



Winter Issue 2003

Region III Deacons & Wives Meet at Pocono Manor

Executive Committee of the Council of Permanent Deacons

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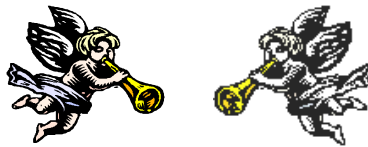
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In Memorial

Pray for Deacons at Peace whom have
left us this 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 Vsrgas	Vincent M. Messina

Assembly Report

Region III of the NADD (Nat'l Association of Deacons) sponsored their bi-annual Assembly of Deacons and Wives under the chairmanship of our director, Deacon Ed Porter. The assembly was held at the Pocono Manor Inn, Pocono Manor, PA, on Friday & Saturday, November 1-2, 2002. Attendance exceeded 350.



The Assembly was greeted by Bishop James C. Timlin, Bishop of Scranton. The concluding Saturday Mass was celebrated by Bishop John M. Dougherty, Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton. The theme of the program was "A Time of Spiritual Enlightenment." Rev. Thomas Nydegger, Keynote Speaker, is the Vice Rector and Business Manager of Newark's Immaculate Conception Seminary. He spoke on; The Deacon as an "Icon of the Church." His description of our wives as spiritual directors set the tone for an inspiring program. The principal speaker, Rev. David Diamond, Academic Dean of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Phila., focused on: "Believe What You Read, Teach What You Believe, and Practice What You Preach". Fr. Diamond's scholarship and content was most enriching. The program for the deacon's wives was presented by Catherine Joanne, Spiritual Director, St. Joseph's Dwelling Place, Ludlow, VT.

Office of the Permanent Diaconate of

DeacoNews

The Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

Our Director Speaks



Deacon Ed Porter

The New Year has begun and it's a very cold one. I hope that most of our Deacons have been able to perform their Diaconate responsibilities. Doing graveside services is tough this year.

As I review the events of the past year I have to express much thanks to the newly elected Executive Committee of the Diaconate Council. They have accomplished much and are filled with enthusiasm to bring many more activities to the Diaconate community.

Some of their accomplishments are:

The name of the council has been changed from the "Conference of Permanent Deacons" to "Council of Permanent Deacons" which is more appropriate.

New by-laws are in the hands of their attorney and a final vote on this matter will be taken at the annual meeting to be held on May 4, 2003.

A writing on the correct procedures for a deacon's funeral was undertaken and published and is now available for each of us.

At the direction of the council, every county is now in the process of organizing support groups. The council reports a high level of success in this program.

New Identification Cards have been prepared and are in the process of

being distributed. Any question pertaining to the ID cards should be directed to Deacon Ed Campanella.

Deacon Len Makesy has advised that we will be repeating our instructional program on the singing of the Exsultet. You will be advised of the dates within a short period of time. This program is only open to ordained Deacons.

A series of educational programs for our Deacons and men-in-formation will be offered over the next few months. Most of these programs will carry credit for continuing education.

May God bless you in the year ahead for the good works you do.

Rita McKnight is National Diaconal Representative

Rita McKnight, wife of Deacon Keith, was asked to be on the Bishops Conference for the Diaconate and was in Washington DC last November for her first meeting. The assignment is for two years. A lot of topical items were discussed from the previous deacon's wives meetings. Rita is also the deacon's wives representative for the National Association for African American Deacons. Congratulations Rita!!!

Deacon Support Report

Deacon Martin Macaluso reported that the November meeting of the Deacons of Union County was held at his parish's rectory - St. Mary's, Plainfield. We opened the meeting with the Office of Hours at 7:30p.m. We were then greeted by Fr. Jones, St. Mary's pastor. Much of the meeting concerned discussions of Deacon Tom Pluta's concern to help establish a center where deacons are able to collect and distribute furniture to families and individuals who are in

need. First of all a truck is needed - minivans and pick-up trucks make for a long day of moving furniture for a household! Secondly, we discussed the possibility of having a para liturgy several times a year with our families. These two topics will be discussed at the meeting in January, hosted by Deacon Jose Fernandez, Blessed Sacrament, Elizabeth, NJ. The rest of the evening was devoted to speaking about various concerns. The consensus of the group was that we continue with this type of support group. We discussed the idea of having a combination formal agenda and an informal discussion as well as highlighting specific topics.

Deacon Spotlight Joseph J. Lubas



Formation Director Cemetery Manager

Deacon Joe Lubas, born in Elizabeth, NJ, the eldest of three, was reared in a loving Christian home with his brother Edward and sister Lorraine by Joseph W. & Stephanie. Dad was called home to the Lord in 1987. Joe's early education was provided by St. Adalbert's grammar school & St. Mary of the Assumption High School. Joe attended S.S. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Michigan, Seton Hall University, New Jersey, and

Immaculate Conception Seminary, NJ. Being awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Languages and a Masters in Divinity majoring in Pastoral Ministry, positioned Joe for his Diaconal walk within his "Immediate Bereavement" ministry.

Joe's 15 year secular endeavor was spent at the Wilson Jones Company, Elizabeth, NJ including a year in sixth grade teaching at St. Adalbert's School. In 1993 he became the cemetery manager at St. Adalberts parish cemetery, Mt. Calvary, Linden.

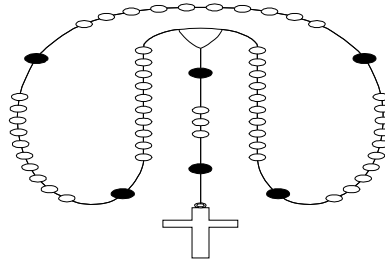
From his background it can be readily seen that Deacon Joe was initially journeying toward the priesthood, but he felt he was being strongly called to family and the Diaconate, manifested in his being the primary care-giver for his Mom & Aunt Mary.

Encouraged to the Diaconate by Rev. Msgr. Timothy J. Shugrue, Joe entered formation and was ordained by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick on May 16, 1992. Assigned to his home parish St. Adalbert's, Joe was appointed Diaconate Formation Director in October of 1996. His direct involvement in the formation of 84 men in the classes '99, '02, and '05 is a joy in which he is very much absorbed.

Deacon Joe takes the Deacon's ministry of consolation a step further in his role as cemetery manager. Deacons are all involved in wake services, funerals, and committals – but Joe supplements this regular ministry by providing additional pastoral care for the grieving in arranging burials and especially in, what can be termed, "Immediate Bereavement". Providing consolation, encouragement, and care, for the bleeding hearts of the grieving immediately after burials and subsequent visits, is a very special ministry which Joe has shown to be practically applied in a parish cemetery.

Deacon Joe feels his life's focus is clear: Family, the Diaconate and personal "Immediate Bereavement".

Pope Declares Year of the Rosary and Institutes the Luminous Mysteries



In an Apostolic letter ("Rosarium Virginis Mariae") to Bishops, Clergy, & Faithful, on the Most Holy Rosary, the Supreme Pontiff, John Paul II, dedicated "The Year of The Rosary" from October 2002 to October 2003. In addition to the Joyful, Glorious, & Sorrowful Mysteries, Pope John Paul II adds the Mystery of Jesus as "Light of the World." Called the "Luminous Mysteries". They have the following decade dedications: (1) His Baptism in the Jordan River, (2) His Self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana, (3) His proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with His call to conversion, (4) His Transfiguration, and finally, (5) His Institution of the Eucharist.

The new recommended schedule (according to virtualrosary.org) is:
Monday & Saturday: Joyful Mysteries
Tuesday & Friday: Sorrowful Mysteries
Wednesday & Sunday: Glorious Mysteries
Thursday: Luminous Mysteries

To view the Apostolic Letter go to:
"<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/edcampy/>" Also see:
"<http://www.virtualrosary.org/>"
(without quotes) to download a virtual rosary for personal use.

The Call to the Diaconate

A Perspective from Inside the Class of 2005



Contributed by Mike York

"The gifts we have, we are given to share," from the familiar hymn, "We are many parts," describes the call to serving Jesus, by serving His people. Every time I hear this song I am powerfully reminded of the awesome responsibility each of us has to share our time, talents and treasures. This call to serve goes beyond serving in very familiar and comfortable ministries. This call is a challenge to meet Christ in all peoples, wherever they may be in: nursing homes, prisons, and countless other places. This call is a challenge to step out of my comfort zone. When asked if I would help in prison ministry; I didn't hesitate to respond, yes, sure! When asked would I overnight chaperone for the homeless, yes sure! Often, I find myself asking, do you need help Father with...do you need help Deacon with...? Thanks to the Deacons in my parish (George Ross, Ed Campanella, Guy Paredes) for providing the example!

A few words on prison ministry, the word prison conjures up various images in our minds. Often I am asked, what do you do in the prison? While what I do in the prison is certainly important, I have realized that my presence alone speaks volumes to the inmates, in particular

that they are not the forgotten Christian. The hour to two is the only time in the inmates' week for "church" and catechesis. So, what do I do at the prison? I am the prison chaplain's assistant, essentially you might say, his "right hand man." This includes, being a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and giving a reflection at the weekend Masses and teaching the inmates how to prepare for and go to confession. If time permits, we'll show a video on the Life of Christ. This includes also finding a priest for Mass or running the Communion service, when the chaplain is away, to maintain the continuity in catechesis. Also, when you consider that the prison population is not fixed, as we find in a parish setting, the challenge increases to provide catechesis at all levels of development. Most of the inmates that come to Mass have an incredible desire to grow in faith. We have constant requests for Bibles, Rosaries, Meditations and Holy Cards. Somehow we never seem to have enough! If you have never been inside a prison I extend an open invitation to all men in formation and those ordained to join me, just once. I will even pick you up at your house and drive you to the prison.

Only when I went out into "the fields" did I truly realize how rich the harvest is and how few the workers. Just as one can't ride a car without gas, I learned that prayer fuels my charitable works. I would be the greatest fool to believe I could do this on my own. I have put my journey and those of my classmates into the hands of Mary. As Mary continuously, gave her fiat, I do as well.

In Memorial

Deacon Rafael Vargas

Retired Deacon Rafael Vargas was called home on December 14, 2002. Deacon Rafael was ordained in 1975 by Most Reverend Peter L. Gerity.

We thank God for the gift of Deacon Rafael's life and ministry and ask Him to touch our brother's loved ones with His peace.

Deacon Vincent Messina

Ordained on April 11, 1981, Deacon Vincent Messina died on January 31, 2003. He served as Deacon at Holy Trinity Church, Hackensack, NJ and was an Advocate at the Metropolitan Tribunal Office, Archdiocese of Newark. We offer prayers for Deacon Vincent, his wife Marie, and his children.

Isabel Rodriquez

Offered for prayer and remembrance is the soul of Isabel Rodriquez, wife of our brother, Deacon Justo Rodriquez and mother of their family. Scripture tells us: "A good wife is a joy forever".

Did You Know?

St. Thomas Aquinas, whose feast was celebrated 1/28/03, is considered the author of *O Salutaris* and *Tantum Ergo*, two hymns that are still often sung during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

A *Pallium* is a symbol of the office held by an Archbishop or other Metropolitan who is the head of an ecclesiastical province. It is circular band of white wool is two inches wide and marked with six crosses worn around the neck. The Pallium is blessed on the feast of St. Agnes (Jan 21) and conferred by the Pope on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29)

On the Litter Side

The couple was 85 years old, and married for sixty years. They were both in very good health, due to the wife's insistence on healthy foods and exercise for the last decade. One day, their good health didn't help when they went

on vacation and their plane crashed, sending them off to Heaven. St. Peter escorted them inside. He took them to a beautiful mansion, furnished in gold and fine silks, with a fully stocked kitchen. A maid was there too. They gasped in astonishment when he said, "Welcome to Heaven, this will be your home now". The old man asked Peter how much all this was going to cost. "Why, nothing," Peter replied, "Remember, in heaven, this is your reward" Next they went to a buffet lunch, replete from seafood to steaks, to exotic desserts, free flowing beverages and a champagne fountain. "Don't even ask," said St. Peter to the man. "This is Heaven, it is all free for you to enjoy." "Well, where are the low fat and low cholesterol foods, and the decaffeinated tea?" he asked. "That's the best part," St. Peter replied. "You can eat and drink as much as you like of whatever you like, and you will never get fat or sick. This is Heaven!"

The old man pushed, "No gym to work out at?" Not unless you want to," was the answer. "No testing my sugar or blood pressure or..." "Never again. all you do here is enjoy yourself."

The old man glared at his wife and said, "You and your bran muffins! I could have been here ten years ago!"

Input-To-Output

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