



Winter 2019

Maintaining Ministerial Proficiency Through Continuing Education

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In Memorial of Our 2018/9 Departed

Edward McFadden	Clodualdo Leonida
Jose Rodriguez	Joseph Francione
Frank McQuade	Robert Puglisi
Richard Searls	Pasquale Vuolo
Keith McKnight	Ramon Villeda
Daniel Ravelo	Richard G. Hodges
	Robert C. Millea

Mary Stark	Judith Joyce
Erma Ventola	Joyce Bowen

Barbara Pluta

A complete list of all deceased deacons and spouses is listed on this newsletter's website under <https://www.rcan.org/sites/default/files/files/necrology.pdf>



On January 24, 2019, Lauren Egan BA, CADC, Associate Director of the Newark Archdiocesan Family Life Office,

enthusiastically presented a ministerial proficiency continuing education program devoted to "The Deacons Pastorally Ministry to the Bereaved" at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark, New Jersey. Deacon James Detura is the director of The Family Life Office.

The content of the session complemented the deacon's ministry to the bereaved and the deacons gained a basic understanding of the grieving process including a "mirroring" communication methodology which the attendees found challenging and effective when used correctly.

The focus will be primarily practical, enabling deacons to enhance their pastoral skills in ministering to the bereaved.

Deacons are often at the beginning of the journey for the bereaved. This session especially helped the attending deacons respond to the needs of the bereaved at this near in-phase.

The Family Life Office also offers several different training programs to support those who would like to minister to the bereaved and facilitate a parish support group.

Visit <https://www.rcan.org/offices-and-ministries/family-life/loss-transition> for more information.

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

DeacoNews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

Deacon Spotlight Pedro Herrera



Church of St. Rose of Lima, Newark, New Jersey.

Ordained May, 2011 by Most Rev Thomas Donato.

Born in Cuba, Pedro immigrated to the United States in October, 1968 at the age of 12. Pedro attended the Elizabeth public school system from 7th grade on. He was graduated from NJIT, with a certificate in Architectural Technology.

Pedro and his wife Leyla have been married for 40 years and have two sons, Joel and Peter and recently their first granddaughter, Amelia Natalie.

Pedro spent most of his formative years in an environment where being a practicing Catholic was by itself considered a quasi-crime against the government. Despite his young age this did not deter him from professing publicly his profound faith in God; often paying a high price for his beliefs. His faith was crystalized during this time, where he learned that placidly speaking the truth can be a way of disarming those that attack one's faith.

These were dark days. Pedro clung to his faith for sheer survival. Often at night, talking to the good Lord was the only thing that gave him strength to face the following day.

Despite his deep faith in our Lord, he never entertained any thought of become a deacon. In fact, he repeatedly refused to become even a Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. God had people in His Church better suited and more capable than him, he repeated to himself.

One fine day in late 2005, his pastor approached him with what could be considered a demand disguised as a

request; he wanted Pedro to enter diaconal formation. A new class was being formed to start soon and he thought Pedro would make a good deacon.

Pedro's response was unequivocal – he thought – and fast: ‘no, thank you....not interested’.

After a few months going back and forth, his pastor asked him once more to think about it and come back with a positive answer in a couple of weeks. Pedro laughed it off and set his mind on the approaching trip to Aruba he and his wife were about to undertake. The first Sunday on the island Pedro and his wife attended Mass. Pedro was asked if he would like to do the first reading. Since he was a lector back home, he did not see this as a big problem... that was until he started reading: it was from the Book of Jonah. In the reading God instructs a reluctant Jonah to go to Nineveh ...and we all know how the story ends.

Pedro had found at last the answer that he was to give his pastor. Serving the people of God has always been a priority for Pedro.

He has served his church as CCD teacher, member of the Social Concerns group, Pastoral Council and Finance Council member.

Once ordained, the word “service” took on a new meaning for him; in addition to other duties in his parish, he volunteers once a week at the Tribunal as Advocate/Procurator in marriage annulment cases and is an active member of the Prayer Group – led mostly by lay members of the Parish. Lately he has been actively involved in the “V National Encuentro Hispanic/Latino Ministry” in his Parish.

Deacon Pedro believes firmly that deacons should not view service as a duty that is required by virtue of ordination, but as a gift to be given freely and joyfully. People can sense one when it is one way or the other.

Especially For Wives



Kimberly A. Mailley, M.A.P.M., is Assistant Director, Center for Diaconal Formation at Seton Hall University. Kim

has designed a blog for wives of Deacons and Deacon Candidates. Wives are encouraged to take advantage of the blog "Called to Greater Love". Women from over 20 dioceses around the country are subscribing to the blog. <https://blogs.shu.edu/calledtogreaterlove/>

Also on Saturday April 13, 2019 from 8:30am to 1pm a “Morning of Reflection/Retreat” will be made available at Seton Hall Immaculate Conception Seminary, School of Theology.

For more details see: <http://www.shu.edu/wives-deacons/index.cfm>

Deacons Wives & Widows Memorial



Our Memorial Mass for deceased deacons and deacons' wives will be celebrated on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 11:00 in the Chapel at the Archdiocesan Center. It will be followed, as usual, by lunch in the Library of the Archdiocesan Center. Please join us for this very special event and invite a friend to attend with you!

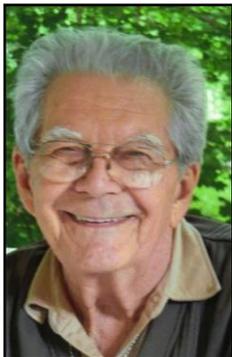
Men's & Women's Conferences

The Men's Commission Catholic Men's Conference will be on March 16th this year and the Women's Commission Day of Reflection will be on March 9th, both events will be at Seton Hall University.

Both days include talks, fellowship, Holy Mass, Holy Hour, Confession, Breakfast and Lunch. For more information and details on our speakers, please visit the Women's Commission website at www.rcan.org/womenscommission and the Men's Commission website at www.njcatholicmen.org.

Online Registration is now OPEN for both events!!

Deacon Richard G Hodges



Deacon Richard G. Hodges, 90, went home to our Lord on Thursday, January 3, 2018. Richard was a loving husband of 61 years to Vivian Marie Hodges

(deceased 2/22/2008), a faithful father to Dawn Marie Hodges and Karen Vanderbeek of Toms River and Mark Richard Hodges of Keyport, and a devoted Grandfather to Matthew Joseph Hodges of Harrington Park and Andrew Richard Hodges of Jersey City.

Richard was a resident of the Old Tappan Community for 61 years and a charter member and Deacon at the St. Pius X Community of Faith.

Over the years, Vivian and Dick were very active in the formation and leadership in the Christian Family Movement, Cornerstone and Marriage

Preparation ministries at St. Pius X and active participants of the Cursillo retreat program.

Richard served as a Merchant Marine during World War II and in the Army during the Korean War.

Deacon Dick was a comfort for those going through difficult times. He had strength of kindness others admired. He held many life rafts for others who waded into the deep end during their journey to faith. Richard wants us all to remember, "When the spirit of Christ in me responds to the spirit in Christ in you, then the ground between us becomes Holy Ground!"

The funeral mass was held at St. Pius X Church, 268 Old Tappan Road, Old Tappan, NJ at 11 AM on Saturday January 5, 2018 with a viewing in the church from 10-11 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations in loving memory of Deacon Dick would be most appreciated to assist with his medical care giving expenses. Please address to: Dawn M Hodges, 33 Saint David Drive, Toms River, NJ 08757.

Deacon Robert C. Millea



Deacon Robert C. Millea of Kearny entered into eternal rest following a year-long battle with cancer on

Saturday, January 26, 2019. He was 63 years old.

The Funeral Mass was at St. Stephen's Church, Kearny at on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 11:00am. The committal will take place in Holy Cross Chapel Mausoleum, North Arlington.

Born in Orange, NJ, Bob was raised in Harrison and was a long-time resident before moving to Kearny in 1994. Bob

was graduated from Seton Hall Preparatory School (1973) and The College of William and Mary (1977) with a degree in Business Administration.

Upon graduating, he entered the family business, R.B. Millea, Inc. Newark. Bob had been involved in the electrical construction industry for over 40 years in estimating and project management. Bob was also an instructor for the NECA Estimating Course from 1988 to 1994. He held a New Jersey Electrical Contractors License and served as the Chairman for the Construction Board of Appeals for the Town of Harrison, NJ, and had at one time been a member of the Harrison Board of Education.

With a lifetime of service to his community and parish, Bob was a Deacon at Saint Stephen's Church, Kearny and faithfully served its parishioners after being Ordained for the Archdiocese of Newark in 2011.

He was a proud member of the Harrison Lions Club for over 35 years. He also served in many capacities in Lions District 16N where he was District Governor (2006-2007) and served as Multiple District 16 State Chaplain. Bob was proud to serve as a Trustee of The Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley, Philadelphia, PA.

He was a member of the Saint Cecilia, Knights of Columbus Council #6928 Kearny, Grand Knight of the Year (2012), and most recently served on the NJ State Council as District Deputy for District 4.

Bob was an active member of the United Irish Associations of West Hudson and was a Wrestling Official for 32 years for both the NJSIAA and NCAA. He was the beloved husband of Pat, proud father of his three sons Ryan and wife Kate; Timothy, and Matthew. Loving grandfather of Eliza Rose; and dear brother of Mary Pat Shields and husband Ron, Thomas and wife Karen, and Kathleen Grinder and husband Joseph.

Deacon Robert Millea was predeceased by his parents Robert J. and Mary Millea and his brother Raymond.

REVISED PROCEDURE FOR MINISTERING OUTSIDE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE

When a Deacon is asked to officiate at a marriage, to administer the Sacrament of Baptism, to officiate at a funeral outside of Mass or to minister in any other capacity as Deacon in another diocese, the Deacon must receive permission from the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, Reverend Monsignor Thomas P. Nydegger.

The Deacon should write to the Deacon John McKenna and state the nature of his ministry, the date, time, and place where it will occur, and provide the local Bishop's name and address. A copy of the letter should be sent to your Pastor and the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia.

If permission is granted by the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, a Letter of Good Standing will be sent to the Diocese where the ministry will occur. A copy of the letter will be sent to the Deacon and his Pastor.

As ordained ministers, Deacons are part of the Church's public ministry and monitoring is necessary. Deacons are responsible to the Archbishop who coordinates and guides Deacons who minister in his name.

Resource Review

The Paulist Biblical Commentary by Fr. Thomas D. Stegman, S.J. presents a commentary on each of the 73 books of the Catholic canon of the Bible. Foreword by Cardinal Joseph W.

Tobin, C.Ss.R.: The book is designed for two types of preachers: those who preach in the liturgies of the Church, and those who preach with their lives. "There is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbors or complete strangers." (Evangelii Gaudium 127).

"Understanding the Diaconate" Historical, Theological and Sociological Foundations by W. Shean McKnight, Catholic University of America Press ISBN978-08132-3035-1

Pope Francis wrote two new books for deacons: **"Serving with Joy: lessons from Pope Francis for deacons today"** (available as a Kindle book for \$4.99) and **"Pope Francis Deacons, Servants of Charity."** Written through the eyes of a deacon. Available after August 17, 2018 from USCCB for \$19.95. (code 7-583)

OnLine Continuing Education Starting February 25, 2019 The University of Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life will offer OnLine religious studies. Connect to the following link (Ctrl+click) for all pertinent information:

https://secure.web.cisco.com/1bk5pFTk17mYcz0kvNP8vi_feRS_Nit6v5hVYD1zeNLR2Xc15ojH5nEk13zOuorHZf62DNto_8liBZ8UKsc5tGinwiL4kji0d969Rh3Vbsa5pn2LJqP0sF6h7ndFBV2BGc_FTv217f9DiIv_l-le5r5vNIVYc-ZDRZ3RKOoPrK8xE_KoFMK2TZ0stNdFCJVN6JkoT8zwe-e3ltKMT5-U3_7a8GUFV4w2C23UJaxebcQvXJR8LwNF46BEYJk1xj9S7VcZZ4QovN00QoadUm0I133kXBGb8SsTBJG9GEIil2GG2LoeGirUhD87maCSUvjbSsThZVvFwb9aGw/https%3A%2F%2Fmcgrath.nd.edu%2Fonline-courses%2Fstep%2FCourses%2F

Did You Know?

The "St Lawrence Deacon's Fund" is a donation supported fund instituted to assist Deacons who are seriously challenged financially. Send Donations, support your brother Deacons.

On the Lighter Side Signs seen on Church Lawns

The best Christian vitamin is B1.

Under the same management for over 2000 years.

Soul food served here.

Tithe if you love Jesus! Why honk!

Beat the Christmas rush, come to church this week!

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church. Come today.

Life has many choices. Eternity has two. What's yours?

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.

Wal-Mart isn't the only "saving place"!

We preach the gospel at all times and use words if necessary. (St. Francis of Assisi)

Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible.

It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees!

A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.

Can't sleep? Count blessings!

Christians! Keep the faith -- but not from others!

If you don't want to reap the fruits of sin, stay out of the devil's orchard.

To belittle is to be little.

A man suffered a serious heart attack and had an open heart bypass surgery. He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at a Catholic Hospital. As he was recovering, a nun asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment. She asked if he had health insurance. He replied, in a raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked if he had money in the bank. He replied, "No money in the bank." The nun asked, "Do you have a relative who could help you?" He said, "I only have a spinster sister, who is a nun." The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God." The patient replied, "Send the bill to my brother-in-law."