Fall 2012 Issue
Class of 2016 Begins Formation

Council of Deacons
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DeaconNews Editors
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Michael York    Thomas Smith

In Memorial of Our Departed in 2012
Jose Martinez-Figueroa    Juan Suarez

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

After a year of discernment and selection, the first year of academic formation has begun for the class of 2016. Thirty men were chosen and are under the care of the Selection and Formation Director, Fr. James Teti.

The academic formation is provided by the Center for Diaconal Formation which was created in 2009 by Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University as part of its Institute for Christian Spirituality.

Reverend Monsignor Joseph R. Chapel, S.T.D. is the Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation, and Assistant Spiritual Director for the Seminary. He is also Co- Director of the Institute for Christian Spirituality and Associate Professor of Christian Ethics. He is assisted by Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A., (class of 2011) who is the Assistant Director of the Center for Diaconal Formation and responsible for its daily operations.

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This past spring, the diaconate community assisted Father James Teti, Director of Selection and Formation, interviewing candidates for the new deacon formation class. 30 men have begun their academic formation at Immaculate Conception Seminary, School of Theology at Seton Hall University. Please keep the candidates, their wives and children in your prayers. The class is scheduled to be ordained in 2016.

With assistance from Deacon Andrew Saunders, Coordinator of Programs for Immaculate Conception Seminary, we have an interesting schedule of speakers in place for our continuing education program. Due to the scheduling and availability of the Archdiocesan Center auditorium, the sessions take place on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. The next session will be February 7, 2013. A talk on the “Year of Faith” will be given by Father Tom Dente, Director of the Office of Divine Worship. Please try to attend, since, it is a good way to reconnect with the community and stay current on developments in the Diaconate.

The Deacon Council is sponsoring a Lenten Retreat for Deacons at St. Mary’s Villa in Sloatsburg, New York on February 15-17, 2013. Our retreat moderator is Father Neil Xavier O’Donoghue who was ordained in 2000 to the ministerial priesthood for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark, and since 2002 has served as Prefect of Studies at Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary in Kearny, NJ.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Association of Diaconate Directors is inviting all deacons and their families to attend a National Diaconate Congress commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Permanent Diaconate in the United States. The 50th Anniversary of the Diaconate will take place July 22-26, 2018 in New Orleans. The theme for the congress is: “Christ the Servant: Yesterday, Today, Forever.” More information will follow as it becomes available.

The Deacon Council encourages all counties to have deacon meetings. Please contact the deacon representatives in your county for more information on scheduled meetings.

The Church has just started a liturgical year dedicated to Faith. With Superstorm Sandy hitting our area and the widespread devastation and suffering that has resulted, please pray for all of those who have died, lost loved ones, or have been displaced in the disaster. God bless you in your ministry!
Catholic Men’s Conference Remembrance
“Come, Follow Me”
By Deacon Herb Gimbel

“Come, follow me”, was the theme for the Catholic Men’s Conference on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at Seton Hall University. It was a beautiful, crisp, sunny day as we pilgrims drove through the gates of the campus. We had help from some great speakers to put our day of praise into perspective. There were booths filled with valuable information and some of the speakers’ books. There was a section set aside for confession to be available for everyone throughout the day.

The schedule for the day included a talk by Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop of the Diocese of Paterson, who spoke about how Jesus needs all of us to continue to spread the word of His purpose and mission.

Our next speaker was Mr. Allan Hunt, who was a mega church pastor, and became a convert to the Catholic Church. He shared an interesting journey of conversion. He discovered the Church is Eucharist, and that “We” are the people of the Eucharist. His whole story was very interesting.

Our day continued with lunch and more fellowship. Then there was Adoration with Fr. Mariusz Koch, CFR. My friends in Christ, as the procession started, the Holy Spirit came upon us as we all fell like dominos to our knees in front of the whole story was very interesting.

Our final speaker was Rev. James Martin, SJ who spoke about the joy of Christ. He asked, “Who says Catholicism has to be gloomy?” He went on to say how faith leads to joy, and how the saints used humor in their quest for holiness, and how laughter is a gift from God.

For additional information on the Center for Diaconal Formation including its academic programs and faculty please see www.shu.edu/go/diaconate or Deacon Andrew E. Saunders, M.A. at Andrew.saunders2@shu.edu.
Deacon’s Wives & Widows Day of Renewal

By Peg O’Neill

The Deacon’s Wives Day of Renewal, titled “Cultivating Compassion,” was held on Saturday, October 27th. Fifteen deacons’ wives and widows attended a Day of Renewal held at the House of Prayer located at Mt. St. Mary’s in Watchung. Sister Mary Jo Kearns, RSM, discussed the topic of “Cultivating Compassion,” with the group and highlighted the prodigal son from a new and different angle. Time was given for interaction and reflection throughout the program.

After lunch Monsignor Edward Bradley held a Reconciliation service and said Mass for the group. He spoke about the important roles deacons and widows play in the growth of the Church and the community. The Day of Renewal was very well received and the day is scheduled on an annual basis normally on the last Saturday in October. Two hundred forty dollars ($240) was collected from the group for the St. Lawrence Fund.

For more information please contact Peggy O’Neill at (973) 376 - 4486. If you missed being at the Day of Renewal this year, why not join us next year? We would love to have you with us.

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.

Very Important

If you change your e-mail address mails, send your new e-mail address to the Diaconate office to hongfran@rcan.org and to edcampy@comcast.net.

Please Note: If you are in need of a new ID card please call Deacon John McKenna 973-497-4125.