In the Archdiocese of Newark, we have 28 men from diverse backgrounds who have answered the call to serve as deacons and are undergoing an intense four-year academic program of diaconal formation at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University.

Michael Giuliano, a neonatal physician and diaconal student, was highlighted in the fall 2013 Seton Hall Magazine regarding his personal call and journey to diaconate formation. The full text of the article on Dr. Giuliano titled, “Answering the Call,” can be found at the following link: http://blogs.shu.edu/magazine/2013/11/answering-the-call/

In the November 2013 edition of Deacon Digest Magazine, Deacon Andy Saunders discusses how deacons are in a unique position to instill a Christian spirit and mentality in an increasingly secular environment that is rapidly and radically evolving. These present significant challenges to dioceses across the country as they develop and implement their diaconate formation programs. Although the permanent diaconate has been quite successful in terms of the number of vocations and its contributions to parish life, it is clear that robust intellectual formation, rooted in Scripture, contemporary Church documents and doctrine, is a critical element in responding to these challenges. The full text of the article “Meeting Modern Challenges,” can be found at the following link: http://www.shu.edu/academics/theology/diaconal-formation/upload/Deacon-Digest-Article.pdf
**Director’s Column**

**Deacon John McKenna**

We are blessed in our Archdiocese to have so many gifted men willing to give their life as deacons and deacon candidates. Two of them are illustrated on the front page of this edition of Deacon News, deacon Andrew Saunders and deacon candidate Michael Giuliano.

Deacon Andy Saunders, class of 2011 is the Coordinator of Programs and Co-Director, Catholic Center for Family Spirituality at Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology. Andy’s article, which was recently published in the Deacon Digest, addresses the important role the deacon is called to serve as in an increasingly secular society. Deacon candidate, Guiliano, is in his second year of formation at Seton Hall University. His full time job is doctor in the neonatal center at Hackensack Regional Medical Center. It is nice to know a man of faith is working in such an important and delicate position, with some of the most vulnerable members of society.

The Men’s Commission was well attended by the deacons of the Archdiocese who enjoyed a day of inspiring talks delivered by nationally known speakers. The keynote was given by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan. Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration preceded the closing Mass celebrated by Coadjutor Archbishop Bernard A. Hebd.

Two of our brothers, Victor J. Puzio and Raymond A. Shea went home to the Lord this past winter. Please pray for the repose of Deacon Vic’s soul and pray for Carol and their children. Also pray for the repose of Raymond A. Shea’s soul, ordained in 1976 moved to the Trenton Diocese after serving 19 years in the Archdiocese of Newark, where he served for 16 years from 1995 to 2011.

Fr. James White, Chaplain, Seton Hall Preparatory School, gave an excellent presentation on the Eucharist during our continuing education session in March. He recommended we read the book; “Jesus, and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist”. I have read the book and highly recommend it to you. I think it would be excellent reading during the Easter season.

I hope you and your loved ones have a joyous and blessed Easter season!

Let’s keep each other in prayer.

Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen!

“**BE NOT AFRAID**”

**2300 men attend**

**THE CATHOLIC MEN’S CONFERENCE**

**March 15, 2014**

By Deacon Herb Gimbel

Contributing Editor

Be not afraid was the theme for the Catholic’s men’s conference this year. Be not afraid indeed to be blessed, inspired, to grow deeper in faith and spirituality. Twenty-three hundred plus men heard the call to be not afraid and came to deepen their faith. People from all walks of life were there at Seaton Hall. This men’s Catholic conference was very personal to each and every one of us who attended. I know it was a very special time for a deacon and his son and others who may have brought family members to this spiritual gathering of souls.

The day started at 8:00 am and closed with Mass at 4:00 pm. What was special this year was a break out session for young adults. As we settled in our seats our first speaker was His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan who spoke words of wisdom and joy. Cardinal Dolan spoke of a call to holiness with inspiring anecdotes of faith from St. John Paul II that he referred to as the soul of the world, of Pope Benedict XVI about faith reason and how the Church is all things noble, and of Pope Francis, who represents the heart of the church.

Our other speakers were Fr. Larry Richards, and Mr. Larry Floyd who gave very inspirational talks of faith that touched us all with a personal and spiritual identification. After our lunch break there was the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Franciscan Friars of the renewal coupled with Fr. Koch’s reflection.

The day concluded with Mass with our Coadjutor Archbishop Bernard Hebd who stood in for Archbishop John J. 
Myers, who was not able to attend due to illness.

In my concluding remarks I have to say it was an electrifying atmosphere. The music helped spread the joy and camaraderie throughout the day, the fellowship of our faith and above all the love of our Lord Jesus Christ was present and we were not afraid to share the joy!

Wives & Widows Memorial Mass

By Mary Stark
A Memorial Mass for all deceased Deacons and Deacon Wives was offered at 11 am on April 26, 2014, at the Archdiocesan Center by Msgr. Bradley. Lunch was provided after Mass. The gathering was graciously coordinated by Mary Stark and Ann DeMaio

Deacon Retreats

The Annual Deacons’ Retreat scheduled for October 4, 5, 6 at San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch, NJ. More information will be available when scheduling is finalized

Please Note

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

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

Class of ’99 to Celebrate 15th Anniversary

Ordained on June 5, 1999 by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick the class of 1999 has lost Deacons Steve Marchese, Bill Toth, Aart Markenstein and Richard Moore to the Church Triumphant. Remaining in the service of the Lord here on earth celebrating their 15th Anniversary are Deacons are: Vince Accardi, Robert Baker, Sr, Vincent Belluscio Jr, Thomas Bulgia, Edward Campanella, Drew Dickson, Bob Fencik, Herb Gimbel, Robert Glasner, Fredick Kautz, Paul Kliagua, Michael Lydon, Mike Maione, William Mc Dermott, John Mc Keon, Keith Me Knight, Albert Mc Laughlin, Jerry Rehse, Ralph Savo, Luis Velo, and Joseph Yandoli.

A Reflection on Eucharist

By Deacon Michael York
Contributing Editor

The Mass is not just a memory of what happened about 2000 years ago at the Last Supper; it is the celebration of a present reality. Jesus Christ has remained permanently with us in all of his humanity and divinity! “I will not leave you orphaned; I will come back to you.” (Jn14:18)

When we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we are transformed to be an agent of the love of Jesus Christ. We are to be Jesus in the world which we live. Do we walk out of Mass a transformed person?...or does it seem like nothing has changed, that is, you can’t see any difference in yourself.

We need to ask ourselves some questions first: How much preparation do I put into the Mass, into receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and what am I doing after I receive Jesus?

Just as our body needs food and we wouldn’t think of starving ourselves and missing a meal or meals; so too does our soul need food. Our soul needs spiritual “food” and this is the Holy Eucharist. When we miss Mass on Sunday without a compelling reason, we deprive our soul of the food needed to grow spiritually, to grow closer to Jesus Christ, to live a life of love that Jesus calls us to live. When we have Jesus enter the house of our soul, which is soiled by sin, the result is the same; we deprive ourselves of the proper spiritual nourishment for our soul. When we receive Jesus routinely or distracted or spend no time in thanksgiving with Jesus afterwards...our soul is again deprived.

Furthermore, we deprive others of receiving the love of Jesus Christ, because we are not focused on others, but ourselves. We also set ourselves up for succumbing to temptations easily.
Deacon Victor J. Puzio of Rutherford, died on February 24th, 2014, he was 67. Victor was born in Passaic, NJ on February 20th, 1947 to Victor and Lottie (Czesniewski) Puzio, and predeceased by his sister Deborah. Victor was raised in Wallington, and attended Most Sacred Heart of Jesus grammar school; he then attended and graduated from Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey, NJ, class of 1964. He proudly served in the US Army from 1966 to 1972, serving most of his time in Germany. On December 9th, 1967 he married Carol Monkowski, and they have enjoyed 46 years together.

Due to a twist of fate, Vic was late to work at the May Davis Group, 1 World Trade Center, on the day of 9-11, where many of his friends perished. After coming to terms with the horrible losses, he decided to become a Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. On June 11th, 2005 Victor was ordained at the Cathedral in Newark, and began serving in his Deaconate Ministry at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. He worked in the financial industry most of his adult life, last working at Meyers Associates in NYC, retiring in February of 2012. Vic was a founding member of Most Sacred Hearts, Share and Care program, Past President of the Most Sacred Heart Holy Name Society, Past Grand Knight of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Knights of Columbus Council 3644 in Wallington, and he was the current Faithful Navigator of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree, Santa Maria Assembly #663. In addition he served on the MSH Pastoral Council, and was a Clergy Volunteer at the Pastoral Ministries at St. Mary’s Hospital in Passaic.

In addition to his deep devotion to his faith, he was an avid supporter of wild life. He enjoyed countless hours of feeding wild life around his home, and tending to his outdoor fish. Victor is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Carol, his son Christopher and spouse Peter Staller, his daughter Nicole Puzio and one grandson Noah Puzio. He will be greatly missed by his extended family and friends and those who fondly called him “Deacon Vic.”

Deacon Raymond Shea Class of ‘76

Raymond A. Shea, 92 of Toms River died Monday April 14, 2014 at his residence. He was born in Newark, NJ April 9, 1922 at his home on 24 Hawkins St., to Thomas and Mary Shea immigrants from Cashel, Ireland, Co. Tipperary. Raymond volunteered to serve his country; joining the U.S. Navy in August 1942. He served until Dec. 4, 1945 aboard the Battleship USS Indiana, which, was in 12 major naval. Battles in the Pacific during WWII.

Deacon Shea returned from duty to join the Newark Fire Dept. in June 1947. Raymond was assigned to Engines’ 7 and 9 serving 30 yrs. during the some of the busiest years in Newark Fire Dept. history. Raymond spent 61 years devoted to his beloved wife Eleanor G. Helmstetter and their six children.
They settled in North Newark and became active in Our Lady of Good Counsel’s parish.

Deacon Shea was ordained in the Archdiocese Newark on December 12, 1976 and relocated to the Diocese of Trenton in May 1995 where he served 16 years at St. Maximilian Kolbe parish in Toms River. Deacon Shea was known for his dedication to serving Christ’s Church. Never looking for recognition or having things done his way, but rather humbly serving his Parish Community for 35 years.

Raymond was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Essex Co. Police and Fire Emerald Society, Holy Name Society, Legion of Mary & VFW member of post 1851.

Predeceased by his faithful parents Thomas and Mary; his loving siblings Thomas, John, Anna Mae, Regina, and his most loyal and loving brothers Victor and Joseph Shea.

Raymond is survived by his adoring children Edward & wife Eileen; Maureen & husband Thomas Grabosky; Raymond & wife Sandra; Michael; Anne Marie & husband Timothy O’Keefe; Thomas & wife Noreen; & 18 affectionate Grandchildren and 2 Great Grandchildren.

Is The Party Over?

by Deacon Joseph L. Mantineo

We are all familiar with a song whose first line is, “The party’s over; it’s time to call it a day.” This is certainly the impression you would get if you went into any greeting card store this past Monday. The world would have us believe that the party is over. Not one card representing the greatest moment in the history of the world can be found. The world is getting ready for it’s next celebration, maybe Mothers’ Day, then Fathers’ Day, and at the end of summer, the first indications of Christmas will be appearing in department stores.

Yes, as far as the world as we know it is concerned, “the party is over; it’s time to call it a day.” Well that may be true for other parties, but not for Easter. From a Christian perspective, the party has just begun. We are celebrating the greatest moment since the dawn of creation.

To be born a human, to experience all that we experience except for sin, to suffer, to be tortured, to die on a cross, to be buried in a tomb. If it just ended there, then I would agree that the party is over. But you and I know it did not end there. We profess at every Mass that it did not end with His death and burial. Jesus, God, the Son of God, the Word made flesh, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, rose on the third day!!!!

His birth, His life, and His suffering were for the incredible purpose of offering Himself to be sacrificed for our sins. No sacrificial offerings of pigeons, lambs or oxen could accomplish that. Only God sacrificing Himself could undo the death of our souls brought into the world by the first Adam. Jesus, the new Adam, chose to die on the cross, chose to be obedient to the Father, unlike Adam. In doing so He freed all of humanity (past, present and future) from its slavery to sin and eternal death. That unselfish act gave all of humanity eternal life.

His birth, His life, and His suffering were for the incredible purpose of offering Himself to be sacrificed for our sins.

How can such a sacrifice, such a gift, and such a love be celebrated in just one day? It can’t! No matter what the commercial world would have us believe, it can’t.

That is why Easter is not one day; it is a period of time; it is a season. This Sunday is just as much Easter as last Sunday. The celebration goes on for 50 continuous, unending days. A fifty day celebration from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. Because these 50 days are so beautiful and so special the Church looks upon them as one unending feast called "the great Sunday."

So no, the party is most certainly not over and it’s not time to call it a day! The party has just begun.

The tomb is empty! Christ Has Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! The Joy, the Peace and the Blessings of Easter to you all!

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Raymond A. Shea

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