



Spring 2020 Issue

# The Diaconate & The Pandemic

## *Council of Deacons Executive Committee*

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Director of Deacon Personnel  
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**Union** Michael York  
David Farrell

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Jorge Montalvo  
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**Publicity, DeacoNews Editor**  
Deacon Ed Campanella OFS

### In Memorial of Our 2018-20 Deceased

Edward McFadden

Jose Rodriguez

Frank McQuade

Richard Searls

Keith McKnight

Daniel Ravelo

Robert C. Millea

James Stumbar

John Baltus

Nicholas Fargo

John Inguaggiato

Clodualdo Leonida

Joseph Francione

Robert Puglisi

Pasquale Vuolo

Ramon Villeda

Richard G. Hodges

Willie Malarcher

Anthony Scalzo

Louis Acocella

Wilifrid Leconte

Modesto Reyes

Albert Tizano

Mary Stark

Erma Ventola

Barbara Pluta

Isabelle Romano

Anna DiMeo

Judith Joyce

Joyce Bowen

Diane Aponte

Dorothy McFadden

Doreen Nilan

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>



## *The Diaconate and the Pandemic*

by Deacon Michael York

The COVID19 pandemic has turned our world upside down. Now we wear gloves, not because it's cold outside, but to protect ourselves from the COVID19 virus. Now we wear a mask, not because we are going to a costume party, but to prevent COVID19 virus from entering our nose or mouth. Now we wear glasses, not because we need them to read, but to prevent the virus from getting into our eyes.

Our parish's Catechists and Sacrament Coordinator were preparing children for First Communion and Confirmation. The Religious Education office that I direct also schedules Baptisms. Now, all these sacrament celebrations are on hold, while we navigate our way through the pandemic. How is the pandemic affecting my diaconal ministry? Now my daily routine is serving at private Mass every day with the Pastor and an associate, videoing the Mass, uploading it to my YouTube Channel and publishing – so parishioners have timely access to attending Mass virtually. I learned how to create a GoFundMe page for the parish, to enable parishioners to have another vehicle to provide their contributions to the parish. I learned how to Zoom. At 3 PM each day, I host a virtual prayer gathering of parishioners, singing the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, reflecting on the day's Scriptures, sharing prayer intentions and praying the rosary. Parishioners reach out to me with questions, seeking consolation and spiritual support. Staying in touch with parishioners virtually and letting them know someone cares about how they are doing and there's someone there to help as needed.

Deacon Ed Campanella and I have been celebrating "social distancing" committal services...with five in one recent week.

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

# DeacoNews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

### *The Diaconate and the Pandemic* (continued from page 1)

While the bereavement ministry team can't meet face to face, I try to reach out to family members on the phone who have lost loved ones to share of love of Jesus Christ and to provide consolation during their difficult time.

At my ordination in 2005, I distinctively remember, Archbishop Myers telling the men being ordained to the diaconate to "serve the people of God where you find them".

What I have just described are some of the ways that through the power of the Holy Spirit, I have found how to serve the people of God during this pandemic.

## *Deacon Spotlight* *Joseph Mantineo*

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Deacon Joe, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Rutgers University in New

Brunswick where he majored in Italian and minored in Spanish and Education. He also has a Master of Arts Degree from Rutgers in Italian Literature. He has a Supervisor's Certificate in Education from Montclair State University. Deacon Joe taught Italian and Spanish at Princeton High School for 2 years and Italian for 33 years at Dumont High School. He also received a National Defense Education Act Scholarship from the federal government to study for 10 weeks in Florence, Italy and two separate Fulbright Scholarships for two Summer Seminars in Perugia, Italy. He married Kathryn (Misty) Sullivan in 1970 and they have four children and eight grandchildren. Joe was ordained a Deacon in 2002.

Looking back at all of his life experiences as a student, teacher, husband and father, Deacon Joe believes that this was God's way of preparing him for his ministry as a Deacon.

With regards to being called to the Diaconate Ministry, Deacon Joe cites an encounter he had with Deacon Roland Bianchi. Joe and Roland, teachers in Dumont, NJ. met in 1988 at a workshop conducted by Dumont's Board of Education. During the lunch break after hearing Joe discuss his recent trip to Medjugorje, Deacon Roland suggested that Joe should consider becoming a Deacon. Joe says, "I really feel that it was Jesus speaking to me through Roland". That evening Joe discussed it with my wife and she asked me to wait because we had 3 children in grade schools and one in college. She felt that if this was really a call by God and He wouldn't mind if I put our children first, and Deacon Joe agreed.

The seed was however planted in the heart of Deacon Joe that day where it grew during the next 10 years. During the Spring of 1988 Joe and his wife went out for dinner with their friends Dorothy and the late Deacon Paul Magarelli. While their wives were away from the table, Joe started to ask Paul about what it means to be a Deacon. Joe recalls Paul saying: "Joe, are you thinking about becoming a Deacon, I have been praying that you would"? Paul then told Joe, If you want to, you have to send in an application quickly because the deadline is in a few days. Later that evening, Joe mentioned this to his wife his desire to still become a Deacon and Paul's comment. Misty agreed that now that the children were older it would be a good idea to apply. Joe then discussed the idea with his then pastor, Fr. Bob Mc Bride. With Fr. Bob's blessing, Joe filled out the application and sent it to former Diaconate Director, the late Deacon Ed Porter. With his acceptance Joe

began his formation in 1988 with ordination in 2002.

When asked what he would consider the highlights of becoming a Deacon, Joe states, "I have met and worked with outstanding priests, from Fr. Bob, who vested me to Fr. Larry Fama, who accepted me as his Deacon 12 years ago and now with Fr. Antonio Ricarte, our current administrator at Our Lady Queen of Peace."

Joe also found joy working with many wonderful parishioners, first at Saint Philip the Apostle in Saddle Brook at Sacred Heart in Rochelle Park and finally at Queen of Peace in Maywood.

Joe, further had the honor to officiate at the weddings of former Dumont High school students, and at weddings of three of his children as well as baptizing seven of his eight grandchildren and at the renewal of the marriage vows of his now deceased parents, Chansie and Nunzio Mantineo.

While leading pilgrimages for my his parishioners to the Holy Land, Italy and Ireland. Deacon Joe assisted at Mass in many wonderful, incredible and blessed places. For example in the Holy land he assisted at Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, and any of the wonderful places visited by Jesus from the small hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. to the Shepherds' Field Chapel in Bethlehem where angels first announced the birth of Christ.

In Italy, Joe assisted the Archbishop of Lanciano and read the Gospel in Italian at the Church of Lanciano, which has had for over twelve centuries the first and greatest Eucharistic Miracle of the Catholic Church and at the church of Our Lady of Grace in San Giovanni Rotondo in southern Italy where Saint Padre Pio was buried and where they saw his exhumed body.

Joe had the thrill of assisting at 7am mass in Saint Peter's Basilica's Blessed

Sacrament Chapel in Rome.

While in Ireland Joe assisted at Mass every day and the highlight was to assist at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Knock.

Another highlight in Joe's diaconal ministry occurred while he was an Associate Director to Deacon John J. McKenna, Director of Deacon Personnel. The event occurred on April 27, 2009 when our former Archbishop Most Reverend John J. Myers established the policy on Clerical attire for Permanent Deacons. This came about from a request by Deacon Joe and a survey he conducted for the Archbishop of all the dioceses, archdioceses and eparchies in the United States.

For a number of years Deacon Joe also served as an advocate for the the Metropolitan Tribunal of Newark.

Finally, Deacon Joe stated, that the greatest highlight for him is the humble feeling that overcomes him realizing that God called upon him to do all the wonderful things that we do as Deacons.

At Our Lady Queen of Peace, in addition to his regular diaconal duties of assisting at Mass, bringing Holy Communion to the sick and homebound, counseling, officiating at wakes, funerals, baptisms and weddings, Deacon Joe conducts RCIA, Bible Study, moderates the Bereavement Ministry, conducts the St. Padre Pio prayer service on the first Friday of each month and is the Chaplain of the Maywood Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Finally, receiving blessings, love and support from his wife, Misty and from his children Katie, Joseph, Lisa and Mary his children through marriage: Russ, Christine and Al and his beautiful grandchildren: Joshua, Zachary, Timothy, Arianna, Albert Joseph, Colin Joseph, Chansie Beatrice and Nunzio Joseph is a joy to behold, for sure.

## Deacons Wives & Widows Memorial



The Diaconate community mourns the death of two of its beloved wives:

Doreen Nilan, wife of the late Deacon Thomas Nilan, has gone to her eternal rest on April 14, 2020.

Anna DiMeo, loving wife of Deacon John DiMeo has entered eternal life on Easter Sunday, April 12 2020. Anna was a very much loved member of the diaconate wives group. A private burial will be held during this government executive order period and formal memorial services will take place, at later date, near Rutherford, NJ.

As a result of the Covid-19 executive order restriction the annual Deacons & Wives memorial mass, scheduled for April, has been canceled this year.

### Deacon Albert Tizano



Deacon Albert Tizano entered eternal life on April 13, 2020. Ordained in 1975

On Saturday, January 9th, St. Thomas the Apostle Church community celebrated at 5:00 PM, a Mass of Thanksgiving for Deacon Albert Tizano's 40th Anniversary as a Deacon. Al was ordained as Deacon in the 1st Diocese Deacon Ordination group at Sacred Heart Cathedral for

the Arch Diocese of Newark in December 1975.

Born to Clementine and Luca Tizzano, he was one of five children raised in a faith filled family. After completing his education, he worked in a family automotive business in Montclair and served in the Army during the Korean War. After his return, he met and married the love of his life, Mary, and settled in Bloomfield where they became parishioners at Saint Thomas. When the Arch Diocese started the program to ordain men as Deacons, with Mary's support and encouragement, he applied and was accepted and later ordained.

Over the last 40-years, Deacon Al has been involved in many church activities: training altar servers, teaching CCD, visiting the sick, bringing communion to shut-ins, Baptisms, Weddings and funerals. Most close to his heart was the blessing of animals in October near to the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. An assortment of animals from dogs, cats, birds to more exotic ones such as snakes, lizards, and fish arrived with owners for the annual event.

Deacon Al and Mary had a long and happy marriage for 50-plus years. He was a devoted husband seeing to her care and needs. This was especially so during her last years at Saint Vincent Nursing Home until her passing in May, 2011. He was there on a daily basis and continued to volunteer there one or two days a week. Deacon Al was always there for family and friends helping in any way he can to make one's life easier.

### Deacon Modesto Reyes

Deacon Modesto Reyes entered eternal life on February 21, 2020. Ordained in 1975 a deacon for 45 years Deacon Reyes was the first deacon ordained from St. Peter's parish in Jersey City which was established 189 years ago in 1831.