



Summer 2009

# Deacons to Become Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

## The Executive Committee, Council of Permanent Deacons

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Deacons John J. McKenna, Director  
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**DeacoNews Editors**  
Ed Campanella SFO  
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### *In Memorial of Our Departed This Year*

John Coffey                      Martin Macaluso  
Charles H. Bond                Vivian Hodges  
Joseph J. Del Monte        Patrick Miney

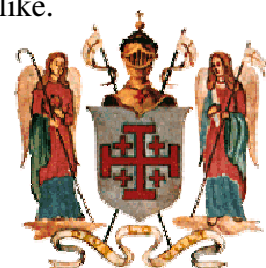
A complete list of all deceased deacons and deceased spouses is listed on this newsletter's website:  
[http://www.sjanj.net/rcan\\_deacon/](http://www.sjanj.net/rcan_deacon/)

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

## *Dwyer & McKenna To Be Knighted*



The Diaconate community is resounding with joy as Most Reverend John J. Myers announced that in September, 2009 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, Deacons Joseph A. Dwyer Jr. (left), Archdiocesan Vice Chancellor for Administration and John McKenna (right), Archdiocesan Director of Human Resources and Deacon Personnel will be Knighted to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, along with Mr. Henry Amoroso, Esq, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Catholic Charities, James Goodness, Archdiocesan Director of Communications and Mr. George Paralta, Archdiocesan Retired Financial Officer. The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is an Ecclesiastical Order of Knighthood, the only Order of Chivalry under the protection of the Holy See. Membership is considered one of the highest honors conferred upon clergy and laity alike.



Office of the Permanent Diaconate

# DeacoNews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

## ***Director's Column*** **Deacon John McKenna**



I hope all of you have time this summer to take a break from the routine and spend time with family and friends. Often we hear in Sacred Scripture how Our Lord took time to detach himself from the crowds to rest and pray. It is important that we do the same occasionally, and summer is the perfect time to do this.

We have just finished our last continuing education class for the spring. Fr. Jack Russell gave a three session presentation on Spirituality, which was well received by the community. Fr. Jack will be invited back this fall for a course on preaching practicum. Information and registration will be forthcoming at the end of August.

As you already know, His Grace, Archbishop Myers, has authorized the wearing of clerical dress for deacons in the Archdiocese of Newark. The wearing of clerical attire is optional and only for specific ministries, which are outlined in the Archbishop's Decree. Please familiarize yourself with this policy and remember to sign and return the agreement to comply with the clerical attire policy before wearing it in your ministry.

The Office of the Metropolitan Tribunal had asked me to recommend seven retired deacons who may be willing to volunteer to work in the Tribunal one day per week. The work of the deacons has been so successful that the Tribunal is interested in having additional deacons volunteer their time to work for the office. They are now seeking Spanish and Polish speaking retired deacons. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact me at 973-497-4125 or email me at [mckennjo@rcan.org](mailto:mckennjo@rcan.org).

Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed this coming year, the Year of the Priest. Please keep all of our priests in your prayers.

I hope you all have a peaceful summer! May God bless you and the work you do for His Church!

### ***Institution of Readers Class of 2011, May 11, 2009***



Photo by Judy Florio

Article by Deacon Herb Gimbel  
A Contributing Editor

When you walk into the Church of the Annunciation in Paramus, New Jersey you get a sense of a modern church. You also get a sense of the grace of God's presence. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Bishop Thomas A. Donato presided. There was a feeling of excitement as family and friends took their seats in the congregation. The priests and deacons vested and were waiting with anticipation for Mass to begin. We were all happy for

the men about to be installed as Readers in their first step into minor orders.

Thirty-five men were installed: Simplicie Ahoua, Wilbert Alexandre, Justo Aliaga, Manuel Almeida, Emeruwa Anyanwu, Charles Boucher, Paul Carris, Joseph Castoro, Arnulfo Cuesta, James Detura, Dominick DiBernardo, Ken DiPaola, John Florio, Angel Hernandez, Pedro Herrera, Donald Hessemer, Jose Homem, John Karal, Timothy Kennedy, Thomas Lagatol, Anthony Liguori, Francis Materia, Robert Millea, Jorge Montalvo, Brian Murphy, Francis Noh, Jorge Ochoa, Anthony Porcaro, Joseph Romano, Todd Rushing, Louis Rusignuolo, Andrew Saunders, Craig Stewart, David Strader, and John Sylvester

For these men it will be a remembrance for a long time as they progress in their formation up to their day of ordination in 2011. So, one may ask, what does this first step as Reader mean? It means they have reached their first step of the canonical requirements in the formation of the diaconate. It also means that these men will be recognized as their role begins in their parish community.

Let us keep these men and their families in our prayers as they progress through their formation in a religious life dedicated to serving God and God's people.

### ***Memorial Room Dedicated to the Memory of Deacon John Coffey***

A special room at St. Mary's Parish Center in Nutley was set-aside as a lasting memorial to Deacon John Coffey, husband of Ann Coffey. The dedication took



place after the Noon Mass on June 7, 2009.

The following is Fr. David Hubba's, pastor, tribute to Deacon John Coffey, that appeared in St' Mary's Parish bulletin:

"After next Sunday's 12:00 Mass we will be dedicating the second-floor conference room in the Parish Center to the memory of **Deacon John J. Coffey**. Following the blessing that will mark the dedication, there will be a reception, with light refreshments.

Reviving the ancient order of permanent diaconate was one of the wisest and most fruitful initiatives of the Second Vatican Council. And it had surprising effects on the United States. By that I mean that the Council Fathers expected the revitalized diaconate to have its strongest impact in the nations of the Third World, and did not envision it influencing Catholic life in our nation as powerfully as it has. Today about sixteen thousand men serve our nation as permanent Deacons. One of them, **Henry Libersat**, has written a concise and beautiful description of the work of Deacons:

A deacon is a man—usually a married man—whose life with his family proclaims the unity of the Church, the solidarity of clerical ministry and lay ministry, the union of hearts and minds in Jesus Christ. For him, love and service are two sides of the same coin. Service is not a function. It is love lived out—in the ministries of Charity, Word and Sacrament

(for see: <http://www.stmarysnutley.org> – May 31, 2009 bulletin)

"I will remember John Coffey as someone who was always ready, and always glad, to share his deep faith in God with others. Whatever he could possibly do to help, you were sure he would at least try to do it: with good humor, with heartfelt generosity, and with a huge store of life experience together with plenty of common sense. He could, and did, talk to anyone: from small children, to Archbishops of

Newark, to men and women troubled by, and sometimes beaten down by, life. He was always willing to be a friend to them and to be their servant, which is what the word deacon means in its Greek origin." By Fr. David Hubba, Pastor, St. Mary's Parish, Nutley, NJ.

As much as we miss Deacon John Coffey, his wife **Ann** misses him incomparably more. As we remember John and his good works, may we also remember to keep Ann in our prayers.

## *Class of '99 Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Photos by Mary Kliagua



A Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Matthew, in Ridgefield NJ, was concelebrated by Most Reverend John W. Flesey, S.T.D., D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, hosted by Rev. Donald P. Sheehan - Pastor and Deacon Drew Dickson, was celebrated at 5:30 pm on June 6, 2009. Deacon of the Mass was Al McLaughlin. Dinner followed at the nearby Café Tivoli.



Deacon Herb Gimbel '99, observed, in a second installation of "The Mind of a Deacon – 10 years later";

'As we gathered at St. Mathew's Church in Ridgewood the happiness exhumed from all of us as was greeted each other. We talked and laughed and asked how everything is going. The fact that these 10 years have come and gone was not that surprising, because we have been so busy in our respective ministries that well; ok here we are what is next on the calendar where do I have to be in the next few days which Mass do I have next Sunday?

I know it sounds like a trite statement however it is a true statement. All of us are in a way driven to not only evangelize but to look forward to our next duty as a deacon, whether it is serving at table, a Baptism, wedding, you name it. As an after thought I think when we sing the hymn Here I am Lord we remember Jesus' words: "it is I who chose you not you who chose me" John 15:16.

## *Retreats*

Deacon Earle Connelly has announced the retreat schedule for this year - The Deacons & Wives retreat will be at the Franciscan Spiritual Center, 474 Sloatsburg Road, Ringwood, New Jersey 07456 Phone: (973) 962-9778 on July 31, Aug. 1 & 2, 2009 and will begin with first conference at 7:30 PM and ends after lunch Sunday. The pool will be open for early arrivals.

The Deacon's retreat will be Oct. 23, 24 and 25, 2009 at San Alfonso Retreat House 755 Ocean Ave Long Branch, NJ 07740 (732)-222-273. The retreat begins with dinner at 6 PM and ends after lunch on Sunday.

## *Memorial Mass for Deacon Ed Porter*

A memorial mass will be offered for Deacon Ed Porter, who went home to the Lord on October 24, 2008, at St James the Apostle in Springfield, on Saturday, November 7, 2009, at 5:00 PM



## *Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi*



**Friday, October 2, 2009  
7:30 PM - Save the Date**

St. Joseph, 120 Hoboken Rd,  
East Rutherford . 07073.

The Transitus refers to the death, or "passing to eternal life" of St. Francis of Assisi. Each year it is celebrated by Franciscan communities around the world

### *Did you Know?*

**TAPS - contributed by retired Master Sergeant Ed Cardinale.** As many deacons have conducted committals with a military honor guard in which taps played; this story (one of many) brings out a new meaning of it. Here is something every American should know.

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, 'Taps.' It's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. Here is one story behind the song..

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field; not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain

reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out; without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted.

The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate; but, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born. The lyrics are:

Day is done.  
Gone the sun.  
From the lakes  
From the hills.  
From the sky.  
All is well.  
Safely rest.  
God is nigh.

Fading light.  
Dims the sight.  
And a star.  
Gems the sky.  
Gleaming bright.  
From afar.  
Drawing nigh.  
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise.  
For our days.  
Neath the sun  
Neath the stars.  
Neath the sky  
As we go.  
This we know,  
God is nigh.

I too have felt the chills while listening to 'Taps' but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along.

I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before. Remember Those Lost and Harmed While Serving Their Country.

Also remember Those who have served and returned; and for those presently serving in the Armed Forces. Ed Cardinale

At Mass, it is recommended that all in the sanctuary who are not concelebrants should kneel (or sit if they can not kneel) during the consecration, and specifically as stated in GIRM 179: "The deacon, if he is able, should kneel during the Eucharistic Prayer, from the epiclesis to the elevation of the chalice, that is, just before the Memorial Acclamation.

### *Very Important*

If you change your e-mail address mails, send your new e-mail address to edcampy@comcast.net. Please ☺ and remember To insure continued communications via e-mail from this address, please, if you have a "spam filter", be sure to grant permission, or unblock, these addresses = edcampy@comcast.net and deacon.ecampanella@sjanj.net. If you use AOL please do not delete as "spam" Thanks very much for your cooperation.