



Office of the Permanent Diaconate

DeaconNews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

Fall 2007

Deacons & Wives Convocation

November 3, 2007

SPECIAL ISSUE

The Executive Committee, Council of Permanent Deacons

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In Memorial of Our Departed, since 2005

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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.

The Convocation

This year's convocation will begin with Morning Prayer in Jubilee Hall and end with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in The Seton Hall Chapel with Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D. as the principal celebrant

Our Keynote Speaker is Reverend John



Jay Hughes. Born in 1928 in New York City, he is the son and grandson of priests in the Episcopal Church. After studies at Harvard and at Anglican

seminaries in England and the United States, he served for six years as a priest in the Episcopal Church at Grace Church on Broad and Walnut Streets in Newark. He entered the Roman Catholic Church in 1960. Thereafter he taught and studied in Austria and Germany, for a time with then Prof. Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI. In 1968, he was ordained deacon and priest for the German diocese of Münster. The year following he was awarded a doctorate in theology from the University of Münster. He has taught at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, and at St. Louis University.

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Director's Column

Deacon John McKenna



I want to take this opportunity to welcome all attendees of our 2008 Deacon & Wives Convocation. The committee has worked diligently in a true collegial manner to provide the Liturgies, Worship Aids, and refreshments.

We also want to sincerely thank Bishop da Cunha and Fr. Hughes for their encouragement and support.

The convocation is held in Jubilee Hall.

The schedule is as follows:

8:30 - 9:30 Registration/Coffee
 9:30 - 10:00 Morning Prayer
 10:00 - 10:30 Welcome
 10:30 - 10:45 Break
 10:45 - 11:45 Fr. Hughes:
 "The gods we Worship"
 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch
 1:30 - 2:30 Fr. Hughes:
 "Know what you are doing"
 2:30 - 2:45 Break
 2:45 - 3:45 Break-out Sessions
 3:45 - 4:00 Evaluation
 4:00 - 5:00 Mass at
 Seton Hall Chapel

Sikora Religious Articles will be available in the Jubilee Hall Lobby as will the coffee and refreshments.

Formation News

Fr. James Teti, Formation Director

The diaconate ordination class of 2011 has begun formation this Fall. The class consists of thirty-five men from around the Archdiocese. Twelve of them represent many of the different ethnicities and language groups of the Church of Newark. The class well reflects our diversity. This semester they are studying Revelation and Faith and Church History in their two academic courses, held on Monday and Tuesday evenings at the Archdiocesan Center. They will be taking courses on the Gospels and Christology starting in January. An additional study group has been formed for the men in the class who speak Spanish to continue to review topics of the courses in their language. One Saturday a month the class meets for a morning session of pastoral and spiritual formation. The members of the class remain involved in apostolic work in their parishes under the direction of their pastors. Through all these various activities class members are able to take part in the main areas of formation presented in the National Directory for Formation of Permanent Deacons. Please keep them in your prayers as they follow the Lord's call to assist at His Altar, proclaim His Word, and serve in charity.

Convocation

(Continued from the page 1)

In St. Louis, where he has resided since 1970, he has worked, in addition to his teaching, in diocesan administration, and as pastor of two parishes. He is the author of several hundred articles and eleven books, including his forthcoming memoir, "No Ordinary Fool: A Testimony to Grace". He recently recorded eighteen talks on Jesus' parables, being distributed nationally as "A Journey through

the Parables" -
 NowYouKnowMedia.com

He is now a retired priest of the archdiocese of St. Louis, with residence in the parish of Christ the King. "I have wanted to be a priest," Father Hughes says, "since I was twelve years old. I have never wanted anything else. I've not regretted my decision for priesthood - not one single day. If I were to die tonight, I would die a happy man."

Deacons Wives

The deacon's wives will gather together at the convocation and be given a special presentation by Dr. Dianne Marie Traflet, J.D., S.T.D., Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ, where she is also the Assistant Dean and Director of Lay Ministry.

Deacon Spotlight

James Looby '05



Ordained on June 11th in 2005 Deacon Jim is assigned to St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Cresskill, NJ where he is a Pastoral Associate, Youth Minister, and Confirmation Director.

Born in Cresskill, NJ, son of Bert & Emma Looby, Jim has three older sisters Noreen, Anne and Patricia and one younger brother, Bert.

Jim attended St. Therese grade School, Cresskill High School and Northfield University in NY, majoring in

Computer Technology and was graduated in 1992 with a Master of Science degree in Computer Technology.

Jim met his wife Theresa in High School; they were married on October 20, 1979, and have three children Colleen 27, Joseph 26 and Megan 24.

Jim's work experience began in 1978 in Wachovia Bank in the computer room; he then went to work at ABC Channel 7 doing computer tech support. He later moved on to Mercedes Benz in Montvale working in Computer Communications and finally BASF. In 2004 left BASF, 1 yr. before ordination to become a full time pastoral associate at St. Therese.

Jim has always had a deep devotion to our Blessed Mother, as a result of the Carmelite influence at St. Therese. Interested in the priesthood in grade school, Fr. Joe Flanagan told him he needed to let the Holy Spirit grow in him. When Jim met Theresa, who swept Jim off his feet, he decided family life was his vocation, not knowing of course that his religious vocation was not going unanswered.

In 1992, while Jim's family was still young, Fr. John Russell, former Carmelite Provincial, talked to Jim about the permanent diaconate as something for him to look into for the future. While involved with his family deeply for years, in 1998, Fr. Gerard Power encouraged Jim to pursue the diaconate and gave him Deacon Ed Porter's number (former director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Newark). Deacon Porter recommended CFM in Hillsdale in preparation for the start of the '05 class in 2001.

After ordination, St. Therese went from two priests to one, so Jim immediately began to fulfill many spots including: confirmation director, youth minister, baptism coordinator, director of social concerns, bereavement coordinator, RCIA coordinator, seniors' social coordinator, altar server coordinator,

EM and lector coordinator, pastoral council member, and buildings and grounds committee member, just to name a few. A special cherished ministry for Jim occurs on Monday's where Deacon Jim conducts liturgy of the word with a communion service at Sunrise Assisted Living in Cresskill.

Jim says the diaconate is a very important part of his life, living daily, looking forward each day at St. Therese, working all the ministries and making sure that the Friday night food shopping date with Theresa is never missed.

Our Mother

by Deacon Mike York, Class of '05

The following story about my Dad makes a fitting introduction to the role of Mary, our spiritual mother, in my diaconate journey

It was July 25, 1944. My dad was in the Air Corp, stationed in Folgias, Italy. Two months earlier in May of that year, he was able to attend Mass said by Padre Pio, at San Giovanni, not too far from where he was stationed. He had flown 17 missions already on a B17 bomber. The mission on July 25th would be his 18th. My dad carried his rosary with him while in the service, and in combat, prayed his rosary while flying. This was the rosary that he had since his First Holy Communion. On this particular mission, his assignment was to be one of the two waist gunners, which put him in the center of the plane. During the mission, the plane got hit by German anti aircraft guns. The pilot managed to keep control of the plane. But the plane got hit again and the pilot gave the order to the other 8 men on the plane to bail out. Fire had damaged the exit door and it would not open. My dad was able to open the door with the help of another crew member. Then, the primary rip cord on the parachute would not open. Dad was able to rip the parachute open from the chest (secondary way to open).

What was "amazing" is that my dad had a dream a couple weeks earlier about being in a plane that was on fire...and it happened as in that dream. Later my dad would find out that only 4 parachutes were seen coming down from that plane. He would only see one of the crew again.

He landed in Austria, immediately being captured by the Germans and taken prisoner, wounded from the shrapnel. He would be taken to a prison camp near the Baltic Sea, Stalag IV. The Germans only gave him two things back, one was his watch and the other was his rosary.

My dad would continue to pray his rosary while a prisoner of war (9 months) with a small group of men in his section of the prison camp. Towards the Spring of 1945, the Americans began advancing from the West, as did the Russians from the East, forcing the Germans to dismantle the prison camp, becoming a prison camp on the march. My dad would march over the course of the final months of his captivity, what was said to be 600 miles.

Shortly after Easter of 1945, and close to liberation, he would lose that rosary in the hay of a barn, unable to spend the time finding it, due to the German's urgency of moving the prisoners to prevent from being captured by the Russians.

My dad's mom prayed countless rosaries throughout her life, in Polish. My dad would often see her praying the rosary. If it were not for Mary's intercession, my dad would not have survived 18 missions and being a prisoner of war AND I would not be able to write this article!!

We know that Mary is more than a powerful intercessor with her Son, Jesus. She is also our spiritual mother; our guide, leading us to Jesus, throughout our entire lives.

St. Louis de Montfort said: "The more you allow Mary to act in your Communion, the more Jesus will be glorified". We receive Jesus in the

Eucharist, with the heart of Mary. We can easily extend what Montfort tells us... The more we allow Mary to act in our prayer, the more Jesus will be glorified. The more we allow Mary to act in our reading of the Scriptures, the more Jesus will be glorified, as we are guided by her Spirit, which is the Holy Spirit. The more we allow Mary to act in our diaconate, the more Jesus will be glorified. As St. Augustine tells us, "Mary is the mold of God". She is the surest, safest and fastest way to Jesus. She can mold us into a replica of Christ, the Servant, faster than any other means.

St. Maximilian Kolbe wrote that: "In fact we now have a Mother who has been given to us by God, a Mother who tenderly watches over every action, every word, every thought of ours. She is the Mother of Mercy; therefore, she rushes to our help even when we do not invoke her name, even when the poverty of our soul is so clearly evident. In fact, the more our soul is disfigured by sin, the more shall divine mercy show itself to us, that mercy which the Immaculate embodies. She is the saintly creature among all saints and angels, to whom He refuses nothing, since she is the worthiest and most loved of all mothers. Besides He has given her a very large heart, which enables her to notice even the smallest of tears and work for the salvation and sanctification of every single human being."

Let's put this into a practical setting...from my own life. About 6 years ago, I applied to enter the formation program for the Permanent Diaconate. I gave my fiat. I entrusted my acceptance to Mary. The more I allowed Mary to act in this application and acceptance process, the more Jesus would be glorified. My work location would have to change. Everything seemed to fall into place quickly, often exceeding my expectations. After entry into the formation program, I entrusted each step to Mary. The more I allowed

Mary to act in my formation, the more Jesus would be glorified. I entrusted my receipt of Holy Orders to Mary, knowing that the more I allowed her to act in my receiving this sacrament, the more Jesus would be glorified.

I continue to entrust my diaconate to Mary. Every homily I give is always preceded with a prayer to Mary; help me speak the words that you want these men/women to hear, not my words, guided by your Spirit.

Mary extends this invitation to each one of us...allow her to act, so Jesus will be glorified! I close with a prayer from St. Louis de Montfort: "I take thee for my all, give me thy heart O Mary!"

Deacon Willie Moore Writes

My wife gave me this on a prayer card, and it helped me to remember who is in charge.

There's a reason, for every pain that we must bear; for every burden, every care. There's a reason for every grief that bows the head, for every teardrop that is shed, there's a reason for every hurt, for every plight, for every lonely pain-racked night, there's a reason.

But if we trust God, as we should, it all will work out for our good.

He knows the reason.

Did You Know?

ON DEACON SPIRITUALITY – from Bishop Skylstad, President, US Bishops Conference. "I marvel at the depth of humanity and compassion and lived experience to their ministry and that gives them unique insight as well as access to people's lives and sensibilities..." "Deacons are one of God's true blessings for the church. I hope you know this, and hear it often. We are grateful for the presence and ministry of deacons." See the complete text of the message in "Origins" Vol 37 #13 September 6, 2007...

NEW WEB SITE: Thanks to the efforts of Deacon Paul Kliagua, we finally have a new updated Archdiocesan Diaconate web page; Paul designed and implemented this web page. Kudos to Deacon Paul

Check it out and "bookmark" it. http://rcan.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=category.display&category_id=64

Note: if you can not get there directly from this link, go first to rcan.org then to Permanent Diaconate under "resources".

Very Important

If you change your e-mail address and wish to continue to receive DeacoNews and other diaconate related e-mails, send edcampy@comcast.net your new e-mail address. Please ☺

The Funny Ha Ha Column

Authors unknown

A man suffered a serious heart attack and had an open heart bypass surgery. He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at a Catholic Hospital. As he was recovering, a nun asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment. She asked if he had health insurance. He replied, in a raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked if he had money in the bank. He replied, "No money in the bank." The

nun asked, "Do you have a relative who could help you?" He said, "I only have a spinster sister, who is a nun."

The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God." The patient replied, "Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

No matter how much Jell-O you put in a swimming pool, you still can't walk on water.
