



Office of the Permanent Diaconate

DEACONews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

Fall 2006

Aspirants for Class of 2011 Anticipate Propaedeutic Year

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Class of 2011 is in its Assembly Stage

The aspirants, which number about 50 men, will start the propaedeutic year or year of discernment this Fall. See Director McKenna's column on page two.

Diaconate Founder Enters Eternal Life



Monsignor Richard M. McGuinness, recently retired beloved pastor of St. John the Apostle, Linden, NJ and founder of the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Newark, has gone to his rest in the peace of Christ, early in the morning on August 10, 2006.

Msgr. McGuinness was also the former rector of Mount St. Mary's seminary, director of the Mount Carmel Guild and the Respect Life Office, Archdiocese of Newark.

Please join us in prayer for the repose of the soul of Monsignor McGuinness and the consolation of his family, which include his sister, Sister Mary McGuinness O.P., brothers Thomas P. and Robert A., 14 nieces and nephews, and 16 grand nieces and nephews.

In Memorial of Our Departed , since 2005

George A. Ross Joseph Fiore
Edward Botts Victor Reyes
Philip Salerno Janet Besida
Ann Giordano

Pray for Our Community

Please remember in your prayers all the ill and convalescing members of our Diaconate family. May the Spirit of God, the healer of souls, bring His healing grace and peace upon the ailing, their families, and all who care and minister to them.

Director's Column



Deacon John McKenna

The Fall Season is a beautiful time of year but it is also a very busy time of year and this fall is no exception. We have had many good things have taken place within the Diaconate community recently. We celebrated our annual Deacon Mass on Saturday, October 7, during the regularly scheduled 5:30 PM parish Mass at St. John the Apostle Church in Linden. The Mass included a special tribute to the members of the Ordination Class of 1981 who recently celebrated 25 years of diaconal ministry. The Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia, Monsignor Robert Emery presided at the Eucharist. After the Mass, we



enjoyed dinner sponsored by the parish.

Our sincere thanks go out to Monsignor Emery for presiding at the Mass and Reverend Robert G. McBride, pastor of St. John, for his hospitality. Thanks also to our brothers deacons Edward Campanella

and Michael York for their hard work in organizing the event.

By now, you should have received your Ministry Agreements countersigned by Archbishop Myers. If you have not received yours back, please call the Diaconate Office for a copy. We had an excellent response to the Ministry Agreements and ask that you keep them current. Any significant change in your ministry should be reflected in the agreement.

I want to thank Deacon Paul Kliauga for all of his hard work constructing our new Diaconate web site. The web site will be available towards the end of November. At that time, we will send out a notice on how to access the new site.

In the mail you should have received a letter concerning assignments. In the recent past, we have received a tremendous amount of requests from pastors for deacons to serve in their parishes. Since there are only so many of us to go around, it is difficult to accommodate these requests. I mention this because Archbishop Myers wants the community to be reminded that we have been ordained for service in the Archdiocese. In the future, the Archbishop may reassign deacons from their current parish to a parish where there is an urgent need for a deacon. For example, a parish that has more than one deacon may be asked to give one up for the good of the Archdiocese. A parish that has three or four priests and a deacon may be asked to transfer the deacon to a parish that only has one priest. Sensitivity will be given to each deacon's specific situation and distance of the reassignment from their home.

Last but not least, the new formation class is starting. This past month, the aspirants attended one of two informational meetings at the Archdiocesan Center. The aspirants, which number about 50 men, will start the propaedeutic year or year of discernment this Fall. Those who

become candidates will start academic studies September 2007. The academic portion of formation will continue for four (4) years. Please keep these men in your prayers as they discern their call from the Lord.

Deacon Spotlight



Deacon Robert Gurske

Bob Gurske was born in Jersey City on February 2, 1949 to Charles and Mary, a devoutly Catholic couple. Bob is the "middle child" between an older brother Tom (deceased) and a younger sister Ilona. The Gurskes moved to Scotch Plains in 1950 and immediately became parishioners of St. Bartholomew Parish (affectionately called St. Bart's). Bob attended St. Bart's K thru eighth grade, Union Catholic High School (graduated in the second class) and Marist College, class of '71, where he majored in Spanish.

Bob's childhood inclination was to become a priest. He grew up with Don Cialone (Fr. Don is now at Holy Trinity, Westfield) and they often played at "saying Mass" as youngsters Necco wafers and all. In college, Bob was seriously considering becoming a Marist Brother and decided to first try teaching as a layperson. He taught Spanish at Marist High School in Bayone until 1974, after which he returned to Union Catholic H.S. as a faculty member, AV Director and Stage Manager.

Feeling the economic pressure of having two small children, Bob left teaching for the technical world of computers at Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC). He rose to become a Field Service Manager and, later, the NY/NJ Regional Training Manager. Hard times fell on DEC and Bob was "downsized" along with 59,000 other employees. For two years he followed several paths in business and even spent 18 months as a police dispatcher in Scotch Plains. In 1997, he landed a job with Kent Place School in Summit as the Network Director, leaving after five years in a dispute over the use of the Internet by a faculty member. Bob found a position at Trinity Academy in Caldwell as the Technology Coordinator and to this day he feels that it was the most enjoyable job in his life. However, he felt a strong attraction to full time diaconate at his home parish of St. Bart's under Fr. John Paladino, former chaplain of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center. Bob joined the staff in July 2005.

Bob became re-acquainted with his wife Joanne, in 1972, at an evening Mass at St. Bart's. As it turns out Bob & Joanne knew each other throughout grade school and even lived on the same block, as they continue to do. By that time Joanne had graduated from Montclair State with a BA in Music, and had considered becoming a Sister of St. Lucy Filippini. They were married on June 29, 1974, after a wonderfully spirit-filled courtship. Bob & Joanne immediately became active in virtually every aspect of parish life at St. Bart's, to include: Pre-Cana, Baptismal Preparation, Home School (PTA), Food Pantry, and Family Life Apostolate, as well as community service in the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. Bob and Joanne have two daughters, Mary Elizabeth - 30 and Kathryn Anne - 29.

Two weeks after becoming St. Bart's pastor, Fr. Michael Merlucci (deceased) approached Jack Lynch and Bob, encouraging them to consider the

diaconate. Fr. Merlucci put together a dinner in the rectory which included Deacon Ed Porter (then diaconate director), and made it clear that, "these men need to be affirmed by us, through ordination, for the diaconia they perpetuate". Bob and Jack were accepted for formation, entered the class of 2002 and were ordained by Archbishop Myers on June 1, 2002.

Bob feels the diaconate, for him, is his faith response to the call to holy orders he felt as a child. Bob has two official assignments: as deacon at St Bart's and as one of the Catholic chaplains at Muhlenberg Medical Center. This is in addition to his "job" as the Director of Facility Operations at St. Bart's. Bob is also Director of the Social Outreach Ministry, the chairperson of the semi-annual blood drive, and editor of the parish bulletin. Bob is chaplain to the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad and conducts a monthly ecumenical service at McCutchen Friends Nursing Home in North Plainfield.

Deacon Bob Gurske, with the support and aid of his wife Joanne, is an exemplar of diaconia, truly deserving of having the DeacoNews Spotlight shone on him.

Retreat Notes:

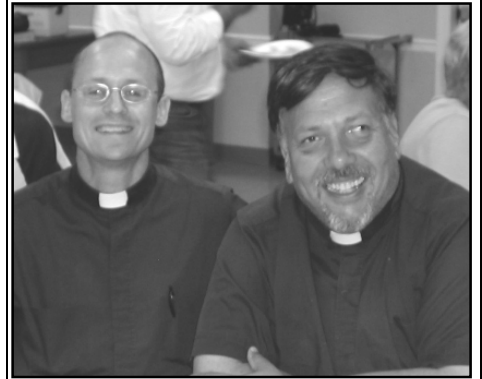
Deacon and Wives Retreat by
Deacon Orlando Perez, Our Lady of
the Visitation, Paramus

On Friday July 21st, Saturday July 22nd, and Sunday July 23rd, sixteen Deacons and their wives attended a



spiritual retreat at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Ringwood New Jersey. The retreat started at 7 p.m. on

Friday evening, and ended after lunch on Sunday afternoon. This retreat had



two directors: Father Joseph Meagher, director of the Respect Life Office, Archdiocese of Newark and Pastoral Associate at St. John the Apostle, Linden, NJ and Father Paul Cannariato, who is the Pastor at St. Mary's Church in Closter, New Jersey. There outstanding talks focused on: Spirituality, Charity, and the importance of the work and service that the Deacons provide to our parish, priests and Our Lord's children on this earth who have less than others.

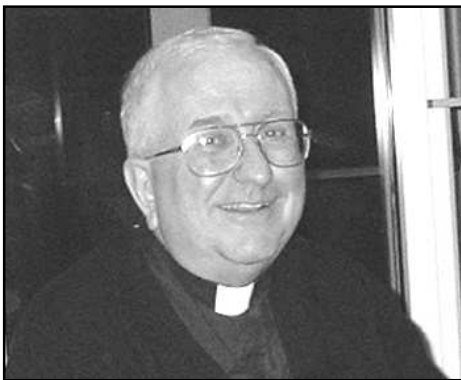
Deacon Earl Connelly, who put this retreat together, did an outstanding job. I have attended many Diaconate retreats but this one was the best, as a matter of fact when I advised Deacon Earl of how I felt and found this retreat to be, he advised me that this is what a retreat should be. I know, for me, I found it to be very spiritually nourishing. There was enough time to spend with our wives walking around the spiritual center, and praying the rosary during our spiritual walks. It was also spiritual because besides listening to the outstanding presentations that both priests gave, I found Jesus Christ in our walks around the spiritual center.

I also found that all of the deacons and the wives that I spoke to felt the same way. It was very spiritual to be able to get away from all the materialism of this world that we continue to be marketed to via television and radio since there was no radio or television in the room only a crucifix and a Bible. After my wife and I prayed

before we went to sleep the Bible and Crucifix reminded us that no matter what, everything that we struggle with we can offer it up to Our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. Before I close, I also want to mention that the dinners were lovingly prepared and served by the Franciscan Sisters that live at this beautiful mansion. The food was so spiritually good that many of us had second servings. I felt the Lords gift of peace and tranquility that all of us need in order to continue to do Our Lords work as deacons on our arrival home. What did I take home with me; the great gift of love that our Lord has so graciously and fruitfully provided us with, to share with each other as Deacons on the same journey with our Lord Jesus Christ. I told me wife that I had experienced a piece of Paradise at this retreat, and my wife Marlene agreed.

Deacons Retreat at San Alfonso
October 20th – 21st 2006
by Deacon Herb Gimbel

The annual Deacon's retreat this year started out a little rainy on Friday but wound up as a beautiful clear crisp weekend weather wise. It also was a



very spiritual filled weekend with Fr. Alan F. Guglielmo as our retreat master. The theme of the retreat was based on the luminous mysteries of the Rosary, with the emphasis on Mary our mother.

Fr. Al took us on a journey through the luminous mysteries and pointed out not only Our Lady's role in these mysteries but our role as Deacon's

also. Fr. Al talked about the importance of turning to the Blessed Virgin Mary at all times for guidance and help and her intercession to Jesus and God the almighty Father.

As Deacons with our various roles out in the market place in life we should always take our prayers and concerns to Mary our mother of the Church. There were 30 of us that weekend all in communion with one another. Deacon Earle Connelly put together a very good program that allowed for prayer time, Mass and free time for relaxation and meditation.

Did You Know?

....Fr. Tom Dente, Director of the Archdiocesan Worship office reminds us that the new GIRM (General Instruction for the Roman Missal) has many powerful liturgical norms but at times they can seem to be juxtaposed by more particular directives. In paragraph #179 of the GIRM regarding the role of the deacon at Mass, it says that at the altar, the deacon is to assist the presider with the book and the cup. However, there is also a clear directive in #179 that the deacon is to kneel for part of the Eucharistic prayer. This seems contradictory as the deacon cannot assist at the table while kneeling.

The exact wording in #179 is that the deacon "normally" kneels after the holy, holy. Some pastoral reasons as to why this may be impractical could include the deacon's ability to kneel, the architectural design of the church and the number of concelebrants.

It should also be noted that nothing ought to detract attention from the primary symbols and actions of the Eucharist, namely the altar itself, the Eucharistic Prayer and the elements of bread and wine. If the deacon kneels it should be done discretely and unnoticeably; the use of anything as obstructive and distracting as a kneeler near the altar is prohibited.

...Lost your ID Card? Requests for Deacon ID cards for the Archdiocese of Newark should be directed to Deacon John McKenna 973-497-4000. A \$25 donation to the St. Lawrence Fund would be appreciated for each ID card requested.

On the Lighter Side

....The new deacon was asked by a funeral director to conduct a committal service for a homeless man, who did not have any family or friends. The committal was to be held at a new cemetery and this man would be the first to be laid to rest there. As I was not familiar with the area, I became lost on my way there and arrived an hour late. I saw the crew, eating lunch, but the hearse was nowhere in sight.

I apologized to the workers for my tardiness, and stepped to the side of the open grave, where I saw the vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them long but this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. I poured out my heart and soul as I prayed the beautiful prayers of the committal service.

I felt I had done my duty for the homeless man and that the crew would leave with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication, in spite of my tardiness. As I was opening the car door to leave, I overheard one of the workers saying to another, "I've never seen anything like this before . . . and I've been putting in these septic tanks for twenty years."

....A cab driver, upon entering the pearly gates was awarded a great room, gold flowing robes and sumptuous meals. A Deacon came forward and asked how come the cab driver received a better "reward" than he.

In reply, he was told: "Up here, we work by results. While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."