



Spring 2013 Issue

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God Have Mercy on Me, a Sinner”

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In Memorial of Our Departed in 2012
Jose Martinez-Figueroa Juan Suarez
Michael J.Fitzgerald

*A complete list of all deceased deacons
and deceased spouses is listed on this
newsletter's website:*

http://www.sjanj.net/rcan_deacon/

Father Neil Xavier O'Donoghue,
Prefect of Studies at Redemptoris
Mater Seminary presented a
memorable

Lenten Retreat
for the Deacons
of the
Archdiocese of
Newark at St.
Mary's Retreat
Villa in
Sloatsburg, New

York on February 22nd to the 24th,
2013. Father Neil's conferences were
on Liturgy perspectives - pre and post
Vatican II, Scripture Study as applied
to homily preparation, Eastern &
Western Church Traditions. Father
Neil also encouraged us to develop a
personal spirituality, as it is related to
the depth of an ongoing commitment to
the gospel of Jesus Christ through the
application of the Eastern Rites Jesus
Prayer – “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of
God, have mercy on me, a sinner”.



A movie was presented “The mysteries
of the Jesus prayer” by Dr. Norris
Chumley and Dr. John McGuckin. See
a preview at:
[http://www.mysteriofthejesusprayer.c
om/home.php](http://www.mysteriofthejesusprayer.com/home.php)

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

DeacoNews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

The Lenten Retreat St. Mary's Villa

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There was a superb opportunity during the retreat, with the assistance of Fr. Paolo Tanzini, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and reflect together on the conferences presented by Fr. Neil.

We also had plenty of time to renew our friendships, make new ones, and discuss our efforts in ministry and in



our communities as we reach out to others. We also had ample time to enjoy the wonderful meals provided by the nuns of The Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate and their attentive staff.

On Sunday we walked “up the mountain” as we celebrated a Holy Adoration Hour benediction and Holy Mass with Fr. Neil.



“As we rejoice in this yearly season of grace, and ponder the mysteries of Easter, grant, Lord, that our joy may be completed by seeing them fulfilled in our lives. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.” (Closing prayer 3/9/13 Universalis Liturgy of the Hours Morning Prayer)

Catholic Men's Commission 2013 “Walk by Faith”



(photo by Catholic Advocate)

This year's Catholic Men's Commission “Walk by Faith” was held on Saturday, **March 2, 2013** at Seton Hall University. Once again, there was free admission to all Deacons attending. The Archdiocese of Newark has developed the Men's Commission to offer a structure of fellowship and support to deepen men's faith and relationship with Jesus Christ; to help guide their roles in their families, in the Church, and in society as men of God and men for others. This March 2nd meeting

was a large-scale public gathering introduced by Msgr Doran and featured prominent speakers including: Michael Barber PhD from The Great John Paul Catholic University on “Overcoming Temptation”, Richard Moore on “Forgiveness” – he was blinded as a child by a British soldier and a very inspirational witness by Thomas Smith (a former Mormon and Baptist preacher).. We had the opportunity to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Holy Hour with a beautifully heartrending procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction. The conference concluded with the celebration of Mass with Archbishop John J Myers. JCD, DD.

Deacon Michael J. Fitzgerald Enters Eternal Life

Deacon Michael J. Fitzgerald, 81, of Bogota, entered eternal life on February 23, 2013. He was born to Mary and Michael Fitzgerald in New York City on February 15, 1932. Michael was a devotional man who touched the hearts and lives of countless people. He moved to Bogota in 1960, where he became a leader of church and community, immersing himself in numerous community organizations such as; ambulance corps, Bogota Baseball Organization, St. Joseph's Bogota Basketball Program and CYO track, and as a member of the Juvenile Conference Committee. He supported the ideals of social activism and was a great influence in this regard. Michael was ordained a Deacon of the Archdiocese of Newark in 1995 and lovingly served as Deacon at St. Joseph Church for 18 years. He was also the leader of the church's folk group, lector, and leader of song, Parish Council president, and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.. He spearheaded the initiation of the Adoration Chapel, and

the Equal Exchange Coffee fair trade program. Michael enjoyed a successful career as a Risk Manager of insurance and spent several years as Risk Manager for the Borough of Bogota. Because nothing was more important to Michael than family, he organized his first Fitzgerald Family Reunion Weekend 47 years ago and it has continued annually ever since. Michael is survived by his cherished wife Marie June, his ten children; Katherine, Eileen, Mary, Michael, Patricia, Regina, Christine, Rose, Daniel, David, their spouses, and 20 grandchildren. He was also the dear brother of Teresa Cue, Nancy Finnerty, Veronica Nolan, Frank, and the late Austin, John, Mary Ritschdorff and Peggy Casey. Michael was an inspiration to all who knew him. Funeral Mass was at St. Joseph's RC Church, Bogota and the committal followed at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus. Memorial contributions to St. Joseph's Food Pantry of the Archdiocese of Newark Diaconate program would be appreciated.

When a Deacon Speaks in Public

By Deacon Herb Gimbel
Contributing Editor

When we as clergy are asked to speak in the public arena, we must understand that we are speaking on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church. All eyes and ears are on us whether we are presiding at benediction, an invocation or at a public prayer service. I think that it goes without saying that it is an honor to speak on behalf of the church, especially in public. As for myself, I have given the benediction at several Memorial Day parades, and have given an invocation at several Veterans Day gatherings.

Speaking in public is much different than presenting a homily in church, because we become exposed to the "churched" and "non-churched" alike, in the marketplace of our community.

When we are at a public function we are introduced as the Deacon from our church and can wear the clerical attire. I believe this is very important and is in accordance with the decree from Archbishop John J. Myers. This identification is problematic because most of the time we are addressed by the people we encounter as "Father". The problem is that we do not always have the time to explain that we are not priests but deacons, and so we smile and say hello etc; however, when the opportunity presents itself, we should take the time to explain who we are as deacons, and speak of the difference between us and transitional deacons. Many people don't know the difference and would come away more informed, and hopefully it will be passed along to others. It also helps if we keep a copy of the Archbishops "Clerical Attire for Deacons decree" in our jacket pocket when asked why we are wearing clerical clothing if we are not priests

I have to say it is quite a good feeling to step up to the microphone and speak to an audience, bringing God's words to the marketplace of life in sure hope that it will be understood for the benefit of all.

Resource Review

If you have resources that you use and feel would be beneficial for the community to be aware of, please let us know so we can highlight them in this new column of the DeacoNews.

Send submissions for this column to edcampy@comcast.net

Lighthouse Catholic Media has an excellent selection of CDs for individuals or parish "book racks" See: <http://www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/>

There is an excellent Catechetical DVD called "Our Catholic Faith" by Matthew Arnold offered by St. Joseph Communications., See: <http://www.saintjoe.net/9111>.

Topics are covered in DVD chapter format:

God and His Attributes, The Holy Trinity, Creatures of God, Adam & Eve, Original Sin, The Promise of a Redeemer, Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior, The Redemption, The Primitive Church, The Marks of the True Church, Infallibility of the Church, The Mystical Body of Christ The Last Judgment, Grace, Prayer, The Holy Mass, The Seven Sacraments, The Word of God, The Bible and Sacred Tradition, The Ten Commandments, Sin, Christian Virtues and Perfection

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.

The Congress heralding the 50th anniversary of the Permanent Diaconate in the United States 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.

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