton Hall University. The convocation was a great success and went a long way in building community among the deacons and their wives.

On Thursday, January 19, 2012, we welcomed five new members to our Executive Council of Permanent Deacons. They will join the five current members as they plan events and programs for the Diaconate community. During the meeting, we had the opportunity to

congratulate outgoing chairman, Joe Yandoli, on his retirement after ten years of dedicated service. Archbishop Myers has appointed Joe to serve as an Associate Director of Deacon Personnel. Joe will join Jim Tobin, who was just re-appointed by the Archbishop, as associate director of Deacon Personnel. John McKeon, the former secretary of the Deacon Council, was elected Chairman of the Council to replace Joe.

Andy Saunders (class of 2011) has offered his time and talent to assist the Office of Deacon Personnel with the ongoing education and formation of deacons. As program coordinator for the Institute for Christian Spirituality, at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Andy is involved with the Deacon Formation programs in the dioceses of Paterson and Metuchen. Andy gave a presentation to the Council on his thoughts for furthering our continuing education program. I look forward to working with Andy and I thank him for volunteering to work on this important program. We will resume the continuing education program this fall.

Please remember to keep all of your brother deacons, their wives and families in your prayers.

This is the new executive committee's slate of members:

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

Deacons Joseph Yandoli & James
Tobin, Associate Directors
Continuing Education – Deacon
Andrew Saunders

Bergen – Deacon John McKeon -
Chairman & Deacon Peter Emr

Essex – Deacons David Strader &
Dennis LaScala

Hudson - Deacons Earl White &
Marcelo David

Union – Deacons Joe Caporaso &
John Wedemeyer

Hispanic – Deacons Jorg Montalvo &
Edward Donosso

Publicity – Deacon Ed Campanella

DeacoNews Editors
Ed Campanella SFO
Michael York Thomas Smith

In Memorial of Our Departed in
2011

Gustave Greider Louis Loffredo
Joseph J. Lubas Philip J. Rejrat
Paul A. Schneider Mary Tizzano
William Giordano Ronald Wicks
Jose Luis Martinez-Figueroa

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

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

RETREAT NEWS

Deacons Retreat October 2011 at San Alfonso Retreat House

By Deacon Herb Gimbel a
Contributing Editor



Another year has come upon us for those who seek the solace of a retreat with our brother deacons.

The quiet, the peace, the spirituality and the brotherhood are embraced with great exultant joy. This comradeship is shared of course with our retreat master Fr. Al Guglielmo.

Our theme this year is the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Just as St. Augustine said we are an Easter people, through scripture we realize that our core belief is the resurrection. When we believe, we are committed to the faith.

Fr. Al told us that as part of our mission as a deacon, we are called by the Lord to serve. (Acts 6:5-6) As deacons we must practice tolerance, and speak for those who can't such as the poor, the sick, the suffering and the dying. We must also experience Good Friday to have an Easter Sunday.

In the second half of our retreat we discussed what St. Paul experienced on his journey as an apostle and how and why St. Stephen died as the first martyr of the church. Then Fr. Al posed questions to us so we could have open dialogs to share our experiences as deacons. Further discussion included how preaching should be scripture based. Our ministry of service was discussed. We shared what we do for the church and the community at large, and the sacrifices we make for our commitment to serve God and God's people. This also included discussion about our prayer life, how we pray the rosary for strength, and turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary for her intercession to her son Jesus and God the Almighty Father.

Deacon's Wives & Widows Day of Renewal

By Peg O'Neill

On Saturday, October 29th, fifteen deacons' wives and widows attended a Day of Renewal held at the House of Prayer in Watchung. Sister Margaret Ellen, a Sister of Charity, and Professor Kathy Pignatelli, a wellness professor from Bergen Community College, spoke to the group about stress.

The program was divided into two parts. Sister Margaret Ellen reflected on different life experiences in the life of Mary and how stress was intertwined in each event. Professor Pignatelli spoke about the physiological and psychological aspects of stress, both negative and positive, and how it affects our every day lives. Time was given for reflection after each section of the program.

After lunch Monsignor Joseph Ciampaglio celebrated Mass for the group and spoke about the important roles deacons wives and widows play in the growth of the Church and the community. The Day of Renewal was very well received and is scheduled on an annual basis. For more information please contact Peggy O'Neill at (973) 376 – 4486. If you missed being at the Day of Renewal this year, why not join us next year?

SAVE THIS DATE FOR MORE WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

April 21, 2012: Annual Memorial Mass for deceased deacons and wives/widows of deacons, to be held at the Archdiocese Center at 10:00 a.m. and followed with a complimentary lunch

Deacon Ronald R. Wicks



June 6, 1935 -
December 17, 2011
Deacon Ronald R. Wicks, 76, of Manchester, passed away on Saturday December 17, 2011, at the Morristown Medical Center,

Morristown, NJ. Born and lived in New York, NY, Ron moved to Lyndhurst where he resided for 14 years, before moving to Manchester 22 years ago. He was an Army Veteran of the Korean Conflict, worked as an AT&T Marketing Executive for 31 years as well for the Archdiocese of Newark. Ron was ordained in 1981 as a Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Newark where he was involved with the ministry for Sacred Heart Church in Lyndhurst, and after moving in 1980, for Saint Luke's RC Church in Toms River. Deacon Ronald was predeceased by his wife and gentle woman, Noel B. Wicks (2006). He is survived by his devoted daughters and sons-in-law, Deborah and Stewart Mader of Parsippany, NJ, and Christine and Vincent Candio of Alexandria, VA, his cherished grandchildren Jason, Erica and Kimberly, his brothers Raymond Wicks and Robert Wicks, and many extended family members. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Friday at 9:30am at Saint Luke's RC Church, 1674 Old Freehold Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753, with interment to follow at the New Jersey Veteran Memorial Cemetery, Wrightstown, NJ. Obituary from Anderson & Campbell Funeral Home,

www.andersoncampbellmanchester.com

DEACON JOSE LUIS MARTINEZ-FIGUEROA

Born in Morovis, Puerto Rico, Deacon Jose entered eternal life on Monday, December 26, 2011. Deacon Martinez-Figueroa was ordained for the Archdiocese of Newark on December 14, 1975 by Most Reverend

Peter L. Gerety. The Wake was held at the Alvarez Funeral Home, 240 Mt. Prospect Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, on Wednesday, December 28, 2011. The Mass of Christian Burial for Deacon Jose Martinez-Figueroa, which was celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 212 Lafayette St., Newark, New Jersey on Thursday, December 29, 2011 at 11:45 a.m.

Please join in praying also for Deacon Jose Martinez-Figueroa's family in their loss. United in sure hope of the Resurrection of all who are faithful, we thank God for the gift of Deacon Martinez-Figueroa's life and ministry and we ask Him to touch our brother's loved ones with His peace.

A Reflection On A Reflection

By Deacon Ed Campanella

One afternoon, after the Divine Mercy Chaplet on EWTN, Fr. Leo Clifford OFM, offered this reflection. This is a paraphrase of his words: 'A women came to her Bishop and stated that Jesus had appeared to her and she wanted to know how she could confirm that what was happening was real. The Bishop told the women that the next time Jesus appeared to ask Him what his worst sin was before he became a Bishop. On her return he asked her what Jesus's answer was to his question? She said Jesus replied to her – "*I forgot*"'

What a wonderful reflection – It moved me as a reminder of God's perfect forgiveness to the repentant sinner, is to forget the sin, something mankind can't seem to do – how often do we hear – I will never forgive so & so for what they did to me or I forgive but will not forget what so & so did to me.

As we prepare this year to enter the sacred season of Lent and ask forgiveness for our sins, let us pray we can forgive those who trespass against us as the Lord forgives us, and try to forget as well.