



Office of the Permanent Diaconate

Deaconews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

Fall 2008 Certificated Continuing Education For Permanent Deacons

The Executive Committee, Council of Permanent Deacons

Director(s) Rev. James Teti,
Director of Selection & Formation
Deacons John J. McKenna,
Personnel Director

Joseph L. Mantineo James Tobin,
Associate Directors

Bergen Joe Yandoli-Chmn.

Al McLaughlin-Secretary

Essex Bill McDermott Tom Bulgia

Hudson Tom Barrett Marcelo David

Union Joe Caporaso Dan O'Neill

Hispanic Luis Lorza

Asterio Velasco

Publicity Ed Campanella

Deaconews Editors

Ed Campanella SFO

Michael York Thomas Smith

In Memorial of Our Departed, since 2005

George A. Ross

Edward Botts

Philip Salerno

Ann Giordano

Janet Besida

Arthur Cauceglia

Therese Mistretta

Andres Diaz-Rojas

Ruth Rice

Richard G. Byrnes

Joseph Fiore

Victor Reyes

Aart Markenstein

Daniel McCarron

Raymond Sanderson

Billee Kiley

Alberto Gomez

Rita McKnight

William J Toth

Phyliss Simonelli

Marcella Marchese

Please also 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.

Continuing Education for Permanent Deacons

Fr. Pablo Gadenz will conduct three sessions for the certificated continuing education program for the Archdiocese of Newark. The topic will be on the Life and Ministry of St. Paul the Apostle.

All presentations will be at the Archdiocesan Center at 7:30 PM on: October 2, 2008 November 13, 2008, and December 4, 2008

Fr. Pablo Gadenz was born of native Italian parents near Santiago, Chile, in 1967. His family moved to California in 1969 and to New Jersey in 1973. After obtaining his



bachelors and masters degrees in electrical engineering from Princeton University (1988) and Columbia University (1990), and working for Bell Laboratories (1988-

1991), he prepared for the priesthood at Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio and St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Trenton, NJ, in 1996. After serving at St. Ann's Parish, Keansburg, and as Secretary & Master of Ceremonies to Bishop John M. Smith, he was sent to Rome in 2002 to pursue biblical studies. He received his licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in 2005, and in June 2008 defended his doctoral dissertation on Romans 9-11 at the Pontifical Gregorian University. He is now on the faculty of Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. Father Gadenz is the author of several essays, articles, and book reviews, and is a member of the Catholic Biblical Association of America.

Director's Column

Deacon John McKenna



I hope that you all were able find time to relax and enjoy the summer with your family and loved ones. The past few months the Deacon Council and I were busy working on a number of initiatives for the diaconate community. This Fall we will start our continuing education program for the deacons of the Archdiocese. Since this is the year the Church has dedicated to St. Paul, we will kick off our program with a series of talks on the life, preaching and ministry of this great apostle. Full details are included on the front cover of this edition.

On Friday, October 3, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church in East Rutherford, Pastor, Father Robert Sandoz O.F.M. will host deacons and their wives at a celebration of St. Francis of Assisi's Transitus – a prayer service commemorating the entrance into eternal life of our brother deacon Francis of Assisi, at age 45 on October 3, 1226 – 782 years ago.

The Region III Assembly of Wives and Deacons will be held on November 7th and 8th at the Lancaster Resort Hotel. I will be mailing additional information on this meeting in the coming weeks.

I look forward to seeing you at these events in the Fall.

May God bless your ministry in His Church!

Deacons & Wives Retreat

By Deacon Jim Tobin



Fifteen Permanent Deacons and their wives attended the Archdiocesan 2008 Couples Retreat on the weekend of July 25th, 26th and 27th. The highly successful event was organized and planned by Deacon Earl Connelly and his wife Angela.

The retreat was held at the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Ringwood, NJ. The center is located on a sprawling, ninety acres of mixed broadleaf and pine tree forest with large well trimmed lawns in the Ramapo Mountains. It includes a small lake; an Olympic sized swimming pool, an impressive Gethsemane Garden with statues of Jesus and eleven of his apostles; a large grotto to Our Lady, a labyrinth meditation garden and a gift shop. It is quiet, peaceful and very beautiful.

The retreat director was Msgr. John J. Gilchrist. If the name seems familiar it's because he has been writing a column in the Advocate since 1978. He has been a priest for fifty-one years and served in many parishes. He has written two books and he taught at St Cecilia's High School for twenty-one years.

Msgr. Gilchrist's talks were very informative and based on his lifetime of scholarship. His main talk spoke of the decline of Christian values in the West and traced the roots of secular values over God back hundreds of years. He stressed that it was important that as ordained ministers of the

Church, deacons should understand how we got to the relativism of today's "me" generation, because it is our place to address these issues to God's people. Monsignor finished by giving a talk on Homiletics, during which he gave out a thirteen point guideline attributed to John Cooney.

Msgr. also quipped about our task:
God's plan made a hopeful beginning
And man spoiled his chances by
sinning
We hope that the story will end in
glory

But at present the other side is winning

From– Remembering Jesus: Christian Community by Allen Verhey p362

He told us that we can do our part by first beginning with homilies that support the principles of faith and try to stimulate others to believe and act.

The effective homily must be/have:

1. Convincing - intellectual appeal.
2. Persuasive - emotional appeal.
3. Simple - easily understood
4. Stable in form - not fractionated
5. Understandable - a clear lesson.
6. Practical - possible in life not some utopian dream.
7. Provide a meaning to life - giving a vision, a hope.
8. An enduring message - not just for today, but always.
9. Sociological importance – makes life better for others.
10. Light the way to change – for the better – a spiritual progress.
11. Preachable – something you can "sell" the whole congregation.
12. Balanced – not right or left but appeal to common sense.
13. Distinctively Catholic – making Jesus Christ's church stand out.

Monsignor Gilchrist's talks were very well received. All in all the retreat was a renewing and revitalizing experience. We ate well, had a great speaker, renewed old friendships and started new ones and returned ready to continue to do God's work.

Deacon Spotlight



Deacon Tom Pluta "God's Middleman"

Making connections, matching needs with resources, and his Polish heritage are the constant themes of Deacon Tom Pluta's life.

Tom and his wife Barbara reside in Westfield, NJ. Tom, second son of Stanley and Regina, was born in Linden, NJ into a large, Catholic, Polish family, with two brothers, Richard and Edward, and sister, Madeline. Attending St. Hedwig's in Elizabeth until the 3rd grade (his Eska family grandparents were among the first parishioners there). He finished elementary school at School #4 in Linden. A 1959 graduate of Linden High School, he was graduated from Rutgers University with a B.S in Plant Science. Commissioned as a 2nd LT through ROTC, he served two years in Mannheim, Germany as an ordnance depot supply officer.

Tom met his wife Barbara in 1962 at a polka dance at the Irvington Polish Home. Married on July 3, 1965, Tom and Barbara lived in Germany for a year while Tom served out his tour. They have three daughters. Ellen and Claas have Arabella, Luke and Colette. Erika died suddenly in 2002. Jessica and Todd have one year old Ethan James. "We are a sandwich family living between Ellen and Jess, leaving

us lots of baby sitting jobs," said Barbara.

After the Army, Tom started on a career path working in environmental protection at the local, state and international level for more than 35 years. He spent his early career in burning garbage dumps, checked smoking chimneys and investigated complaints about smells, learning how to listen to people in order to solve a problem. Returning to Rutgers, he earned a M.S. in environmental sciences in 1976 and went to work for the NJDEP in Trenton until 1992 working in enforcement, hazardous waste remediation and local health agency program development.

In 1992, the year Tom was ordained by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, he left NJDEP for the World Environment Center working in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Central Asian Republics on pollution prevention projects until 1999. Tom said, "My CEE travels, including to Poland, taught me about the resilience of people of faith under Communism and showed me how blessed I was living in the US and how my faith called me to serve 'the least among us' in the spirit of Matthew 25:40."

Deacon Tom says that his life of diaconal service was inspired by his mother, who was always helping someone in some way or another, and growing up in the Bayway section under the watchful eyes of twelve aunts and uncles.

Tom and Barbara moved to Westfield in 1970. "Joining the Christian Family Movement (CFM) at Holy Trinity was our first real involvement as parishioners," Tom said, "leading us to many other ministries of service, a great foundation for the call to diaconate." In 1985, Tom enrolled in Christian Foundations for Ministry (CFM) followed by diaconate formation in 1989 and ordination in 1992.

In 2000, Msgr. Joseph P. Masiello, pastor of Holy Trinity asked Tom to join the staff full time as a Pastoral Associate. It was the start of his third career.

Deacon Tom is the consummate 'networker', constantly matching needs with resources with the full support of Fr. Joe. He has done this in a myriad of venues including interfaith efforts as co-chair of the Westfield/Mountainside Ministerium working with Family Promise providing shelter and meals for homeless families and furniture for people through Furniture Assist. Holy Trinity is committed to serve those in need through our food pantry, Project Backpack and Giving Tree, with a special tie to Sister Jacinta at St. Joseph's Social Service Center in Elizabeth. Tom said, "I count on Barbara's help and support in all my diaconal work. I credit her for much of the inspiration, while I add the perspiration."

Katrina relief holds a special place in the hearts of Tom and Barbara since Tom's brother Ed lives in New Orleans. They have made seven trips to the Gulf Region helping victims to build and rebuild homes through Habitat for Humanity and the St. Bernard Project. Holy Trinity invited Fr. Gerry Stapleton of St. Patrick's in Port Sulphur, LA to share his experiences in rebuilding his parish, raising \$16,000 through the generosity of parishioners. One of the parishioners, a sales manager for a major paint company, donated all the special mold control paint and primer needs to rebuild the religious education building.

One life changing moment for Tom was poignantly expressed at the death of his daughter Erika. Tom says: "Barbara and I realized in a powerful way that it was through 'Faith, Family and Friends' that God brought us through the most difficult time in our lives and that it will continue to be so. Thanks be to God".

Deacons & Wives Region III Meeting

The Deacons and Wives of Region III will meet in Lancaster, PA on November 7 & 8, 2008 starting at 3pm on Friday, at The Lancaster Host Resort 2300 Lincoln Hwy East Lancaster, PA 17602, and will run to Saturday at 3pm. Registration forms are available from the diaconate office – call 973-497-4125. The deadline for registration is October 24, 2008.

Fr. Paul Henry will be the principal speaker and Bishop Joseph A. Galante will be the principal celebrant for the liturgy.

Fr. Henry, a lettered scholar of theology and a counselor, will model his talks around three well known but little understood persons - the archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel. He examines each angel's mission and ministry as we know them from scripture and tradition and then postulates as to what their mission is today. From this foundation, he offers the diverse missions for deacons today based on the needs of our church and the gifts that have been given us. No doubt we will all find these talks to be very enlightening and personally enriching.

Based on comments made by attendees at the 2006 assembly changes were made in the conference schedule. First, Saturday breakfast is included in the registration fee as well as Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. Second, the conference will conclude at 3:00 pm rather than 5:00 pm. Certificates of attendance will be distributed at the closing session.

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 ☺

A Deacon's Day



Mark your calendars – Friday - October 3rd, 2008 – 7:30 pm - St. Joseph's Church in East Rutherford – Farther Robert Sandoz, O.F.M. (Order of Friars Minor), Pastor, will host the Deacons and their wives at a celebration of St. Francis of Assisi's Transitus – a prayer service commemorating the entrance into eternal life of our brother Deacon Francis of Assisi, at age 45 on October 3, 1226 – 782 years ago.

Congratulations to '78, '98, '03 Classes 30th -10th and 5th Anniversaries



On June 1, 2008 at Most Holy Name, Garfield, Rev. Msgr. William Reilly, pastor, presided over a Mass of Thanksgiving commemorating the 30th, 10th and 5th Year Anniversaries of the Hispanic Deacon classes of '78, '98, and '03. Over 150 deacons, wives, relatives and friends were in attendance. A reception followed.

Third Anniversary Class of 2005



The Class of 2005 celebrated their 3rd anniversary of ordination at St. John the Apostle Church, Linden, N.J., with a Mass. Rev. Robert McBride, the pastor, was the celebrant. Deacons in attendance were from L to R: David Hughes, John Holoduek, Alex Estremera, Mike York, Joe Carlo, Mike Missaggia, John Bejgrowicz, and Stan Kwiatek. Following Mass the parish hosted a reception. The words of Deacon John Holoduek sum up the evening: "This evening was a truly blessed occasion. Many thanks go out to our brother Mike York and his parish community for their hospitality. It was a special grace for me, Donna, and John to see and visit with all who attended. Special prayers are extended to all the Brothers who could not attend but were with us in the Spirit. I pray that we can continue to have such gatherings."

Words of Wisdom

Pope John Paul II the Great said: in 1993 at world youth day he went on to say: 'Conscience is the most secret core and sanctuary of a person, where we are alone with God. (cf. Gaudium et spes, n. 16 Vatican II). A rebirth of conscience must come from two sources: first, the effort to know objective truth with certainty, including the truth about God through an honest search; and secondly, the light of faith in Jesus Christ, who alone has the words of life. Only by listening to the voice of God in your most intimate being, and by acting in accordance with its directions, will you reach the freedom you yearn for.'