



## Summer 2022 Issue

# Class of 2025 Aspirancy Begins

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Leo Montini

Mary Stark

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Daniel O'Neil

Michael Lydon

Joseph Vrindten

Vincent Accardi

Paul Kliagua

Anthony Balestrieri

David Loman

Dennis Besida

Richard Bianchi

Willim Myers

Judith Joyce

Joyce Bowen

Diane Aponte

Dorothy McFadden

Doreen McGarry

Joan Lydon

Rosary Gilhean

Nancy O'Hara

### The Class of 2025 begins first year of preparatory study, "aspirancy."

By Msgr Joseph Chapel, Director of Formation



Cardinal Tobin meets with class

After many challenges and delays due to Covid, two cohorts of men who came through a period of "aspirancy," have begun the four years of academic, pastoral and spiritual formation towards ordination as Permanent Deacons for the Archdiocese of Newark.

The academic portion of the program is directed by Deacon Andy Saunders and provided by the Center for Diaconal Studies of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall, which will lead to a "Certificate in Diaconal Studies" and also an "MA in Theology" for some of the men.

In September 2021, a cohort of nine English speakers began the program. In January 2022, a second cohort of thirteen men began their studies with academic classes conducted in Spanish – a first for the program.

All the other pastoral and spiritual formation is provided through the Archdiocese of Newark. In July 2022, Msgr. Joseph Chapel assumed the role of Director of Formation for the Permanent Diaconate.

The academic program consists of 2 courses per semester for 8 semesters.

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Office of the Permanent Diaconate

# DeacoNews

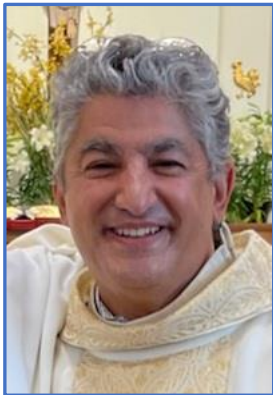
Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

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While the academic program is divided by language, all the men (and often their wives) are together in one group for yearly retreats and for the extensive program of monthly meetings on Saturdays for formation in prayer, spirituality, liturgy and for “practica” in preaching, sacraments, rituals of the Church, and other topics.

There is truly a great spirit of fraternity among all the men and excitement to serve the Church. Over the coming year, they will be instituted as Lectors, and in the following years as Acolytes and Candidates. Then finally, in a timeframe to be decided by Cardinal Tobin, we look forward to their ordination as Deacons!

## *Deacon Spotlight* *Michael Giuliano*



Like many others Michael’s journey to the Deaconate was circuitous and filled with both wrong turns and miraculous moments.

Raised in a family of six brothers and sisters, in a devote Italian Catholic home, the foundations were set early for a life pointed towards the Lord. One of Michael’s Uncles, Father Lou, was a diocesan Priest in Brooklyn, and he was always on the lookout for someone to continue the family tradition. Michael caught his eye early, and he was his first “spiritual director” but the allure of women, starting a family and career ambitious lead to a different path.

Michael pursued a career in medicine and medical education, becoming a Neonatologist and medical educator, working in several academic medical centers in the NY/NJ area. School and work was the central focus of life for a

long time but faith always remained a part of the mix.

He was blessed to meet and marry his wife Marybeth, just as she was completing a novena to Saint Therese of Lisieux on her feast day. They in turn were blessed with five children. You can imagine things were a little busy in those years of raising the children and serving as a physician. Catholic education and being active in Parish life was a central part of the Giuliano family but doing more than mass on Sunday was a little hard. Life was good, things moved along quickly, and God had a small place in a very busy schedule.

Then in 1999-2001 death paid a visit to the “perfect” world of the Giuliano family, First it was MaryBeth’s father, then her sister-in-law, then Michael’s dad and finally Uncle Lou all passed away in succession over a two-year span. These tragedies brought on a silence in which God entered more deeply into Michael’s heart. More open to prayer and reflection, Michael was drawn to a Cursillo retreat that was life affirming and life changing.

The desire to serve the Lord in a more overt manner grew slowly in that time of quiet prayer and when asked by his pastor to consider the diaconate the answer was yes. In 2012 he entered the new four-year academic program to prepare for the diaconate, attending class at Immaculate Conception Seminary every Monday and Tuesday night for four years. Ordained with 26 of his classmates, Michael entered the Diaconate on June 4th, 2016, and was assigned to his home parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Tenafly.

Besides his sacramental work at OLMC, Michael has remained active in the Cornerstone and Cursillo retreat movements within the Archdiocese, participating in 4th day prayer meetings that bring together men from six surrounding parishes twice a month. He also has continued his work with the Sisters of Life, promoting a culture of

life as they counsel mothers at risk for abortion.

His story, like so many others, reveals Gods hand in everything that happens. God calls each of us to come to Him, to walk with Him, and yes to suffer with Him for His greater glory. He also asks each of us to go out and use all our talents and experiences to help serve Him and his people.

## *Deacon Retreats 2022*



As a reminder, the Deacon Council has decided to offer two separate retreat opportunities. June and October.

The topic and dates for the June retreat are not determined, details will be forthcoming from Deacon Andy Golden.

Deacons from other dioceses around New Jersey and other states will be at the June retreat. San Alfonso will have a special registration form for the Newark Deacons.

The October retreat, conducted by the Redemptrous priests, be on: Friday October 21, 2022, 4pm ,through October 23, 2022, departure after Inch.

The theme of the October retreat is “Real resence: a Gift of God and Blessng to One Another. This retreat will invite us to a deeper awareness of the grace and power of presence with God, with ourselves, with others and with all of creaton, as we reflect on our life stories in the peace of Christ and in the light of His spirit, we pray to be the blessing of Jesus’ presence – of love and compassion – to one aother and to all”

A \$100 deposit per deacon will be required by San Alfonso. The Archdiocese of Newark will pay the balance of the retreat stipend. However only one retreat opportunity per year

per deacon will be paid for. If you have any questions please contact Deacon Andrew Golden at [Agolden@saint-peter.org](mailto:Agolden@saint-peter.org)

## Deacons Wives & Widows News



Please take note that we will **not** be hosting the Memorial Mass for Deceased Deacons and Deacons' Wives of the Archdiocese of Newark this year due to Archdiocesan covid safety precautions. Normally, that is celebrated the last Saturday in April or the first Saturday in May.

Once again, we are happy to tell you that our "retreat" will be held at **Mount St. Mary's House of Prayer** located at **1651 U. S. Highway 22 in Watchung**. Their phone number is **(908) 753-2091**. If you've been with us before, you know that it is a warm and wonderful place and a day full of gentle spiritual enrichment and renewal. Please consider asking another deacon's wife or widow to come with you. Maybe you have never been with us before. If not, why not join us for a wonderful experience of bonding with other deacons' wives and widows? Everyone enjoys the day and we are very happy to let you know that our presenter will once again be Sister Judy Schiavo, whom the group enjoys so very much. The date is **Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and our registration and gathering begin at 9:00 a.m.** It promises to be a great day with a wonderful speaker, a time for quiet, a time for sharing and a time for Reconciliation and Mass.

Naturally, there are COVID precautions in place. Masks are required for anyone who is not vaccinated. If you are vaccinated, please feel free to wear a mask anyway if you are more comfortable doing so. The maximum number of participants allowed is 20.

Thanks to Deacon John McKenna, the expenses for this day will be covered once again by the Diaconate Office. As a way of expressing our gratitude for this, we ask each attendee for a donation of twenty dollars (\$20.00) for the St. Lawrence Fund. As we are sure you already know, the St. Lawrence Fund provides assistance for deacons and their families who experience financial emergencies. If you would like to be part of this sharing, please include a check written to the St. Lawrence Fund with your completed registration form. We will make sure that the checks are given to Deacon John McKenna. The registration cutoff date for the Day of Renewal is September 24<sup>th</sup> and registration is limited to the first twenty (20) respondents.

Coffee and welcoming time for the Day of Renewal will be at **9:00 a.m.** at the House of Prayer. It is on the grounds of Mt. St. Mary's Academy. When driving up the hill to the House of Prayer, pass the tennis courts, bear right and the road will curve. The House of Prayer is the small stone house that is located there. There is a parking lot in front of the house that is available for you. You will love the atmosphere at the retreat center immediately. The Sisters of Mercy, who coordinate it, are very warm and welcoming. There are bathrooms on the first floor, including one which is wheelchair accessible. There is also a ramp for getting in and out of the chapel. Lunch will be provided, and coffee and Danish will be available upon arrival.

Please don't forget to enclose your check for \$20.00 written to the St. Lawrence Fund. Also, since the House of Prayer fees are charged per person,

are not refundable, and must be paid on the day itself, we do need to know for sure if you will be attending. We are excited about having you back with us again or welcoming you for the first time to our Day of Renewal. We hope that you will all enjoy the day and be enriched by it. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Misty at **(201) 791-6180** or email her at [mistymant@aol.com](mailto:mistymant@aol.com). Thank you, God bless you and we look forward to having you with us on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Father & Son Ordained

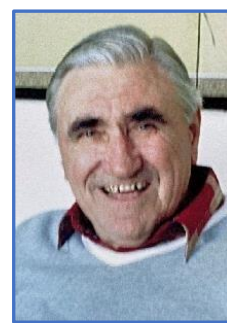
A special Father's Day feature in the Jersey Catholic explores the faith journey of a father and his son, and how their paths led to religious life.

Click on this link to read full story [Father and son's strong faith culminates with their ordinations – Jersey Catholic](#)

### German and Matthew Gonzalez Ordained

Matthew is now a parochial vicar at St. Bartholomew, newly ordained. German is a deacon at his parish of St. John Paul II in Perth Amboy, also newly ordained. Ordained in the same month as each other.

## Deacon Leo Montini



Leo Montini, beloved family man and deacon in the Roman Catholic Church, died peacefully in his sleep at home on August 15, 2022. He was 92 years old. Leo

was born in 1930 in Montecchia di Crosara, a province of Verona, Italy, to parents Vincenzo and Maria Montini. In 1949 he immigrated to the USA as a member of the Comboni Missionaries, serving at San Antonio

de Pala Asistencia, a Native American Reservation in Pala, California. In 1953, he was drafted by the Army. Leo was stationed in Maison Fort, France, with the Army Corps of Engineers, and was naturalized as an American citizen at the embassy in Paris by John Foster Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State under President Dwight Eisenhower. Leo married Joan Michalak of Brooklyn, NY, in 1956. Together they raised four children in Verona, NJ. Leo supported his family as a sheet metal welder with Local 28, even working on the World Trade Center Twin Towers during the 1970s. Guided by his deep faith, in midlife Leo began studying to become a permanent deacon. He was ordained in 1981 and served the Archdiocese of Newark as a parish deacon, the Catholic chaplain at University Hospital Newark, and the deacon assigned to the Italian American Apostolate. In 1985, Archbishop Peter Gerety presented the Caritas Medal to Deacon Leo Montini to honor his outstanding service, leadership, charity and achievement in his parish and throughout the Archdiocese of Newark. In 1997, Leo and Joan retired to Whiting, NJ, and Leo continued his work as a deacon with the Archdiocese of Trenton, assigned to local parishes (Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Saint Maximilian Kolbe) and as a Catholic chaplain at Community Hospital. Leo is survived by Joan, his devoted wife of 65 years; their children Theresa, Vincent (Patricia Garrison), Joseph (Wendy Miller), and Mary Ellen (Robert Stickel); their grandchildren Matthew, Laura (Matthew Pallone), Carly, Sarah, and James Stickel; great granddaughter Audrey Joan; and nephews and nieces including Elizabeth Skalski of NC, and Giuseppe, Maria Rosa, and Angelina Montini and Giuseppe, Mariano, and Vincenzo Dal Cero of Italy. A public viewing will be held on Saturday August 20, from 10:00-10:45 a.m. at The Chapel of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church located at 30 Schoolhouse

Road, Whiting, NJ 08759, immediately followed by an 11:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Sister Agnese Montini fund to support the Comboni Missionary nuns in El Obeid, Sudan; 1318 Nagel Road, Cincinnati, OH 45255.

## *Deacon William H. Myers*



Catholic deacon in No. Arlington, comptroller, beloved brother William H. Myers, 86, of North Arlington, NJ passed away on June 15, 2022. He was

ordained as a Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Newark on June 3, 1995. He has since served at Queen of Peace Church in North Arlington for the past 27 years where people commonly knew him as Deacon Bill. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Queen of Peace Council 3428, a 4th Degree member of the Peter B O'Connor Assembly, in North Arlington and also a member of the Friends or Erin in Kearny.

During the course of his working career as a Comptroller and Financial Officer, he was employed by RCA, Brinks Warehousing, Artistic Enterprises, Saint Francis Hospital of Jersey City, and Haba International, Newark. Bill finished his working career as an Internal Auditor at The Valley Hospital of Paramus New Jersey, a job he was happy to go to daily.

He is survived by his brother Robert Myers of North Arlington, his nieces Kathleen Myers (Paul Schlachter), Olivia Myers, Sue Jean (David) Lee, Mina Yi, nephew John (Katharine) Myers, grandnieces Mary and Helen Schlachter, Matilda Myers, Sabrina Lee, and grandnephew Charles Myers. He is preceded by his parents Herbert

and Margaret Myers, sister-in-law Maria Myers, and nephew Robert Myers.

William was born in Kearny, NJ, attended Saint Cecelia's High School and moved to North Arlington after graduating from Saint Peter's College. He proudly served two years in the United States Army Third Division and was stationed in Germany. He continued his education at Fairleigh Dickinson University graduating with a Masters in business administration. Bill was happiest when he maintained relationships with all of his relatives at home and abroad in Scotland. He kept track of everyone's birthdays and important life events like weddings, graduations, and baptisms. Just about everyone in his family referred to him simply as Uncle because he filled that role for almost everyone and even some who were not related. William was a world traveler who enjoyed cruises. In the 80's he bought a small shore home which became his favorite place to go and share with his family in the summer months. He was never afraid to try "just a taste" of any food on the menu except for sushi. There was always time for a cup of tea and a biscuit. He was never too old to see the Rockettes or to spend time at Disneyworld. His ability to remember names and details of nearly everyone he met was remarkable even up to his last days.

The Funeral was at Queen of Peace Church, North Arlington for at 11 A.M. The interment followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington.

The family would appreciate donations in his memory to St. Peter's University, Jersey City, NJ or Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, Convent Station, NJ.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## **AFLAME WITH THE EUCHARIST: “WE CANNOT BUT SPEAK...”**

*Consider how the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Love, ignites evangelization within “the nooks and crannies of secular culture”.*

*Open to all permanent diaconate inquirers, aspirants, candidates, deacons and their wives, priests and diocesan personnel.*



**Saturday,  
October 1, 2022**

10:30 am – 12:00 pm



**St. Mary’s Abbey Church  
230 Mendham Road  
Morristown, NJ 07960**

**An online registration form  
will be available at the end of  
August.**

Please contact Gregory Floyd  
at [gregory.floyd2@shu.edu](mailto:gregory.floyd2@shu.edu)  
with any questions.



*Deacon James Keating, PhD  
has nearly thirty years of  
experience in the area of  
clerical formation in the  
Catholic Church. He is the  
author or editor of twenty-  
eight books on spirituality,  
morality, and clerical  
formation.*

*There is no cost to attend this event.*