

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

DeaconNews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

May 2011

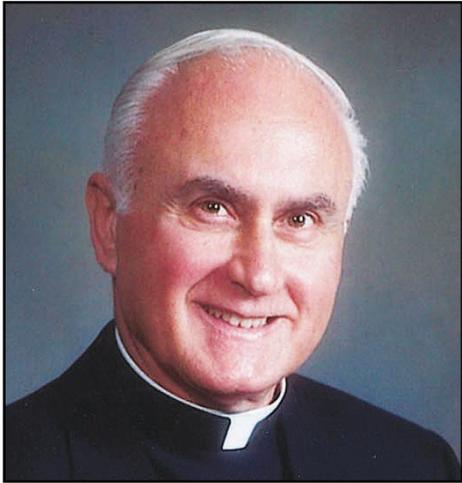


Archdiocese of Newark's 2011 Permanent Deacons Ordained on May 21, 2011

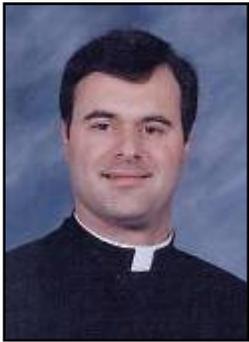
Pictured with Most Reverend
Thomas A. Donato, D.D.
and Fr. James Teti, Director of
Selection and Formation

Simplice Ahoua, Wilbert
Alexandre, Justo Aliaga,
Manuel Almeida, Emeruwa
Anyanwu, Charles Boucher,
Paul Carris, Joseph Castoro,
Arnulfo Cuesta, James
Detura, Dominick
DiBernardo, Ken DiPaola,
John Florio, Angel
Hernandez, Pedro Herrera,
Donald Hessemer, Jose
Homem, John Karal,
Timothy Kennedy,

Thomas Lagatol, Anthony
Liguori, Francis Matera,
Robert Millea, Jorge
Montalvo, Brian Murphy,
Francis Noh, Jorge Ochoa,
Anthony Porcaro, Joseph
Romano, Todd Rushing,
Louis Rusignuolo, Andrew
Saunders, Craig Stewart,
David Strader, John Sylvester



Most Reverend Thomas A. Donato, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, ordained thirty-five Permanent Deacons, from the class of 2011, on May 21, 2011, for service to the



Archdiocese of Newark. These men have been in formation for the past five years, guided by Rev. James Teti and a cadre of teachers, advisors, and support teams,

all working and praying for the fruits of their labors be realized in the ministries of these men as they move forward as Permanent Deacons throughout the parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Ordination Anticipation

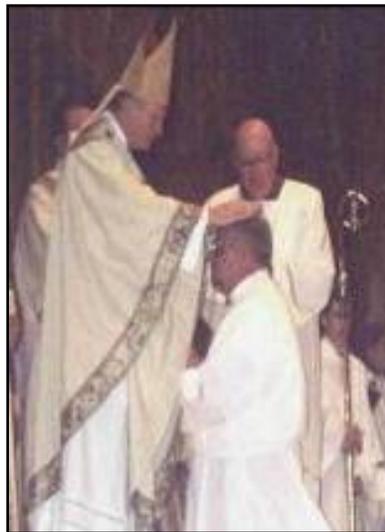
From James Detura '11 - As I reflect on my upcoming Ordination in just under 4 months, I cannot help but ponder the words of Isaiah, "Here I am...send me!"

For years I had been hearing this call to the diaconate and consistently suppressed it. However, as always in my life, God did not give up on me. So after much thought and prayer, I decided to answer His call; but when I said yes, it was not quite the right time. God's plan required I wait 2-3 more years and in the meantime, I

needed to continue praying and discerning while attending the CFM program.

Well the time came for me to begin the program and with the help and support of my family along with the grace of God and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, I took it head on. Now I can see the light of my Ordination day along with 34 other great men who also have answered this call. They have been a great inspiration to me as I watch the ways they continue to live their lives and bring Jesus to others.

As I ponder what I will be entrusted to do in serving God's people, I look forward with great anticipation while at the same time trepidation. For me, I



try to do my best in all I do and I know in this new journey, my best will only come to the surface as long as I continue to trust in the Lord and allow myself to be guided by the Holy Spirit. I need to remember that this is not about me, but about the God I love and His people, I am called to serve. I also realize that there is still so much to learn and that will only come with time and prayer all the while knowing that I will never stop learning.

I have been a pharmacist now for almost 32 years and in that time I have provided a special kind of care for the people I serve in the South Bronx. I have been able to make a difference in so many lives and that was only

possible because God allowed me to do all I did and gave me the strength and ability to meet the needs of these people. I look back on those years with fondness and thanksgiving for the opportunity.

Now I will be serving God's people in an added way. I will be helping them in a spiritual sense and as paralleled with my profession as a pharmacist, I will serve people by the gifts the Holy Spirit has given me as well as the grace of God which will guide me.

I have been inspired by many words and sayings heard and read over the years and this brief reflection will not allow me to share many, but one which I am grateful for is, "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called." Surely I am not qualified but I feel called.

In my deepest sense of humility, I pray that God will continue to guide me as I proclaim His gospel, preach to His people, and most of all, try and live the life he has called me to live. He has blessed me with a wonderful family and I thank my wife Trish along with my children Michael, Erin, Megan and Kerrin who have supported me through my formation. Without their love and support this would not be possible. And of course I thank God for never giving up on me and trusting me to do this work. The thought of that will take me a long time to hopefully understand, even remotely.

God has done many things in my life which I still cannot comprehend. But then all things are possible with God and I am called to continue to trust in Him. As I move toward and beyond my Ordination day, I continue to pray for God's graces and to trust in Him to lead me along this journey. He has called and I have responded.

From Tim Kennedy '11 - When I began this journey about 5 years ago, I was prompted by my pastor at the time, Msgr. McGuinness with a question "did I ever think about the diaconate?" We had a chat and I informed him at one point, I thought

about being a priest. Eventually, I got married and both my wife and I became very active in our parish, St. John the Apostle, where I continued to serve as a Liturgical Musician. During our many conversations, I expressed doubt and my "worthiness" to be called to Orders. Msgr. McGuinness had such great simple wisdom. He told me, Tim, if you are concerned about being worthy, let it go, none of us are, there would be no priests or deacons if we waited to become worthy.

I still had my reservations and he sent me a book by Deacon Ed Porter - "My Life as a Catholic Deacon" for me to read. It sat on the seat of my car for three weeks. Msgr. asked had I read it. He followed up with a visit by our two deacons, Ed and Mike who delivered an application package. This too sat on the front seat of my car for about three weeks. He inquired again and told me if I was really going to consider this call, I should complete it because the application was due in to the Chancery soon.

I asked him "why me?" His response was so simple "why not you?" I couldn't answer. My wife Angie gave the final push by asking "what are you afraid of?" I have learned so much over these last four years, mostly about me.

God has blessed me abundantly. I have always been employed in "service" oriented jobs both in Law Enforcement and in Health Care. This experience has taken it to a whole new level. Serving in ministry is where I really feel most fulfilled. I have been active in some type of ministry since the age of 14 when I first started playing guitar at Mass and at charismatic prayer meetings. I no longer have doubts. I know that even though I am a sinner and through all my imperfections, Jesus loves me. My response to that love is to love Him and to say "yes" to His call. Nothing is more important than serving Him and His Church. I am awed and humbled that God would call and use me to serve Him.

I look forward to the joy we will experience on the day my 34 brothers and I will be ordained permanent deacons for service to the Church of Newark.

I have come to know Jeremiah 29: 11-14 is a reality in my life: "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord, and I will change your lot."

This is God's desire for all of us! I no longer stress about being "worthy". I know I'm not. I stay focused on being open to the will of God in my life and having the courage to carry that out by serving Him and His Church.

Director's Column Deacon John McKenna



It has been a long winter but, as they say, hope springs eternal and summer is on the way! As you see this special edition of Deacon News is dedicated to the 35 men ordained as deacons on May 21, 2011. These men, who started their formation process five years ago, are the first class to be formed under the new guidelines established by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.

It has been a special privilege for me to witness them first installed as Readers, then Acolytes, and finally as Candidates for Ordination.

This group of men reflects the great cultural diversity of our Archdiocese and reveals the unity we have in Our Lord, Jesus Christ, through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Please keep these men, their wives and families in your

prayers as they reflect on this all important day.

In September you will be receiving a ballot to select new members of the Deacon Council. We currently have openings on the council for each county. Please vote and return your ballots to the Office of Deacon Personnel in a timely fashion so that your vote may be considered.

Our second annual Deacon and Wives convention will be held at Seton Hall University on Saturday, November 5, 2011. This will be a good opportunity to meet the class of 2011 and their wives. Please save the date.

This past winter and spring we had six of our brothers and one wife of a deacon enter into eternal rest. Please keep Deacons Gustave Greider, Louis Loffredo Jr., Joseph J. Lubas, Philip J. Rejrat, Alfred Schneider, William Giordano, and Mary Tizzano and their families in prayer.

God bless you and all the work you all do!

Deacons Wives

By Peggy O'Neill

Since the permanent diaconate was



restored nearly twenty-five years ago, the Archdiocese of Newark has always understood the importance of the role of the wife of a married deacon in his formation and in his ministry.

Early on it was realized that from the beginning of his formation the wife of a married deacon must be a full partner in his ministry. She must understand and accept what he is called to do because she too is called to be part of

this ministry by being there to support him. At the same time for the married deacon the first priority of his ministry should always be his wife and family. They must support each other. To help the wives and widows of married deacons a support group was formed.

A small group of wives and widows have been meeting on a regular basis over the years.

Most recently Jean Andrews, wife of the late Deacon Marshall Andrews, did an excellent job of coordinating these meetings. Recently Jean relocated to Texas to be nearer her daughter. While we will miss Jean and the wonderful work she did for our deacon's wives and widows, the work of the group continues. We exist to bring as many of these women together as possible so that they can participate in the ongoing activities that take place throughout the Archdiocese of Newark. We look forward to welcoming the newest deacon's wives from the class of those men to be ordained this May. Extended is an invitation to them and to all deacon's wives and widows to join this vital group and participate in our meetings, Day of Renewal and Memorial Mass scheduled during the year. For additional information please contact Peggy O'Neill (973) 376 – 4486 or Mary Stark (973) 743 – 9223.

Did You Know?

The "St Lawrence Deacon's Fund" is a donation supported fund instituted to assist Deacons who are seriously challenged financially. To donate, contact Deacon John McKenna.

In Remembrance of Deacon Gustave Greider, Class of '75

Deacon Gustave Greider, 91, who died on December 31, 2010. Gus was in the class of 1975 and was retired living in Latrobe, PA. He was a World War II veteran, having served in the Army Air Forces in Guam. Gus was also a

certified public accountant for the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., and employed for many years, in the Finance Department, where he was responsible for Parish Services. He also served as associate director of the permanent diaconate between 1982 and 1990 under Msgr. Tim Shugrue.

Deacon Gus's wife Margaret predeceased him in May of 2005.

Please join in praying also for Deacon Gus's daughter Peg Mulcahy and family in their loss.

In Remembrance of Deacon Louis Loffredo Class of '05

Excerpted from Newark Star Ledger



'Deacon Louis Loffredo Jr., 66, a lifelong resident of Newark, N.J. was accepted into eternal glory on Thursday, Jan.

6, the Feast of the Epiphany, a fitting tribute to his love of the Christmas season. Deacon Lou was retired as a dietary coordinator for West Hudson Hospital in Kearny, N.J. after nine years. Previously, he was a steel worker for Otis Elevator in Harrison, N.J. where he worked with his father for six years.

Deacon Louis Loffredo was born into this world on April 23, 1944. He had a lifelong love and devotion to the Roman Catholic Church, the saints, and St. Lucy's Parish. Ordained a permanent deacon on June 11, 2005.

Deacon Lou was a much-loved member of the clergy of St. Lucy's and the heart of the parish family. Deacon Lou's great love for children and the people of the parish was never better emphasized then during his wonderful and dedicated life's work as a catechist and instructor for the preparation of the sacraments and his devotion to the

training of altar boys. His lifelong passion and devotion to the creation of his wonderful and breathtaking Italian Precepio Nativity Scene is currently located in the Newark First Ward Society Museum and is a true work of art and great tribute to the Neapolitan culture and tradition he so much loved and cherished.

But his true devotion and passion was always to the church. A tireless defender of the faith, Deacon Lou, with the greatest of love, faith and compassion, presided over countless weddings, baptisms and funerals and loved nothing more than his service to God, our Blessed Lady and the faithful of St. Lucy's.

Loved by everyone, Deacon Lou is survived by his mother, Mary (nee DiNapoli) Loffredo; brothers, James and his wife, Beverly, and Nicholas and his wife, Karen; nephews, Adam and Eric Loffredo; nieces, Tori and Lauren Loffredo; great-nephews, Giovanna and Anthony Nicastro and great-nieces, Angelina May and Daniella Rose Loffredo. He was predeceased by his father, Louis Loffredo Sr.'

In Remembrance of Deacon Joseph J. Lubas Class of '92

Excerpted from Krowicki-McKraken



'Deacon Joseph L. Lubas, 61, of Elizabeth died on Sunday at home. Joe lived in Roselle Park and in Elizabeth for most of his life. He retired as a

cemetery manager of Mount Calvary Cemetery, Linden. Joe attended St. Adalbert's Grammar School, St. Mary of the Assumption High School, Elizabeth, and attended SS Cyril & Methodius Seminary, MI, Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary.

He was ordained a deacon in 1992. He was grand marshal of the Pulaski Day Parade, Elizabeth Contingent, in 2003. Joe was predeceased by his father, Joseph W. Lubas, in 1987. He is survived by his mother, Stephanie Ciuba Lubas of Elizabeth; a brother, Edward Lubas and his wife, Donna, of Linden; a sister, Lorraine Pasieka of Bethlehem, Pa., and two nieces, Meredith and Emily Lubas.”

Deacon Joe Lubas also worked with Deacons John Baltus and Aldo Antola under the former diaconate director, Deacon Ed Porter, as formation facilitators and was responsible for the teaching of “practicums” for the sacraments of marriage and baptism as well as other formational programs.

In Remembrance of Deacon Philip J. Rejrat Class of '02

Excerpted from Krowicki-McKraken



Deacon Philip John Rejrat, 61, of Roselle passed away on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Elizabeth. Born

in Elizabeth he has resided in Roselle for over 30 years. Deacon Philip, employed at Verizon in Newark, for over 42 years, most recently as a Supervisor of Real Estate Operations.

He was ordained as a Deacon in the Archdiocese of Newark on June 2002, and since then has served as a Deacon at St. Adalbert's R.C. Church, Elizabeth.

Deacon Philip ministered to the Sick and Home Bound, and was the Director of Religious Education at the parish. He served as an altar server, usher, and was a member of the Holy Name Society, all at St. Adalbert's Church. He was also a member of the

Knights of Columbus Rev. Dean Gessner Council 3310, Elizabeth.

Deacon Philip was the beloved husband for 43 years of Frances (Sarriugarte) Rejrat, devoted father of Susan Cianci and her husband Michael of Linden, Patricia Mabene and her husband William of Elizabeth, Christiana Rejrat at home, Philip of Roselle Park and his fiancée Corinne Ciaccio, Peter of North Brunswick, David of Edison and his fiancée Melinda McHale, close family friend Vincent Dennie, loving brother of Theresa Rejrat of Morganville and her friend Jerry Baio, and Mary Ann Lutz and her husband George of Denville. Cherished grandfather of Stephen, Michael, Megan and Lillian’.

In Remembrance of Deacon Paul Alfred Schneider Class of '77

Excerpted from Glen Rock Gazette

Paul Alfred Schneider, 92, died on March 17, 2011. Born in Nutley, he resided in Glen Rock for 57 years. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Teachers College in Paterson and a master's degree from Montclair State University. He went on to earn a doctorate from Columbia University in New York City. An Army veteran of World War II who was a Bronze Star recipient, he was a past commander and 55-year member of American Legion Post 145 of Glen Rock. As an educator and administrator, he was a member of the Bergen County Teacher's Association and a former member of the NJ Council of Education. He was a parishioner of St. Catharine R.C. Church in Glen Rock, an usher and also served as a deacon for 25 years. He was also a member of the Hobbyists Club of Ridgewood. He had a long career with the Borough of Glen Rock Board of Education, spanning 36 years, where he served as a teacher, principal and assistant

superintendent before his retirement in 1982.

He is survived by his wife, Alice (McGuirk) Schneider; his children, Paul A. Schneider Jr. and wife Debbie, Kathleen Hodgson and husband Edward and Ann Marancik and husband Jerry; his grandchildren, Gil, Greg, David, Eric and Lucas; his sister, Gladys Quant; many nieces and nephews; and his two sisters-in-law.

In Remembrance of Deacon William Giordano Class of '77

Excerpted from Newark Star Ledger

Deacon William J. Giordano, 80, lifelong resident of Bayonne, died peacefully on Thursday, May 12, 2011. He worked as an Insurance Analyst for ISO of Jersey City, retiring a short time ago. Bill was also a Roman Catholic Permanent Deacon, being ordained December 11, 1977 by Most Reverend Peter L. Gerety. He served as a Deacon for O.L. of the Assumption Church in Bayonne for 35 years. Bill served on many committees in the church, but his first love was the Food Pantry at the church, which was recently dedicated in his name along with his wife Ann. It is now known as the Deacon Bill and Ann Giordano Food Pantry. Bill was the beloved husband of the late Ann (Caltagirone); loving father of Rosemarie Giordano, John Giordano and his life partner Mark Zduniak, Andrea Cardella and her husband Daniel, and Mark Giordano and his wife Elizabeth; cherished grandfather of Jennifer Leone and her husband Adam, and Mark and Caitlin Giordano; and dear brother of Theresa Stine of Somerset. He was also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, John and Rose (Schiro) Giordano, and his siblings, Jo Ward, Mildred Regenyne, Robert, Edward, and John Giordano.

**Profiles of the Permanent
Diaconate's Ordinandi,**

Ordained on May 21, 2011 – profiles provided by The Catholic Advocate of the Archdiocese of Newark

Simplice Ahoua

Saint Lucy Parish, Newark. Married to Emma S. Alade-Bile, three children. Parish Eucharistic adoration committee, Friday prayer group leader, usher, parish Holy Name Society. Profession: system-test technician.

Wilbert Alexandre

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary and Saint Michael Parish, Elizabeth. Married to Merzila, three children. Legion of Mary prayer group, acolyte, Haitian Liturgy Committee, Haitian Pastoral Council, parish council, New Energies committee, parish choir. Profession: driver, accounting.

Justo Aliaga

Saint Cecilia Parish, Kearny. Married to Araceli, three children. Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, lector, choir/cantor, member of hospital visit team, pastoral council, Pre-Cana, Why Catholic?, Knights of Columbus. Profession: polisher, jeweler.

Manuel Almeida

Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Elizabeth. Married to Maria, three children. Commentator and cantor, lector, CCD teacher, Knights of Columbus, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Christian Foundation for Ministry, Cursillo in Christianity, charismatic renewal

prayer group. Profession: facility maintenance.

P. Emeruwa Anyanwu

Igbo Catholic Community Church, Blessed Sacrament /Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Newark. Married to Imma, four children. Eucharistic minister, parish council, Amazing Grace Mercy (medical) Mission, marriage encounter class shepherd, BLD Covenanted Disciple, marriage encounter weekend pastoral team, parish soup kitchen volunteer. Profession: project manager/civil engineer.

Charlie Boucher II

Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence. Married to Francine. Eucharistic minister to the homebound, RCIA, lector. Profession: retired internal auditor.

Paul A. Carris

Corpus Christi Parish, Hasbrouck Heights. Married to Carroll, two children. Lector, choir, Cursillo parish coordinator, eucharistic minister to the homebound, New Energies Core team member, Christian Foundation for Ministry, eucharistic adoration team, archdiocesan Men's Commission parish coordinator. Profession: senior engineering manager.

Joseph R. Castoro

Saint Catharine Parish, Glen Rock. Married to Kathy, three children. Lector, eucharistic minister, liturgy chairman, Cornerstone team, Men's Sharing Group, prayer group,

RCIA. Profession: grounds worker, lay director of parish RCIA.

Arnulfo Cuesta

Saint Paul of the Cross Parish, Jersey City. Married to Carmelita, two children. Lector/eucharistic minister, CCD teacher, New Energies transition team, core facilitator for the New Energies project (Youth Ministry), parish finance committee. Profession: martial arts instructor.

James Detura

Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Bergenfield. Married to Trish, four children. Lector, eucharistic minister, Disciples in Mission, Christian Foundations for Ministry, marriage preparation, marriage encounter, Cornerstone, parish stewardship coordinator. Profession: pharmacist.

Domenick DiBernardo

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington. Married to Joan, one child. Lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, adult altar server, pastoral committee, welcome/hospitality committee, environmental/decorating committee, Knights of Columbus, youth ministry formation, stewardship core committee, minister of the Eucharist for the sick and homebound. Profession: letter carrier.

Kenneth DiPaola

Our Lady of Peace Parish, New Providence. Married to Susan, one child. Baptism team,

archdiocesan evangelization liaison, former pastoral council member, worship cluster leader, Third Order Dominican, treasurer. Profession: director of development, Development Office, Archdiocese of Newark.

John J. Florio

Saint Joseph Parish, Maplewood. Married to Judy, two children. Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, server/lector, Knights of Columbus, Interfaith Hospitality Network. Profession: optometrist.

Angel Hernandez

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Hackensack. Married to Isabel, two children. Usher, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, server/member of parish Spanish prayer group, prayer and visitor group for the sick. Profession: business owner.

Pedro Herrera

Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth. Married to Leyla, two children. Lector, CCD teacher, RCIA, endowment coordinator. Profession: production-control manager.

Don Hessemer

Saint Bartholomew the Apostle Parish, Scotch Plains. Married to Joan, two children. Former religious education teacher, lector, eucharistic minister (Mass and homebound), parish leader of Social Outreach Ministry, Operation Rice Bowl coordinator, Catholic Charities-parish social ministry section, Pax Christi. Profession: environmental consultant.

Jose Homen

Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Elizabeth. Married to Lourdes, two children. Coordinator of lectors, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, eucharistic adoration team, Baptism preparation team, coordinator World Apostolate Fatima, Knights of Columbus. Profession: auto mechanic.

John J. Karal

Saint Ann Parish, Jersey City. Single. Parish trustee, lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, adult altar server, parish collections assistant, parish council vice chair, New Energies parish transition team. Profession: teacher, Hudson Catholic Regional High School, Jersey City.

Timothy A. Kennedy

Saint John the Apostle Parish, Clark/Linden. Married to Angela. Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, music minister, leader of contemporary ministry, eucharistic adoration, fund raising coordinator. Profession: police chief, retired detective.

Tom Lagatol

Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harrington Park. Married to Jan, two children. CCD, lector, Confirmation candidates' program, Saint Joseph Society, altar server at daily Mass, "Mr. Fix It" for the parish. Profession: physical and electronic security specialist/consultant, retired FBI special agent.

Anthony Liguori, Jr.

Saint Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff. Married to Jeannette, two children. Teen Mass music minister (Corpus Christi Parish, Hasbrouck Heights), music minister (Assumption and Corpus Christi Youth Group), Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Christian Family Movement (Assumption Parish), Knights of Columbus. Profession: Catholic school music teacher/musician.

Francis P. Materia

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Wood-Ridge. Married to Kathy, two children. Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, lector, parish sports director, Knights of Columbus, Partners in Ministry, trainer of altar servers, church decorating committee, parents guild, master of ceremonies at special masses, former CCD teacher, Confirmation instructor. Profession: accounting manager.

Robert C. Millea

Saint Stephen Parish, Kearny. Married to Patricia, three children. Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Knights of Columbus, parish baptism, Pre-Cana and RCIA teams, parish council (past president). Profession: project manager/estimator.

Jorge A. Montalvo

Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Elizabeth. Married to Lydia, one child. Christian Foundations Ministry (CFM) instructor, advisory board member CFM and human concerns, workshop presenter for worship department, Protecting God's Children, New

Energies consultant. Profession: pastoral consultant for catechesis and music.

Brian Murphy

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield. Married to Mary Louise, three children. Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, lector, RCIA, CCD instructor, listening committee, served six years on parish council, Saint Thomas Parish. At Saint Augustine Parish in Newark—lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, volunteer with the Ministries of Charity in Newark, Consecrated Lay Missionary of Charity for seven years. Profession: traffic manager with produce importer.

Francis E. Noh

Church of the Korean Martyrs, Saddle Brook. Married to Rye, two children. RCIA, acolyte, former parish trustee, former member of parish financial committee, former member of board of directors of Saint Andrew Kim's Korean Languages School. Profession: attorney.

Jorge E. Ochoa

Saint Joseph Parish, Lodi. Married to Rocio del Pilar, three children. Lector, eucharistic minister, choir/ cantor, life team, eucharistic adoration team. Profession: bookkeeper.

Anthony Porcaro

Saint Therese of Lisieux Parish, Cresskill. Married to Nancy, three children. Eucharistic minister, lector, catechist, adult faith formation committee, Knights of Columbus, Third

Order Lay Carmelite. Profession: tax attorney.

Joseph S. Romano

Saint Anthony Parish, Northvale. Married to Mary Ellen, one child. Lector (ministry coordinator/trainer/ongoing coaching), Bergen County nursing home ministry coordinator, administrative support to parish and pastor, eucharistic minister and trainer. Profession: self-employed management consultant.

Todd Rushing

Our Lady of Visitation Parish, Paramus. Married to Carmen, one child. Lector, RCIA, director RCIA for teens, director Saint Ignatius spiritual exercises, member and former director of men's Cornerstone, pastoral council. Profession: vice president of retail sales.

Louis Rusignuolo

Saint Valentine Parish, Bloomfield. Married to Jean, three children. Lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, core team member of parish retreat programs, Christian Foundation for Ministry, parish health cabinet, parish spiritual development committee, alternate team member of New Energies committee, baptismal preparation, former chairman of parish council. Profession: administrative assistant.

Andrew E. Saunders

Saint Luke Parish, Ho-Ho-Kus. Married to Margaret, two children. Knights of Columbus,

liturgy committee, adult faith formation, lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, altar server training. Profession: coordinator of programs, Institute for Christian Spirituality, Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, South Orange.

Craig Stewart

Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark. Married to Roseanne. Lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Christian Foundations for Ministry, chaplain of New Jersey State First Aid Council. Profession: emergency services training center instructor, retired police sergeant.

David Strader

Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Verona. Married to Catherine, three children. Lector, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, leadership team coordinator, Disciples in Mission, trustee at Saint John Parish in Newark and a volunteer at its soup kitchen. Profession: pediatrician.

John Sylvester

Saint Mary Parish, Dumont. Married to Kathleen, three children. Lector, Pre-Cana team, presider at children's liturgy of the word, social concerns ministry coordinator, parish finance committee, past president of parish council, director of parish Cornerstone retreat and a host family for the Marianist Family Retreat Center. Profession: engineer.