Fall 2009

Director Deacon Ed Porter Honored

The Executive Committee, Council of Permanent Deacons

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Deacons John J. McKenna, Director of Deacon Personnel
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Al McLaughlin-Secretary
Essex Bill McDermott Tom Bulgia
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In Memorial of Our Departed This Year

John Coffey Martin Macaluso
Charles H. Bond Vivian Hodges
Joseph J. Del Monte Patrick Miney
Robert Botts Stephen J. Liptak
Marshall Andrews Donna Holoduek
Mary Soonja Kim Leon Johnson
Rosemary Maier

A complete list of all deceased deacons and deceased spouses is listed on this newsletter’s website:
http://www.sjanj.net/rcan_deacon/

Please also remember in your prayers all the ill and convalescing members of our Diaconate family.

Deacon Edward W. Porter Jr.

Deacon Edward W. Porter, Jr., who entered eternal life on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008, was affectionately known to all 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.

After one year of Deacon Ed Porter’s entrance into eternal life, a memorial Mass was offered at St. James the Apostle Church in Springfield, by Rev. Msgr. William C. Hatcher, Pastor, assisted by Deacons Jerry Bongiovanni and Dan O’Neill. Deacon Al McLaughlin was the homilist. Deacon Ed’s family, “students”, deacon colleagues, priests, nuns and brothers and friends attended. Ed’s family was presented with a plaque acknowledging his life and service. A joyous reception followed.

On March 11, 1992, Deacon Porter was awarded the Holy Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontificie. The medal was established by Leo XIII on July 17, 1888. The medal is given for distinguished service to the church by lay people and clergy. (medal info from wikipedia.org)

Deacon Ed was honored to receive Holy Communion from Popo John Paul II at Giant’s stadium in 1995.

Deacon Ed was a confidant and friend to all in the diaconate he came in contact with, from: applicants, to candidates, to deacons and wives. We all miss his presence among us.
By the time you read this, the deacons of Bergen, Essex and Hudson counties and the Hispanic Community should have received their ballots to elect one new representative to sit on the Deacon Council. The deacons of Union County have full representation and therefore will not be casting ballots. The deadline to cast your ballot is Friday, December 11, 2009. We will publish the results the following week. We look forward to welcoming the new members at our regularly scheduled meeting in January 2010. I would like to thank the outgoing members, Al McLaughlin, Asterio Velasco, Tom Bulgia and Tom Barret for their past dedication and service to the Council.

A special memorial Mass was held at St. James Church in Springfield for our former diaconate director, Deacon Ed Porter, on November 7, 2009 at the 5:00 p.m. Ed’s wife Doris and their children and grandchildren were present. Doris was presented with a plaque commemorating Ed’s long and selfless service to the diaconate community. The plaque will be permanently displayed in the church.

The deacon formation class, which consists of 35 men of the Archdiocese, will be received into the Ministry of Acolyte on March 1, 2010 at the Church of the Annunciation, Paramus. I will forward more details on the installation as they become available.

As we enter into the season of Advent, I pray that it will be a time for us all to deepen our relationship with Jesus in anticipation of his coming at Christmas and every day of our lives.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!

Deacon Spotlight

Deacon Joe Caporaso

Born to Carmella and Joseph on March 21, 1948, in Elizabeth NJ, Joseph Caporaso was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate by Archbishop John J. Myers on June 1, 2002.

Joe was graduated from St. Anthony’s parish school in 1963 and attended St Mary’s HS in Elizabeth. In 1971 Joseph Caporaso was graduated from Kean College with a BA in Elementary Education. He first taught 5th grade in Elizabeth NJ.

Deacon Joe became a lector and CCD teacher while pursuing a Master’s Degree in Reading Specialization, which he obtained in 1973. He obtained his Sixth Year Level in Administration and Supervision in 1976.

Joe Cap (as he likes to refer to himself) attributes his spiritual direction in life to the Sisters of Charity of Convent Station and the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco’s influence, who always told him to ask “Mary – Help of Christians” to guide him along his life’s pathway.

Wanting to maintain his allegiance to the Salesians, Joe became a Salesian Cooperator in 1982 and then on to the Provincial Council in New Rochelle in 1990. He was elected to the post of Regional for Salesian Cooperators for the English Speaking World, and remained in that post for eight years.

Joe entered formation for the diaconate after being accepted in 1998. Completing his position as Regional Cooperator he focused on his diaconal formation and work as a school principal. Retiring in June 2001, after 30 years in education and ordination in 2002, Joe became a full-time Deacon at St. Anthony’s in Elizabeth.

Newark’s Archdiocesan Newspaper, The Advocate reported that Veteran educator Deacon Joseph R. Caporaso has been installed as the first principal of the new Our Lady of Guadalupe Academy, Elizabeth. The academy was established out of the consolidation of Saint Mary of the Assumption School, Saint Anthony School and Blessed Sacrament School, and boasts 240 students.

Deacon Caporaso began his career as an elementary school teacher in 1971. In 1978 he was appointed principal of Continental School No. 3. From 1983-2001, Deacon Caporaso served as principal of Elmora School No. 12, where he instituted a variety of community outreach programs for needy families. He is a recipient of the Margaret M. Spirito Award in recognition of his services to special-education students in the Elizabeth school system.

Ordained to the permanent diaconate seven years ago, he has served at Saint Anthony Parish and Saint Genevieve Parish, both in Elizabeth. Deacon Caporaso has been chaplain of the local chapter of UNICO since 2002. The organization named him “Citizen of the Year” five years ago. He has...
Deacon Alejandro’s wife was kind enough to write the following synopsis of our retreat.

During our retreat, Fr. Al reminded us that there is no such thing as a cross-free disciple. The Deacon’s ministry is ongoing. The crowd is not always going to support you. At times, friends may turn against you. There’s no such thing as a cross-free disciple!

Through his teachings on Jesus ministry and the luminous mysteries of the rosary, Fr. Al invited us to reflect on our own ministries. Deacons are the gospel bearers of the spirit of Jesus. How do we let the spirit work within us when: we are being bombarded by the challenges of every day life? When we are challenged with a chronic illness? When we have been betrayed by a friend?

Certainly these experiences can paralyze us and stunt our spiritual growth if we allow them to. It is only normal to be hurt or shocked by these experiences and feel the rug pulled from under your feet. Life is not so much about the challenges we have, it’s more about how we respond to those challenges. Jesus was not always supported by the community and many misunderstood Him and took Him for granted. His own friend, one He shared many meals with, betrayed him. When we think of Jesus, we think of the big cross that he carried on Good Friday. Let us not forget, the many crosses he carried throughout his life.

Fr. Al left us with a message of love and acceptance. He reminded us that how we live our “Good Fridays” will give witness of how we live our “Easter Sundays”. He encouraged the deacons to go forth and bear witness to the Gospel and encouraged the wives to support and love their husbands in their ministry. This weekend was not only one of faith renewal, it was a renewal to the commitment I made as a deacon’s wife during my husband’s diaconate formation.

The Deacon’s retreat was held on Oct. 23, 24 and 25, 2009 at San Alfonzo Retreat House in Long Branch.

Deacon Herb Gimbel reports: As I recall, the day started out a little chilly and overcast but it was by no means a pall on the day itself, for I was on my way with two of my brother deacons Nick and Bill to our retreat weekend at Long Branch, New Jersey.

As I pulled into the parking lot, a feeling of Déjà vu came over me, as it does every year I return to San Alfonzo; what a sacramental moment, feeling the cool air and watching the choppy waves hitting against the beach (“Where God and Sea come together”).

We gathered our belongings went into the retreat house signed in and got our room assignments.

Fr. Alan Guglielmo was our retreat master for this retreat as well and it was dedicated to the memory of Deacon Ed Porter, our deceased diaconate director.

Our theme was “The challenge of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ”. Fr. Alan pointed the special relationship the Deacon has with the
Did You Know

Cardinal Cláudio Hummes, the congregation’s prefect, wrote about Deacons in an Aug. 10, 2009 letter on the feast of St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr.

He reported that when bishops come to Rome for their five-year visits, they comment on the diaconate to the congregation.

The cardinal added, "The prelates are generally very much pleased and full of hope in regard to you, Permanent Deacons."

He affirmed, "At the same time, the Church would like to encourage you on the way of personal sanctification, in your prayer lives and in the spirituality of the diaconate."

"From a good disciple a good missionary is born."

According to the article in Zenit.org, there are 35,000 permanent deacons worldwide, a number that has grown from only 309 in 1970. The majority of these are working in North America, which claims some 47.3%, while 32.3% serve in Europe. For full text of the article, go to: www.zenit.org/article-66222?l=english

The St. Lawrence Fund is a program available for Deacons incardinated in the Archdiocese of Newark who are experiencing serious financial difficulty. Donations are always appreciated. Applications for assistance should be forwarded to director Deacon John McKenna through the applicant’s county council member. The St. Lawrence fund overseers will determine the severity of need. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, St. Lawrence, Martyr; died 10 August, 258. He was one of the victims of the persecution of Valerian in 258. At the beginning of the month of August, 258, the emperor issued an edict, commanding that all bishops, priests, and deacons should immediately be put to death."

DEACON & WIVES NECROLOGY

For a complete listing of all deceased Deacons and Wives in the Archdiocese of Newark go to: www.sjanj.net/rcan_deacon and select “Deacon & Wives Memorial Page”

A special thanks to Mary Stark who has been meticulous in researching and helping to keep the listing accurate and current.

BIRMINGHAM (excerpt - Catholic Online 7/3/09 - see for full text at: http://www.catholic.org/international/international_story.php?id=33985) –


The miraculous healing from serious debility of the spine occurred in Boston in the United States of America following prayers for Cardinal Newman’s intercession.

Newman, a major theologian and convert to Catholicism, died in 1890. The Pope’s decision means that his Beatification is now certain.

“The prayers of Christ’s faithful all over the world have now been answered” said Father Paul Chavasse, the Provost of Newman’s community at the Oratory in Birmingham (UK).

Jack Sullivan, the permanent deacon who was healed through Newman’s intercession, said: “Upon hearing of the recent developments in Rome regarding Cardinal Newman’s Cause for Beatification, I was left with an intense sense of gratitude and thanksgiving to Almighty God and my intercessor Cardinal John Henry Newman. I have dedicated my vocation in praise of Cardinal Newman, who even now directs all my efforts.”

Very Important

If you change your e-mail address mails, send your new e-mail address to edcampy@comcast.net.