



Winter 2009

Director Deacon Ed Porter Enters Eternal Rest

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Edward W. Porter Jr.

Deacon Edward W. Porter Jr.



As published in the Newark Star Ledger on October 25, 2008 Deacon Edward W. Porter, Jr., passed from this world on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008. He was commonly known as

"Deacon Ed". A vigil Mass was celebrated at 7 p.m. on Monday October 27, 2008 and a Funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday Oct. 28 at 10:15 a.m. in St James the Apostle Church in Springfield

Deacon Porter was born in the Vailsburg section of Newark and was raised by his father and mother. He had no siblings. He was educated at Sacred Heart School in Newark and went on to Seton Hall Prep, where he graduated in 1944. Following graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy and served as a storekeeper on the USS Sanctuary until June of 1946, at which time he enrolled at Seton Hall University, graduating in 1950 with a degree in communication arts. Following graduation, he joined his father's real estate and insurance business. In 1948, Deacon Porter married Doris Johnson of Maplewood and they raised a family of three children, Barbara, Ronald and John. As the children grew, they each raised their own families, consisting of three boys and two girls.

After a marriage of 60 years both Deacon Ed and Doris were pleased with the growth of their family from three children to five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. They knew that they had been truly blessed. In 1980, Deacon Porter was inspired by the Ministry of Deacon and joined their formation program in 1982.

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Office of the Permanent Diaconate

DeacoNews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

Director's Column



Deacon John McKenna

Reflecting back on the year, I am amazed at the amount of change that has taken place in the Diaconate.

This year we witnessed the passing of our beloved former director, "Deacon Ed". The most recent ordination classes will remember Ed as a type of father figure. Ed was someone you could always turn to for counsel and advice. It was heartening to see the Diaconate community turn out to pray for Ed and his wife Doris and their family during the Vigil and Funeral Mass, which took place at Ed's home parish, St. James in Springfield.

Our community lost two other deacons this year. Deacon William Toth died during the winter and Deacon Nicholas Simonelli died this past fall. Deacon Toth was a professor of Moral Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary and Deacon Simonelli was assigned to St. Francis Church, Ridgefield Park. Please keep all our departed brother deacons and their families in your prayers.

Fr. Pablo Gadenz, who teaches Sacred Scripture at Immaculate Conception Seminary, has officially kicked-off our continuing education program with a three part lecture series on the life, Epistles and theology of St. Paul. The next sessions will be February 5,

March 5 and April 2 at the Archdiocesan Center at 7:30 p.m. Fr. Russell, a professor at Immaculate Conception Seminary will present the topic of Spirituality. More details will be forthcoming.

After a hiatus for the Deacon and Wives Convocation last year, the retreats for deacons and their wives have been scheduled again this year. I encourage all deacons to attend one of the Diaconate Office sponsored retreats or make arrangements to attend a retreat on your own. Thanks to Deacon Earl Connelly for all the time and effort he puts in organizing these retreats for the community.

I pray that you will experience the love of God in your ministries and your families this coming year! May God bless you as you minister in His Church! Merry Christmas!

Deacon Ed Porter

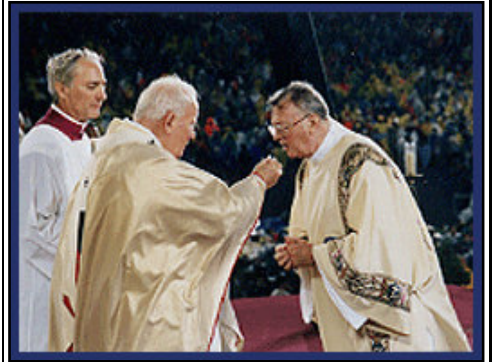
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At that same time, he served as an extraordinary minister of holy communion at Overlook Hospital, Summit. He was ordained as a permanent deacon in 1988 and his first assignment was at St. James Church in Springfield, where he established a support group program for children of high school age. Displaying a strong devotion to St. Jude, he established an ongoing, weekly novena to St. Jude which has always been well attended. He was assigned as deacon at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and was appointed director of the Permanent Diaconate of the Archdiocese of Newark.



On March 11, 1992, Deacon Porter was awarded the Holy Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice ("For Church and Pope", also known as the "Cross of Honor") The medal was established by Leo XIII on July 17 1888. It is currently given for distinguished

service to the church by lay people and clergy. (Information gathered from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pro_Ecclesia_et_Pontifice.)

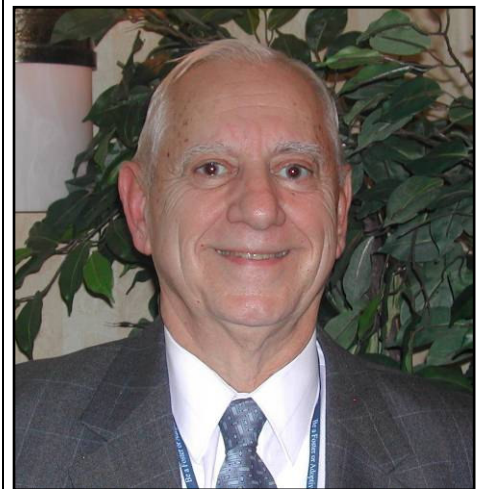


One of Deacon Ed's special moments was receiving communion from Pope John Paul II at Giant's Stadium in '95

Deacon Ed Porter authored an inspiring book "My Life as a Deacon" where he chronicled his 25 years as a Permanent Deacon of the Catholic Church.

A great friend, mentor and confidant to us all – Deacon Ed will surely be missed but added to the company of the saints of the church universal giving glory to God.

Deacon Spotlight



Jerry Bongiovanni

Deacon Jerry Bongiovanni was ordained by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick on June 3, 1995.

He was born in Jersey City and was raised by his adoptive parents, Jerome

and Helen Bongiovanni (and a large, loving extended family), from age five ½ . From birth to his joining the Bongiovanni family Jerry was moved among a number of orphanages and foster homes. He was reunited with his birth mother, Ann Perrucci, in 2001 when she was 89. She is now 96. This all came about during his consulting work at Catholic Community Services and their adoption agency. His work at CCS was made possible by a lead given to him by Deacon Ed Porter. The Lord's hand certainly was involved here.

Jerry attended the Washington Grammer School, Union High School and Seton Hall University where he earned a BS Degree in accounting with a minor in philosophy. He attended Seton Hall night school for his Masters Degree in Finance.

He married Janice, his high school sweetheart, at age 19 in 1959 and they have four children, Robert, Barbara, Linda and Michael and seven grandchildren, Amanda, Ashley, Nicholas, Stephen, Matthew, Alexandra and Michael.

Jerry started his business career at Merck in Rahway, followed by J & J in New Brunswick and finally with Angostura Int. Ltd in Cranford where he was Controller and then VP of Finance and Operations.

Jerry's encounter with the diaconate came about through the influence and mentoring of Deacon Ed Porter at St. James the Apostle in Springfield. Deacon Porter encouraged Jerry to get involved with the Union County Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless (now called Homefirst). His association began as a representative from St. James and has evolved into Coordinator of the Houses of Worship for the Town of Springfield for 21 years. He has been a Board Member of Homefirst for the last 6 years, serving on the Finance Committee. Another outreach that Deacon Ed suggested Jerry get involved with is the Overlook Hospital Chaplain's

Office where he is on the Pastoral Team.

Jerry was assigned to St. James in Springfield under Father Bob Stagg and now with Msgr. William Hatcher. Along with the normal diaconate duties, Jerry chairs the Ministry to the Homebound, weekly Novenas and Holy Hour, daily Rosary's before Mass and is the Sacristan. Jerry has also been involved with the Region III Assembly of Deacons and Wives for many years, assisting with planning and registration.

Deacon Jerry feels the three greatest things in his life are his family, the Diaconate, and his ministry to others.

Deacon Advocates Assigned

In September 2008 Deacons Joe Mantineo, Jim Tobin, Fritz Kautz, Paul Kliagua, Nick Deluca, and Bob Thomann were assigned by Newark's Archdiocesan Marriage Tribunal as Procurator/ Advocates for the good of petitioners for annulments. They join eight priests and Deacon Ed Campanella who has been an advocate for the past five years and was assigned after the death of Deacon Vincent Messina who was an advocate for ten years prior. The tribunal processes petitions for marital annulments. The Advocates duties comprise assisting in the preparation of a petitioners case for consideration by the canonical court.

Fr. Al Guglielmo Inspires Deacons

By Deacon Herb Gimbel

Our retreat began on Friday evening October 24, 2008, 5:00 pm at San Alfonso retreat House in Long Branch, NJ. Our weekend was dedicated to Deacon Ed Porter and his family. It was a beautiful balmy day with a light wind as I pulled into the parking lot and immediately walked over to the small boardwalk to see and feel the

full affect of the ocean. Smelling the salt air and felling a light ocean spray carried by the wind was just priceless; you just knew it was going to be a great spiritual weekend. (As I said to my self thank you Jesus)



The retreat theme was based on our ministry as deacons with a variety of topics. Fr. Al first spoke on Mary and how God will provide for our needs through her intercession to Jesus and God the Almighty Father. Just as she Mary interceded for the bride and groom at the wedding at Cana we now and should always know to turn to her for our needs and wants so that with her help and guidance we receive the grace that is sufficient for us to carry on our duties as ministers of the church. (Jn. 2:5)

Fr. Al talked the ministry of a deacon in part II and how we as ordained ministers of the church were first called, chosen, selected and sent to be disciples to do God's work so as to live the gospel life and use words when necessary. (Acts 6:3)

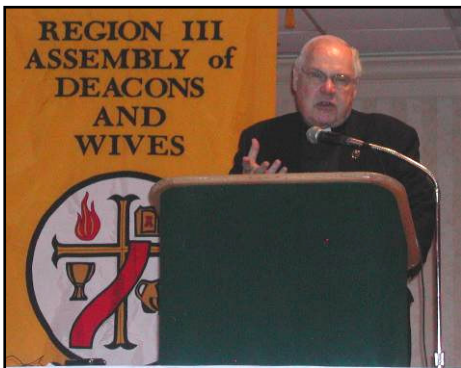
The third topic was about St. Joseph; Mary's husband and foster father to Jesus. Joseph is a great example of a good husband and father looking after his family and providing for them and keeping them safe and well. He was a righteous man. (Mt. 2:13-15)

The fourth and final topic was about "The Cost of Discipleship" As Deacons, servants, and Disciples of Christ there is a cost that goes along with being in Christ's service.; not a monetary cost but a cost of many

feelings and emotions with all the people we encounter 24/7 every day of our life.

We thank both Fr. Guglielmo for his inspiring talk and guidance and Deacon Earle Connelly for a great job putting it all together.

Region III Deacons and Wives Lancaster Conference



On November 7 & 8th 229 Deacons & wives from New Jersey and Pennsylvania came together for their semi-annual conference. Attending from our Archdiocese were: Deacon John Baltus, Deacons Jerry Bongiovanni and his wife Janice, Ed Campanella and MaryAnn, Martin Macaluso and Carmin, Jim Mueller and MaryBeth, Dan O'Neill and



Peggy, Thomas Pluta and Peggy, James Tobin and Elizabeth, and Joe Yandoli and Frances.

Rev. Paul Henry, who in 1997 was appointed by Cardinal Keeler to the special ministry of Spirituality and Spiritual Direction in connection with

the John Paul II institute for divine mercy was the conference leader.

Deacon Martin Macaluso SFO, reports that Fr. Henry's talks referred to the similarity of the roles of Angels and



Deacons. In Hebrew angels are called *mal'ak*. In Greek they are called *angelos*. Both words mean messenger. In the Letter to the Hebrews these messengers are "ministering spirits sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation" (Heb. 1:14). Thus, Father Henry, likened the deaconate to the ministering angels and archangels. Deacons perform like archangels: the Archangel Gabriel



interpreted oracles to the prophet Daniel (Dn. 8:16-26; 9:21-27), Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she was to become the mother of the Messiah, "Hail, favored one the Lord is with you" (Lk. 1:28), like the Archangel Michael who explained scripture to Daniel (Dn. 12:1-13) who leading the people to paradise, protects the Church, and rebukes the devil (Dn 10:13,21; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7) and like the Archangel Raphael who stands ever ready to enter into the presence of the Lord and to care for the people of God (Tb. 5; 6:6-11; 8:1-3; 12:15).



Father Henry emphasized the deacons' grave responsibility (*munus*) in works of charity, in the liturgy and the proclamation of the Word. The duty to pray the Divine Office is the extension of Holy Mass. The presence of the deacon at Mass is essential for he is the *persona* of Christ the servant. He represents the people of God who cannot be present – the sick, the hospitalized, the dying, the poor, the homebound, the oppressed, the young and the old crying in the night. Deacons are the angels standing at the throne of God: serving, pleading, cajoling, correcting, feeding, preaching, teaching by word and example. Deacons are the very *diakonia* and *kenosis* of the Church.



The title Deacon tells what he does and what he is.

The meals and accommodations were excellent and the conference team, made up of member dioceses led by Deacon Leo McBlain, Camden Diaconate Director, who is to be congratulated for a conference that was socially as well as spiritually uplifting.