



Winter 2018 Annual Retreat - San Alfonso Long Branch

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In Memorial of Our 2018 Departed

Edward McFadden	Clodualdo Leonida
Jose Rodriguez	Joseph Francione
Frank McQuade	Robert Puglisi
Richard Searls	Pasquale Vuolo
Keith McKnight	Ramon Villeda
	Daniel Ravelo

Mary Stark	Judith Joyce
Erma Ventola	Joyce Bowen

A complete list of all deceased deacons and spouses is listed on this newsletter's website under <https://www.rcan.org/sites/default/files/files/necrology.pdf>

San Alfonso Retreat House

October 19-21, 2018

By Deacon Jim Mueller



Twenty three deacons gathered by the sea for a wonderful weekend retreat with Deacon Greg Kandra as the retreat master. For three decades Greg worked as a writer and producer for CBS news telling many stories on 60 minutes. He decided to become a deacon after working for two straight days recording the 911 attack. A talented communicator ordained in the Brooklyn NY diocese, he spoke and motivated us deacons using his insights and experience.

It was wonderful to have such a talented and knowledgeable speaker for us Newark deacons. It was a pleasant experience to get together with classmates; the most represented classes were 1992, 1999 and 2011

Greg pointed out that a decision to Love brought us into this ministry. We are the go between the sidewalk (laity) and the clergy. "It is good that we are here" looking at the future trends of the diaconate. Turns out that the Diaconate is the only religious vocation to show any growth in the last 20 years – its restoration is one of the great success stories of Vatican II.

We stand on the shoulders of giants, Stephen, Lawrence and Francis. But the first deacon was Jesus Christ who washed the feet and gave his blood on the cross – always of service to others.

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

DEACONeWS

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

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The diaconate will continue to evolve listening to God's voice. The challenge is that the church is moving and we must move with it. Oscar Romero's prayer is a beautiful depiction of our future response. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not Messiahs.

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prophets-of-a-future-not-our-own.cfm>

As Pope Francis said, we are deacons of joy, teaching by doing, going out into the margins ever open to God's constant surprises. When Pope Francis washes the feet of prisoners, he makes his stole into a deacon stole.

There are four marks of the deacon.

You have to See. Eyes and heart must be open to the dark corners which need light.

It involves Encounter. Meet people where they are – not where you want them to be.

It Demands Hope. All of us are witnesses of hope which is countercultural to a world in despair. See others with the eyes of Jesus.

Uplift those who are torn down. With courage and joy proclaim the good news. Do it out of love.

We especially thank Deacon Andy, Golden who was not in good health, for handling the retreat details as well as Deacon Greg Kandra for his inspiring talks and great photo coverage.

Copy/Paste into Facebook for all retreat photos: https://www.facebook.com/deaconreg.kandra/media_set?set=a.10216056031326046&type=3



Retreat Attendees



***Deacon Spotlight
Steve Lipski***



Deacon Steve grew up in a traditional Polish/Irish Catholic household in Jersey City, New Jersey. Not until he started to

attend CCD at St. Paul of the Cross did he begin to realize how others thought about or approached faith. He thought, up until that time, that everyone had the same thoughts about church. He began to learn that people approach faith differently, but, at the core, most people want to know, love, and serve God. At the age of twelve, he lost his father to a hit and run driver. He blamed God, actually hated Him, for taking his father's life. At that time, Fr. Tom Olsen reached out to him and helped him through this phase of his life. Fr. Tom passed away on November 3, 2010, but Deacon Steve will never forget how Fr. Tom reached out to him, a deeply wounded, angry teenager and made him feel loved and cared for. Fr. Tom modeled for him Christ's love and guided him towards a better life.

Fr. Tom encouraged Deacon Steve to go to college at Seton Hall University and enter the minor seminary. Deacon

Steve tried seminary life for about two years but was too personally ill-prepared on many levels to turn his life completely over to Christ and His Church, so he went into teaching and later married. Even though he left the seminary, those positive experiences continue to influence his thinking and spirituality and continue to nurture him.

During his college years Deacon Steve continued to search more broadly and deeply why people embrace and how they manifest their faith. After graduating from Seton Hall University with two Bachelors and then two Masters, he attended Teachers College, Columbia University, where he completed all his course work and requirements for a doctorate, except the dissertation.

While at Teachers College, he worked in Washington Heights, New York City as a high school English as a Second Language Instructor and met Yraida Aponte, who he later married. Yraida has been bedrock for him, supporting his prayer life and diaconal ministry. Deacon Steve and Yraida were incapable of having their own children, but they assist many others to raise theirs, and they feel tremendously blessed and rewarded for doing so. In the 25 years Deacon Steve and Yraida have been married, they have grown together and deepened their faith. Deacon Steve and Yraida are going to the Holy Land this December 2018 to renew their wedding vows and be blessed at the Franciscan Wedding Church in Cana, Israel.

Deacon Steve credits becoming a deacon to a calling from God, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, encouragement from Father Joseph Meagher and support from his former pastor, Fr. Michael Santoro, who departed this life on December 1, 2017. Deacon Steve was ordained to the diaconate on June 4, 2016 for the Archdioceses of Newark at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

As a deacon, Deacon Steve assists at Holy Mass at his parish almost every Sunday. He adores and reposes the Blessed Sacrament weekly, prepares parents and children for baptism on a monthly basis, administers the RCIA program in English, helps with Pre-Cana, makes hospital visits, serves at wakes and funerals, and cooks at the parish's annual feast. Lastly, he was just elected to the Deacon Council, representing Hudson County.

Deacon Steve, in addition to his diaconal ministry, is a vice principal in Harrison High School, a member of the Knights of Columbus (Fourth Degree), member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, and an avid runner. He has run five Marathons (three in New York City, one in Philadelphia, and one in Rome, Italy); the fastest was his last, as he ran the New York City Marathon on November 4, 2018 with a time of 3:53. He currently is training to see if he can run fast enough to qualify for the Boston Marathon.

Overall, Deacon Steve and Yraida are most grateful and joyful to be able to serve the Lord and His Church with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and they thank God for such a unique grace.

Distractions from Jesus

by Deacon Andy Golden

A young man meets with a deacon.

The young man seems distraught and tells the deacon "I won't go to church anymore!"

The deacon asked: - but why? The young man replied: I see parishioners who speak cruelly of other parishioners; the lector who does not read well; the whinny infant eating cheerios; people who look at their cell phones during mass. Among these and so many and so many other bad things I do not see the need to go to Church.

The Deacon says: All right, but first I want you to do me a favor: take a glass full of water and jog around the church

without spilling a drop of water on the ground. After that, you can get out of going to church. And the young man thought: that's very easy! So he ran three laps around the church as the deacon asked.

When he finished he said: I am ready. And the deacon asked him: When you were running, did you see any parishioner speak cruelly of another? The young man said: - no. Did you see people complain to each other? The young man: - no. Did you see anyone watching cell phone? The young man: - no.

Then the deacon asked "Do You know why?" You were focused on the glass not to spill any the water. The same is in our spiritual life. When keep our focus our Lord Jesus Christ, we will not have time to see people's mistakes.

The deacon then concluded: Who leaves the church because of people, **never came in for Jesus.**

The same is for major issues confronting us as Catholics – like the sex crisis that the church continues to suffer from today.

The institutional church is in a spiritual crisis. And right now many Catholics say that it's really hard to be a Catholic

You and I are entitled to be angry – very angry and we should let the church leadership know about our feelings

These bishops and priests were influenced by Satan – I have no doubt about that!

But all of us are sinners, and we should not judge these bishops and priests, Only Jesus and our Father can judge these men.

And we cannot let their sins be a distraction

Our Focus must always be on the Bread of Life who is Jesus – through the Eucharist

Deacon Ramon Villeda



Deacon Ramon Villeda Ramos Ordained on June 11, 1978. Born on Aug. 31, 1929, entered eternal life on Aug. 14, 2018. Born in Sonsonate, El Salvador, the only

child of Antonio "Tono" Alvarado and Carmen Villeda Ramos Cristales Hunter. Ramon was a Deacon for the Roman Catholic Apostolic Church and an economist/ accountant for Jose Simeon Canas Central American University (UCA) Jesuit-Societas Iesu.

Deacon Ramon attended Georgetown University and earned a bachelor's from Montclair State.

Deacon Ramon was Nephew Grandson to British American engineer, Mr. William Hunter, of Rail Road Transportation System in Acajutla, El Salvador. Nephew of his Excellency Rev. Arturo Rivera Damas, Archbishop of Salvador, Ramon remembered his late mother always saying, "My son, you will always be Bless".

In 1963, Deacon Ramon married the love of his life, Maria Olivia; he was married by his friend the Honorable Napoleon Duarte, later President of El Salvador. Together they had four sons: Ramon Antonio Jr. (Ray), Jose (Joe), Julio and Mario.

Deacon Ramon served at Saint Columba, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel and Immaculate Conception, spiritual advisor for St. Michael's Hospital. Deacon Ramon's ministry in Christ lasted 40 years.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral Basilica, Newark, NJ., Bishop Manuel A. Cruz presided.

Deacon Daniel Ravelo



Daniel was born on January 3, 1939 in Havana, Cuba to Luis Ravelo and Lucinda Torre Perez. He graduated from the University

of Havana with a Bachelor's degree in Aviation Studies. Daniel immigrated to the United States in March of 1961. After arriving in United States, he graduated from Mercy College with a dual degree in Sociology and Foreign Languages. He went on to graduate from Seton Hall University with a dual Master's degree in Sociology and Theology.

Daniel was united in holy matrimony to his late wife (August 2016), Blanca Aurora Ravelo Landin, on December 28, 1963. Daniel and Blanca were happily married for 54 years. Daniel loved to travel with his wife; together they explored multiple countries across all continents. Daniel also enjoyed sports, music and literature. Daniel was an active member of the Roman Catholic Church. He served as a Permanent Deacon for the Archdioceses of Newark for over 40 years and was a member of the National Association of Hispanic Deacons. Daniel was the founding Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 6191, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and acted as Grand Knight three times. Daniel dedicated his life to serving his church and his community.

Daniel is survived by his sister Arelia Fabian of Tampa, Florida; son Daniel R. Ravelo and wife Donna; daughter Mirian A. Rebelo and husband Jose; and daughter Patricia B. Puentes and husband Leonardo; and eight grandchildren Emilia Rebelo, Sebastian Rebelo, Lilian Rebelo, Benjamin Ravelo, Cecilia Puentes,

Augustine Puentes, Joseph Ravelo, and Eva Puentes.

In Lieu of flowers donation to Vocationist Fathers 90 Brooklake Rd, Florham Park, NJ 07932. Tel . 973-966-6262

Deacons Wives & Widows Memorial



Our Memorial Mass will be celebrated in the Spring of 2019.

Service Awards

By Deacon Joe Yandoli



As Past Deacon Council President I gave Deacon Paul

Kliauga an award plaque for his multi year service managing the Archdiocesan Deacon web site. Paul also with me served as council secretary for eight years. My wife and me visited Paul and his wife Mary who have since to Seabrook Village in Tinton Falls where they are enjoying retirement. Earlier, Deacons Ed Campanella and



Earl Connelly were also honored for their service; Ed for his almost 20 years publishing this DeacoNews and



Earl for his untiring coordination of our yearly retreats, now coordinated by Deacon Andy Golden. These presentations were made at the

Archdiocesan Center in Newark. I am close to Ed and Paul as we are classmates, ordained in 1999. The council thanks Paul, Ed and Earl for their dedication to the Archdiocese of Newark Council of Permanent Deacons.

Resource Review

The Paulist Biblical Commentary by Fr. Thomas D. Stegman, S.J. presents a commentary on each of the 73 books of the Catholic canon of the Bible Foreword by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.: The book is designed for two types of preachers: those who preach in the liturgies of the Church, and those who preach with their lives. "There is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbors or complete strangers." (Evangelii Gaudium 127).

"Understanding the Diaconate" Historical, Theological and Sociological Foundations by W. Shean McKnight, Catholic University of America Press ISBN978-08132-3035-1

Pope Francis wrote two new books for deacons: "Serving with Joy: lessons from Pope Francis for deacons today" (available as a Kindle book for \$4.99) and "Pope Francis Deacons, Servants of Charity." Written through the eyes of a deacon. Available after August 17, 2018 from USCCB for \$19.95. (code 7-583)