



ARCHDIOCESE
of BALTIMORE
THE PREMIER SEE

The Deacon's Call

Newsletter of the Baltimore Deacon Community

www.archbalt.org/clergy-religious-life/deacons/

January—March 2013

Volume 11, Number 1

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From the Archbishop

“Proclaim the Gospel with Clarity ...”



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

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Lent, 2013

Dear Brother Deacons,

These nearly ten months since my installation as your Archbishop have brought me the pleasure of meeting several of you personally at parishes and at archdiocesan events. I am deeply grateful for the hospitality and the warm welcome I have received, and I look forward to meeting with all of you in the near future.

Let me begin by thanking all of you who did so much to explain the issues and to form consciences during the election season. Though the elections are over, our work continues unabated to promote respect for life at all its stages and to advance the social teachings of the Church.

As I come to know ever more deeply the pastoral strengths and needs of our archdiocesan family of faith, I know I can count on you to assist our priests and to work with our lay faithful in the all-important work of the New Evangelization, as we proclaim the Gospel with clarity and with charity, inviting everyone we can into friendship with the living person of Jesus Christ.

Permit me to ask your special prayers during this time in which the See of Saint Peter stands vacant. Let us thank the Lord for His gift to us of the humble, gentle, and incredibly profound ministry of Pope Benedict XVI, even as we implore the Holy Spirit to guide the Cardinals of the Church to choose a new Pope whose holiness and wisdom will be a source of strength, edification, and faith for us and for all the world.

In these days during which we contemplate with love the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, may our crucified and risen Lord Himself bless you with every grace. Please be assured of my prayers for you, for your wives and families, and for all those to whom you extend the charity of Christ.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore

Believe what
you read,

Teach what
you believe,

Practice what
you teach.

Articles and ideas for future newsletters are welcome. Feel free to contact a member of the Communications Committee or send your suggestions to the Editor, Deacon Lee Benson, at labdon70@gmail.com. Issues are published quarterly, with deadlines on the 15th of February, May, July, and October.

Neumann Vicariate Holds Meeting with Bishop Madden

by Lee Benson

The Neumann Vicariate meeting held in December began with a meal supplied by Kevin Reid's company, *In Good Taste Catering*. After a wonderful lasagna dinner, Bishop Madden led evening prayer. Since the Sandy Hook shootings had just occurred, he asked us to keep both the victims and the perpetrator, as well as their families, in our prayers.

The Bishop then described the new AmeriCorps training facility that opened in the former Sacred Heart of Mary School. Volunteers trained at this facility will serve in Maryland and 13 other states and territories. He also shared an inspiring story of prayer walks with *Partners in Transformation*, which provide healing for families of crime victims by allowing them to share their stories and receive prayer support. Bishop Madden encouraged us all to participate and pray for an end to violence, especially gun violence.

Bishop Madden then imparted some sobering news about the Catholic population in the U.S, which was presented at the Fall General Assembly. Approximately 97 million people self-identify as Catholic at some time during their life. Of those, 50 million attend only Christmas and Easter Masses, 36 million attend Mass monthly, and 18 million attend weekly. Only three million identify themselves as "very involved" in their parish.

Bishop Madden told us we need to be proactive and practical in order to address this problem. He cited Msgr. Cook's efforts at St. Joseph parish with special welcoming activities, flyers at local apartment complexes and challenging staff members to bring one new person to Mass during the coming year.

Then we listened to presentations by Jack Ames and Vic Petrosino, who shared their experiences with middle and high school children.

Jack talked about his efforts to encourage his students to talk about their faith and how it affects their decisions. Vic talked about the difference between rational truth and experiential truth, encouraging us to be authentic and passionate in our preaching and to be examples of faith that attract our listeners. Vic reminded us that we need to help our listeners recognize the answers to these key questions: Who am I? and Why am I here?

Next we heard from four deacons involved with inmates and former inmates. Ed Sullivan shared how he includes in his homilies to the inmates insights into the purpose of their lives. Ed uses stories of lives of the saints to encourage the inmates to live a moral life. Don Awalt, who runs a bible study program for former inmates, shared about the most serious problem facing ex-offenders: their need to forgive themselves.

Lastly Steve Rubio and Wardell Barksdale shared their insights on preaching. Steve challenged us never to deteriorate into thinking of people in generalized or stereotypical ways. We need to remember that everyone, no matter their life situation, is a child of the Almighty God.

Steve's homilies run about twenty minutes. He offers help for people in their current situation, which may be filled with stress. His congregation expects to feed on the Word of God and to hear that word proclaimed in a way that helps them here and now. Steve knows he is

reaching his audience when he hears them say "Amen."

Wardell seeks to connect deeply with his hearers, to meet them where they are. He seeks through his homilies to "talk beyond the walls of the Church." Wardell puts faith into action through such activities as the New Year's Day dinner and the comfort food ministry. In this way, he meets the needs of the people and is a beacon of light.

In closing Bishop Madden requested prayers for Jim Westwater and Skip Comegna. He reminded us to always read Sacred Scripture as if it were the first time. He finished with a challenge to invite a fellow deacon who has not attended recently to join us at the next vicariate meeting. We guarantee you will go home well fed in body, mind and spirit. ❖

SAVE THE DATE!

DEACON RETREAT

April 26—28, 2013
Bon Secours, Marriottsville, MD



CONVOCATION 2013



Oct. 4—6, 2013
Bolger Center, Potomac, MD

Are you registered yet? Contact Cindy Orr at the Catholic Center if you need registration materials.

Can you help? Contact [Skip Comegna](#).

DON'T BEAM ME UP SCOTTY!

A Reflection on *Porta Fidei*

by Deacon Lee Benson

One of my favorite inventions from *Star Trek* is the transporter. Even though I enjoy the photon torpedoes, phasers, tractor beams, and warp drive, the transporter—with its ability to eliminate all travel time between points A and B—fascinates me most of all. Wouldn't it be great to arrive at our destination without all the discomforts and trials of travel? Is not the destination the most important thing? The journey is simply a small part. It is the destination we all want and not the journey to get there.

In his Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei*, Pope Emeritus Benedict announced the Year of Faith and emphasized the importance of our faith journey. He chose the title from Acts 14:27. In Acts 13 the Holy Spirit guides Paul and Barnabas to set out from Antioch for their first missionary trip. In Acts 14, they return to Antioch and share with the community “what God had done for them and how he opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.” Pope Benedict applies this movement through the “door of faith” to the lives of all believers.

In our baptism we move through the door and start a “journey that lasts a lifetime.” However, some have grown weary and stopped on the journey. The Pope clearly recognizes and acknowledges the challenges in living the life of faith, but encourages us not to become “tasteless” salt but “to rediscover the journey of faith.” How do we go about this?

Pope Benedict summons us to “an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord.” First we must deepen our understanding of our faith. As

Benedict notes, 2012 is the 50th anniversary of Vatican II and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Therefore, he asks us “to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope.”

As in times past, this profession was not undertaken lightly. Professing the faith might put one's life in danger. We may not live in that type of danger but we still know that making a public profession of faith is not an easy thing to do, even in the United States with its many safeguards for religious freedom.

However, our protection comes from a God in whom “we choose to entrust ourselves fully ... in complete freedom.” As the Pope observes, at Pentecost the Church took the profession into the public square. We cannot keep the Good News of Christ private. “Confessing with the lips indicates in turn that faith implies public testimony and commitment.”

Benedict asks us to turn to the CCC and explore the riches of our faith. “It is in this sense that the Year of Faith will have to see a concerted effort to rediscover and study the fundamental content of the faith that receives its systematic and organic synthesis in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.”

We have many opportunities to learn more about Vatican II and the CCC. Benedict encourages us to take up these opportunities. However, the CCC is not just a dry recitation of commands and precepts. Rather, it is “an encounter with a Person who lives within the Church.” Therefore,

the second way to renew and reinvigorate faith is to give a loving witness.

“Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy.” As Benedict observes, faith needs to be expressed publicly but with love. The two are intimately intertwined. “Faith without charity bears no fruit, while charity without faith would be a sentiment constantly at the mercy of doubt.” He cites many examples of love and faith's interconnection: Mary's total obedience and trust, the Apostles' fearless proclamation, the disciples' caring for the needs of the brethren, martyrs' forgiveness of their persecutors and the faithful's daily witness in the marketplace. “It is faith that enables us to recognize Christ, and it is his love that impels us to assist him whenever he becomes our neighbor along the journey of life.”

“What the world is in particular need of today is the credible witness of people enlightened in mind and heart by the word of the Lord, and capable of opening the hearts and minds of many to the desire for God and for true life, life without end.” As deacons, we are called to be these “people.” We do not have an easy message to preach and teach. Yes, the journey of faith has moments of trials and suffering but it also has moments of joy and blessing. We are called to encourage everyone to stay on the journey. There are no short cuts. “Beam me up, Scotty” is not an option. By God's grace and through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, may we all accept this challenge. ❖

Special Dates to Remember

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

January 30, 1982

Paul Weber

January 27, 1973

Phil Harcum

February 21, 1981

Leroy Beimel

February 22, 1972

Stan Piet

March 21, 1992

Donald Miller

Frank Zeiler

Larry Wilson

Lawrence Teixeira

Michael McCoy

Robert Malinowski

DEACON BIRTHDAYS

January

4th.....Robert Keenan

7th.....Robert Oliver

11th.....Jerry Jennings

11th.....Ron Thompson

15th.....J. Donald MacKnew

15th.....James Barth

15th.....John Boscoe

16th.....James Ryan

21st.....Richard Clemens

22nd.....Paul Shelton

24th.....William DeAngelis

25th.....Edward Whitesell

28th.....Darrell Smith

29th.....Russ Matthews

February

3rd.....Albert Chesnavage

3rd.....Loren Mooney

6th.....Edward Stoops

6th.....John Sedlevicius

11th.....Fred Passauer

13th.....Frank Laws

15th.....Al Kosla

16th.....Don Latrick

19th.....Dean Lopata

21st.....Peter Barbernitz

23rd.....George Evans

28th.....Nick Feurer

28th.....James Benjamin

March

3rd.....Jeffrey Sutterman

8th.....Patrick Goles

9th.....Paul Gifford

9th.....Willard Pinkney

10th.....Alex Rodriguez

10th.....Thomas Beales

14th.....Harold Bradley

17th.....Lawrence Teixeira

18th.....J. Donald Murray

23rd.....Don Battista

23rd.....Edison Morales

24th.....Gerald Roberts

25th.....Daniel Kopczyk

25th.....Gary Ingold

26th.....Joseph Knepper

29th.....Martin Perry

29th.....William Nairn

31st.....Charles Hicks

NECROLOGY

Alexander Smith.....January 10, 2003

Ferdinand G. Miller.....January 11, 2002

Joseph J. KeatingJanuary 17, 2001

Americus Roy.....January 19, 2004

Anthony S. MarantoJanuary 25, 2002

Richard KunkelFebruary 21, 2013

Joseph L. NealeMarch 1, 2004

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

January

1st.....Bob & Eleanor Lynne (60)

5th.....John & Madalen McKenna (61)

8th.....Steve & Suzanne Cooley (41)

9th.....Bob & Patricia Malinowski (48)

12th.....Dave & Georgene Ebner (32)

12th.....Jack & Ann Coster (56)

12th.....Henry & Rita Siarkowski (61)

14th.....Bill & Pamela DeAngelis (46)

19th.....Richard & Blanche Stine (56)

19th.....Rod & Cecelia Mortel (33)

21st.....John & Carole Langmead (46)

29th.....Monti & Marie Montalto (47)

February

2nd.....Don & Rosetta MacKnew (56)

4th.....Bob & Libbi Keenan (52)

5th.....Ray & Judy Moreau (45)

7th.....Bill & Maryann Albaugh (43)

11th.....Jhan & Janice Harris (30)

11th.....Dan & Clarice Roff (52)

14th.....John & Diane Hawkins (26)

14th.....Charlie & Joyce Hiebler (43)

14th.....Mark & Mary Soloski (26)

15th.....Steve & Michelle Rubio (27)

March

3rd.....James & Marcie DeCapite (40)

18th.....William & Mary Fallon (46)

18th.....Joseph & Colleen Knepper (24)

21st.....Richard & Michelle Bolgiano (31)

27th.....Loren & Suzanne Mooney (31)

30th.....Martin & Natalie Perry (28)

30th.....Karl & Gene Marie Bayhi (15)

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Issues are published quarterly,
in March, May, August, and
November. The deadline for
articles is on the 15th of the
month preceding publication.

Your comments and ideas for
future newsletters are wel-
come. We need articles! Please
consider writing a brief article
on an aspect of your ministry
or a review of a book you
have read or a film you have
seen. Please email comments
to any member of the Com-
munications Committee:

Lee Benson, Chair

Angela Martin

Cliff Britton

Carol Matheny

Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily

By Deacon Charles Heibler

At its biennial conference held the week of Nov. 11-14, 2012, the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the document *Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily*. The section titled, “Preaching the Sunday Homily and the Current Pastoral Context of the Church in the United States” provides the purpose for this document:

“Thirty years ago, the former Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry issued the document *Fulfilled in Your Hearing: The Homily in the Sunday Assembly* (USCCB, 1982). This text has proven very helpful in the life and mission of the Church, especially in the formation of preachers. However, new

circumstances within the Church at this historical moment call for us to build on this previous document and to reflect anew on the ministry of preaching.... In our day many Catholics have drifted away from active participation in the Church and are in need themselves of hearing again the Gospel of Jesus Christ and of re-committing themselves to discipleship.”

The document then goes on to list a number of reasons why many Catholics “seem either indifferent to or disaffected with the Church and her teaching.”

The Bishops direct their statement to priests and deacons who may “preach the homily in accord with the provisions of

canon law as ministers of the Word ... [and] those responsible for the formation and training of future priests and deacons as well as those who conduct continuing formation...”

“The Approach of This Statement” turns first to theological and biblical foundations, then concentrates “. . . on the intrinsic interconnection between the Scriptures, the homily and its liturgical context, and the Church’s teaching and catechesis. Here the particular pastoral needs of our time that have prompted the call for a renewed evangelization are an important context.” Finally, it concludes “with a consideration of the spirituality of the homilist” and what the members of the congregation who listen to the homily should do “to receive properly and savor the biblical message.”

Each one who preaches has his own style and technique for preparing and preaching the homily. This document offers clear direction for the content and context that should be helpful in effectively communicating the Word.

The final exhortation states: “May we who are ordained to preach the Sunday homily, like Mary who brought the Incarnate Word into the world, conform our lives to her Son and proclaim effectively the Word of salvation to all.” ❖

Deacon Wives’ Retreat



Dr. Pat Fosarelli exhorts the women attending the Deacon Wives’ Retreat to draw closer to God by recognizing their feminine gifts and living in the present.

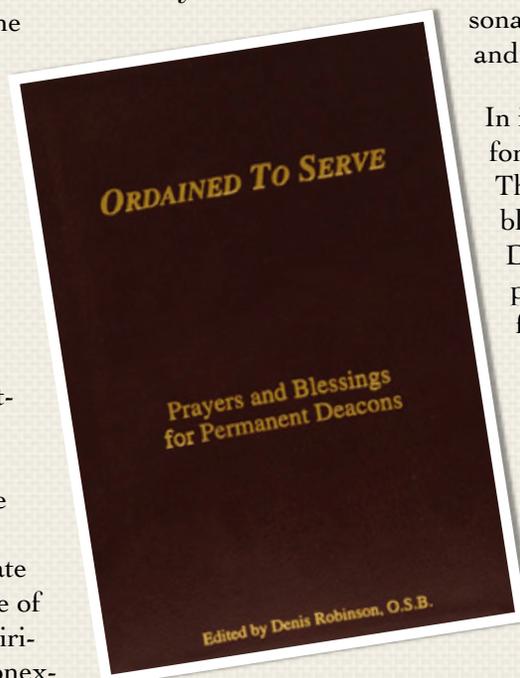
BOOK REVIEW: ORDAINED TO SERVE

By Harbey Santiago

Last December as I was wandering the bowels of the Internet in desperation trying to find last minute gift ideas for my personal Christmas list, I came across a very interesting little book. I always keep my eyes open for good reading bargains, but at \$29.99 (Amazon), *Ordained to Serve: Prayers and Blessings for Permanent Deacons* (edited by Denis Robinson O.S.B.) could hardly be considered in that category. However, I was intrigued by the reviews I saw online, and against my better judgment (I have been burned before by buying books based on the sole recommendation of online reviewers later to be sorely disappointed), I decided to “bite the bullet” and make the investment. Imagine my surprise when I received it in the mail and discovered that I had been looking for this book since my ordination day!

You see, one of my complaints about books geared specifically toward clergy is that, although there is much out there for Protestant pastors and Catholic priests, when it comes to the Latin rite diaconate, options are very limited — mostly books about the history of the diaconate or the theology behind this state of clerical life. Books about the spirituality of deacons are almost nonexistent. So I was pleasantly surprised by the prayers and reflections geared at helping the deacon in their spiritual and prayer life.

To be clear, this book is *not* just about the spirituality of permanent deacons. It also contains a variety of practical blessings for deacons to use in their ministries, including blessings for things like pyxes, houses, furniture and kitchens and prayers to say before cooking, cleaning, and sitting down to study. It has blessings to say before pastoral council meetings, blessings for diaconal candidates, mother’s and father’s day blessings, blessings for expectant parents, blessings for bringing home a new child, and many more. The blessings follow a pattern of introductory greeting, Scripture reading, prayer, and benediction, each taking about five to 10 minutes.



In addition to the many blessings in this little book are meditation aids designed to enhance the deacon’s prayer and spiritual life. It offers a novena for deacon candidates and for those to be ordained, a blessing for those leaving the formation program, prayers to St. Joseph for the sanctification of the deacon’s work, and prayers for the preparation of homilies. It includes a large selection of prayers to be used during a personal Holy Hour, as well as Stations of the Cross meditations for deacons, an examination of conscience for deacons, deacon’s prayers and meditations for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, personal meditations for before Mass and Baptism, and much more.

In its 327 pages, there is a prayer or a meditation for almost every aspect of the diaconal ministry. The most moving and poignant prayers and blessings are in the section “The Death of a Deacon and General Prayers,” which includes prayers and blessings for a dying deacon and for vesting a deacon after his death — a reminder that our ministry is not just something we do, but something we are for all eternity, and that the dignity of a deacon remains even after the Good Lord has called us into his presence.

If I were to lay a criticism on this book it would be this: although it contains many prayers, blessings, and mediations to enhance the spiritual life of a deacon, the way these are organized is not the best. In fact the book has no index, just a “Table of Contents” that simply lists the 13 sections into which the book is divided. This gives a general idea of where things are, but makes it difficult to find a specific prayer. Luckily the book comes with three ribbons to mark pages, but these are not enough for the treasury of spiritual writings this little book possesses.

I highly recommend this book for deacons who are looking to enhance their spiritual life and complement their day-to-day ministry with ready-made prayers and blessings. I place it in order of importance on my ministerial bookshelf right next to my *Book of Blessings* and my *Pastoral Care of the Sick*. I should add that after buying this book for myself and using it, I liked it so much that I purchased another and gave it as a gift to a friend. I’m planning to give one to a soon-to-be ordained deacon as well. ❖

OPENINGS FOR DEACONS

The following parishes/ministries have need of a deacon. For more information about any of these assignments, please contact Dcn. Kevin Reid by email at Kreid@archbalt.org.

St. Isaac Jogues, Baltimore

Duties: RCIA, Outreach

Preaching: twice/month

Pastor: Fr. Marty Hammond

St. Agnes/St. William of York

Duties: baptisms, weddings, benediction, RCIA

Pastor: Fr. Michael Foppiano

St. Benedict

Duties: food pantry, RCIA, baptisms, benediction, hospital/home visits

Preaching: once/month

Pastor: Fr. Paschal Morlino O.S.B.

Crucifixion, Good Shepherd, Glen Burnie

Pastor: Msgr. Rich Bozzelli

St. Ignatius, Baltimore

Pastor: Fr. Bill Watters, S.J.

St. Joseph, Fullerton

Pastor: Msgr. Kevin Schenning

Deacon: Bill DeAngelis

St. Margaret, Bel Air

Duties: baptisms, weddings, funerals, Liturgy Committee

Preaching: once/month, two liturgies

Pastor: Msgr. Michael Schluempner

St. Joseph on Carrollton Manor

Duties: baptisms, benediction, weddings, funerals, RCIA, prison ministry, visitation of the sick.

Preaching: TBD

Pastor: Fr. Larry Frazier

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Baynesville

Duties: RCIA, baptisms

Preaching: TBD

Pastor: Fr. Michael Carrion

St. Joseph, St. James, St. Augustine, Western Md.

Duties: RCIA

Preaching: once/month

Fr. John Jicha, Fr. Chris Moore

St. Joseph, Eldersburg

Duties: RCIA, Springfield Hosp., Christian formation, Liturgy Cmte.

Preaching: once/month

Pastor: Fr. Neville O'Donohue, S.M.

St. Francis de Sales

Duties: baptisms, benediction, Stations of the Cross; Large Hispanic population, many young families.

Preaching: once/month

Pastor: Fr. Chuck Wible

St. Gabriel and St. Clement, Landsdowne

Bilingual, must be able to work with Hispanic priests and families

Preaching: TBD

PLD (St. Clement): Dcn. Paul Gifford

Pastor (St. Gabriel): Msgr. Tom Phillips

Campus Ministry, University of Md., Baltimore Campus

Fr. John Rapisarda

12,000 students

COMMITTEES

Deacon Personnel Board

Chair: [Skip Comegna](#)

Vice Chair: [Kevin Reid](#)

Policy Committee

Chair: [Frank Zeiler](#)

Communications Committee

Chair: [Lee Benson](#)

Ongoing Formation Committee

Chair: [Skip Comegna](#) (acting)

Placement Committee

Chair: [Kevin Reid](#)

The committees need members! Both deacons and wives are invited — just email the appropriate committee chair.

Current Emmaus Groups

St. Ephrem Fraternity

2nd Tuesday of each month

10 a.m. — Immaculate Conception

Contact: [Deacon John Gramling](#)
410-823-0694

Harford County - St. Stephen

4th Friday of each month

7:30 p.m. — St. Mark, Fallston

Contact: [Deacon Chuck Hicks](#)
410-879-2496

St. Lawrence

3rd Friday of each month

8:30 a.m. — Location varies

Contact: [Deacon Mark Soloski](#)
410-664-4654

The Amen Corner

Last Thursday of each month

Noon — An Poinin Stil Irish Pub

Contact: [Deacon Ken Pivec](#)
410-663-0560

St. Vincent Fraternity

Contact: [Deacon Jack Ames](#)

Holy Trinity

2nd Tuesday of each month

6 p.m. — Holy Trinity, Glen Burnie

Contact: [Deacon Kevin Brown](#)
410-544-6330

Urban Emmaus Group

2nd Saturday of each month

8 a.m. — St. Peter Claver/St. Pius V

1546 N. Fremont Ave., Baltimore

Contact: [Deacon Will Witherspoon](#)
410-599-8327

Deacon Families of Central Maryland (includes wives)

Fourth Sunday (location changes)

Contact: [Deacon George Sisson](#)
301-473-4800

If you have started a new Emmaus Group, please provide the pertinent information to [The Deacon's Call](#) so we can include it in future issues.