



Summer 2020 Issue

Class of 2020

Ordained & Assigned

Council of Deacons Executive Committee

Director of Selection & Formation
Rev. James Teti

Director of Deacon Personnel
John J. McKenna,

President Michael York
Vice-President Walter Wiggins
Associate Directors

Deacons Joseph Yandoli & James Tobin

Education: Deacon Andrew Saunders

Retreats: Deacon Andy Golden

Essex Emy Anyanwu
Walter Wiggins

Bergen Andy Golden
Andy Zucaro

Hudson Steve Lipski
Michael Missaggia

Union Michael York
David Farrell

Hispanic Community
Jorge Montalvo
Pedro Herrera

Publicity, DeacoNews Editor
Deacon Ed Campanella OFS

In Memorial of Our 2018-20 Departed

Edward McFadden
Jose Rodriguez
Frank McQuade
Richard Searls
Keith McKnight
Daniel Ravelo
Robert C. Millea
James Stumbar
John Baltus
Nicholas Fargo
John Inguaggiato
Albert Tizano

Clodualdo Leonida
Joseph Francione
Robert Puglisi
Pasquale Vuolo
Ramon Villeda
Richard G. Hodges
Willie Malarcher
Anthony Scalzo
Louis Acocella
Wilfrid Leconte
Modesto Reyes
Daniel O'Neil

Mary Stark
Erma Ventola
Barbara Pluta
Isabelle Romano
Kathy Pontillo

Judith Joyce
Joyce Bowen
Diane Aponte
Dorothy McFadden
Doreen McGarry

22 Newly Ordained Permanent Deacons



On Saturday, July 11, 2020 22 men of the Permanent Diaconate Class of 2020 were ordained by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin C.S.R. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey. Effective July 15, 2020.

Deacon Michael J. Alfano, assigned to Saint Michael the Archangel Parish, Union

Deacon Scott A. Califano, assigned to Saint Theresa Parish, Kenilworth

Deacon Victor M. Conversano, assigned to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Ridgefield Park

Deacon Arcadio A. Cordova, assigned to Saint Cecilia Parish, Kearny

Deacon Roberto Del Rios, assigned to Saint Michael Parish, Newark

Deacon Roberto Demetillo, assigned to Saint Cassian Parish, Upper Montclair

Deacon Matthew G. DeVoti, assigned to Notre Dame Parish, North Caldwell

Deacon Junelito Fuertes, assigned to Saint Anne Parish, Fair Lawn

Deacon Bernard J. Hayes, assigned to Annunciation Parish, Paramus

Deacon Hugh A. Keffer, assigned to Saint James the Apostle Parish, Springfield

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Deacon John Yeong Kim, assigned to Saint Andrew Kim Parish, Maplewood

Deacon Suk Chan Kim, assigned to Madonna Parish, Fort Lee

Deacon John La Duca, assigned to Saint Elizabeth Parish, Wyckoff

Deacon Carl R. Lordi, assigned to Saint Mary Parish, Nutley

Deacon Thomas Moore, assigned to Saint Philomena Parish, Livingston

Deacon Michael Pasquale, assigned to Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, Bloomfield

Deacon Krzysztof Pawlik, assigned to Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wallington

Deacon Raymond L. Schembri, assigned to Saint Mary Parish, Rutherford

Deacon Mark Inbo Shim, assigned to Saint Joseph Parish, Demarest

Deacon Edward J. Stoker, assigned to Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Park Ridge

Deacon Eugene J. Sullivan, Jr., assigned to Saint Philomena Parish, Livingston

Deacon Paul C. Zeller, assigned to Saint Andrew Parish, Westwood

Welcome and congratulation from the diaconate community

Deacon Spotlight Deacon Mike York



Michael Donald York was born on December 22, 1959, the youngest son of three of the late James and Helen York.

He grew up in Clark, NJ and attended St. John the Apostle Catholic School for grammar school, being taught by the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell. He faithfully served as an altar boy under the

leadership of the founding pastor of the parish, Msgr. Thomas Mulvaney.

After graduating St. John the Apostle in 1973, he attended Union Catholic Boys High School in Scotch Plains, NJ, graduating as class valedictorian in 1977. He distinctively remembers a conversation with Brother Michael Laratonda in the Senior year... asking if he ever thought about a vocation to the priesthood. At that time, his heart was set on studying engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ, in which he had been accepted in early admissions.

After being awarded the degree of Bachelor of Engineering from Stevens in May, 1981, he went on to work for IBM Corporation in Poughkeepsie, NY in their large computer systems division. He felt that working for IBM was the equivalent of playing for the NY Yankees. Beginning as a mechanical engineer working to support the manufacturing processes, about 7 years later, he would transfer to East Fishkill NY in the semiconductor division. While working at IBM and commuting to Stevens for graduate studies, he obtained a Master of Engineering (mechanical) degree from Stevens in 1986.

He became a first line manager of a combined engineering and maintenance organization at IBM East Fishkill in 1989. His accomplishments as a manager enabled him to advance to a second line management position at the IBM semiconductor facility in Burlington, VT in 1993. He would spend 8 years working for IBM in Vermont, still maintaining connections to NJ and St. John the Apostle Church. During that time, in 1996, St. John the Apostle Church was beginning Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, under the leadership of the pastor, Msgr. Richard McGuinness. At Mass, on the weekend when the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel sign-up was discussed during the homily, he felt a strong call to serve at 3 AM on Sunday

mornings as an adorer – because as was said, the sacrifice to serve in the middle of the night, produces great graces. Turns out, that shortly thereafter the time of Adoration expanded for him from 2 AM to 4 AM and his father would join him for about a total of ten years.

Also about the same time, he felt a potential call to the ministerial priesthood and sought the help of a local parish priest in Vermont in discernment. Also, about the same time, he started attending daily Mass on the way into work at St. Lawrence. He could not forget the life-sized statue of St. Lawrence in the vestibule of this church in Essex Junction VT.

He also became more involved in the life of the parish of St. John the Apostle Church, becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, invited by the pastor, Msgr. Richard McGuinness. Then in June 5, 1999, he attended the ordination of Deacon Ed Campanella, which had a profound impact on him. After the ordination, one of the parochial vicars of the parish, who was also attending, told him: “We have to get you up there, i.e. ordained a deacon.” At the time, not thinking much of it, but it turned out to be all part of the journey to the diaconate.

Then in the early part of 2001, when lecturing at a 7:30 AM Mass, the late Deacon George Ross asked him: “Did you ever think about being a deacon? The applications are due in two weeks!” and Msgr. McGuinness standing by, said: “Think about it.” Well, there wasn’t a lot to think about at that point and after discussing it with his father, he immediately knew to pursue this call. He entrusted his acceptance into formation and the formative years to Mary, the Mother of God, giving his “fiat”, knowing that she would lead him.

He entered formation in the Fall of 2001, under the leadership of the late Deacon Ed Porter, the formation director and the late Deacon Joe

Lubas, assistant formation director. He transferred to a closer IBM location in East Fishkill with the dual purpose of being able to take care of his aging father and to study for the permanent diaconate. His commitment to his father was to take care of him at home, no matter what and not allow him to have to go into a nursing home. This commitment became a diaconal ministry, which lasted 10 years, until his father's passing. While in formation, about half way through, he joined Deacon Ed Campanella in prison ministry under the leadership of Fr. Paul J. Nolan. Assisting Fr. Nolan several times a week in prison ministry provided a wealth of experience to learn how to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ... so when preaching practicum came up in the fourth year of formation, he already had a wealth of experience providing reflections to the least of the brother and sisters in Jesus Christ who were in jails and prisons. He would serve the Archdiocese of Newark in prison ministry for almost 15 years and for a period as co-director of prison ministry.

St. John the Apostle parish deacons, Deacon Ed Campanella and Deacon George Ross would be mentors throughout the formation years, in which he is most grateful for their mentorship. He was ordained on June 11, 2005 by Archbishop John J. Myers. The words of Archbishop Myers in the homily at his ordination stick in his mind every day: "Serve the people of God as you find them."

Immediately after ordination, Msgr. McGuinness would ask him to organize and provide the spiritual direction for the men's and women's Cornerstone retreats, which he did so for several years. When Msgr. McGuinness had taken ill, he took over the RCIA process as it's director in 2005 and continues in that role to this day. Additionally, he was an instructor for the Christian Foundations for Ministry, 3 year program at his parish.

Steeped in many diaconal ministries since his ordination, it was in the Fall of 2010, when Jesus Christ called him to an even deeper commitment of service. The pastor at that time, Fr. Robert McBride mentioned to him that the parish needed a Director of Religious Education. His heart knew to say yes to this call. After consultation with his father and trusted friends, he chose to leave a 30 year career at IBM and work full time for St. John the Apostle parish as the DRE and continue in his diaconal ministries. He clearly remembers the counsel of a good friend. "Remember, God is with you." He knew immediately that this life changing career decision was the right choice.

Serving as the Director of Religious Education for the past 10 years at St. John the Apostle has enabled him to apply his "engineering" thought process to the administration of the religious education program with about 600 children. Constantly improving systems, processes and methods and most recently, creating the world of virtual learning...makes in enjoyable, but most important of all, is being able to serve the families of the parish in the program.

In addition to the responsibilities of DRE and Director of RCIA, he serves as the clergy moderator for the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel at St. John the Apostle, trains lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, serves the parish as the Local Safe Environment Coordinator, facilitates Protecting God's Children and Keeping the Promise Alive sessions, is a Bereavement Group facilitator, provides for the recording of Mass during the pandemic, as well as the normal diaconal duties of preaching, presiding at Baptisms, weddings, wakes and committals. He is currently Treasurer of the Clark Knights of Columbus #5503. He currently represents the Union County deacons on the Deacon Council for the

Archdiocese of Newark and serves as President of the Council.

In addition to his ministries, for the last 35 years has been an avid cyclist, with a passion for hills. He completed The Longest Day, a 200 mile ride from northern NJ to Cape May and rode numerous centuries as well as the Rockies many times. He enjoys spending time with his dogs, with a current fifth generation of Labrador Retrievers. He gives gratitude to God for all His graces and looks forward to continuing to serve the people of God!

Deacon Daniel O'Neill



"Deacon Dan" born July 21, 1945 entered eternal life on August 11, 2020, age 75 of congestive heart failure at the Overlook

Medical Center in Summit, New Jersey. Deacon O'Neill was ordained for the Archdiocese of Newark on June 1, 2002 by Most Reverend John J. Myers.

He was a resident of Springfield for 40 years. Originally from Philadelphia, PA, Dan was the son of Henry Peter O'Neill, Sr. and Margaret Mary, (nee McAlee) O'Neill. He was married to Margaret "Peggy" (nee Reece) O'Neill August 6th, 1983 who preceded him in death on July 2nd, 2015. Dan was an avid skier in his younger years, skiing the slopes of Lake Tahoe to the mountains of Vermont. Along with Peggy, Dan traveled the world, adventuring to such places as the Galapagos Islands to the wilds of Alaska.

Recently Dan traveled to the Holy Land with a group of deacons from the Newark, New Jersey archdiocese. Dan dedicated himself with Peggy at his side to the St. James Roman Catholic Church in Springfield, NJ for his entire

time as Deacon. Known for his passionate, heartfelt oratory he was a beloved member of his faith community as well as a Knights of Columbus member and former Grand Knight. A man of many talents, Dan was a regular on the boards in his 30's and 40's at various community theatres in New Jersey – favorite roles included “Doc” in *West Side Story* and “Henry Higgins” in *My Fair Lady*. Shortly after receiving his BA from St. Charles Seminary in 1970, Dan became a member of the Astrup Corporation for nearly 30 years. Dan retired in 2012 to pursue his many interests with Peggy including ornithology, rarely missing the World Series of Birding with the New Jersey Audubon Society; he was an expert at identifying various species of birds and their songs. But his greatest passion along with Peggy was tending to the spiritual needs of his community and his immediate and extended family; never missing officiating at a birthday, baptism, first communion, or wedding for his eleven nieces and nephews and all of their children. Dan will always be remembered by them as “Uncle Danny” who was always there for them. Deacon Dan is survived by his sister Margaret Mary O’Neill/Schorpp, and her husband, Charles B. Schorpp of Flourtown, PA, retired United States Secret Service Officer Henry O’Neill, Jr. of Glen Burnie, MD, Thomas O’Neill, EdD, and his wife Silvana Vasconcelos of Astoria Park, NY and Alice Loveless/O’Neill, LCSW of Ambler, PA.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. James the Apostle Church, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081 on Monday, August 17, at 11:30 a.m. Viewing was held in the church from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., prior to the Funeral Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to <https://www.westcatholic.org/give>, Dan’s alma mater, class of 1963.

Dan’s faith was boundless and he continues to touch our lives.

Deacons Wives & Widows Memorial



Kathy Pontillo, beloved wife of Deacon Bob Pontillo entered eternal life on Wednesday June 3, 2020. She was a compassionate and generous person who reached out to the sick with flowers and homemade soups, all while trying to stay anonymous.

Condolences are extended to Deacon Richard McGarry and family as his beloved wife Doreen McGarry has entered eternal rest on Saturday, August 10, 2020.

Holy Family Farm

Since November of 2019, Deacon Andy Zucaro has been working with Holy Family Farm – a new non-profit organization whose mission is to help “*form men for a greater future*”. Deacon Andy recognizes the importance of directing the many men from 18 -30 years of age who may not have a good role model in their life. Many young men seem to struggle, questioning their purpose and future in life.



In this “Farmation” model, men will spend their day working in a simple, prayerful life style. They will learn the importance of a job well done. They will learn to cook, clean and work together – not forgetting to be grateful

and thankful. Mass and prayer are a part of their daily life. The men will appreciate the beauty of nature while farming, using regenerative practices to raise organic livestock and produce. They might also make products which would help to sustain the farm. Community involvement is another aspect of the Farm. Men would learn as they help their neighbors. The program of prayer, manual work, and learning forms young men in the Christian life and develops a deep awareness of their God-given identity and purpose. The Farm hopes to inspire men to be good fathers who will raise faithful children, future leaders who will make a difference in their communities, and maybe even priests or a bishop who will influence the lives of many for generations.

Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR, is the Chaplain and one of the founders of Holy Family Farm. He is involved with this lay initiative.

Holy Family Farm is a 501c3 non-profit organization that is currently looking to purchase a farm in the Pennsylvania area, not more than 2 hours from New York. An ideal property would have a farmhouse and perhaps even a barn or the space to build a barn. Sufficient acreage would be necessary for animals to graze and crops to be planted.

Currently the Board of Holy Family Farm is seeking donors so they can purchase a property. They are looking for 20 possible donors who can provide \$50,000 each or 5,000 people who can donate \$200 each. Their goal is to raise one million dollars, purchase a property, and celebrate their first Mass on December 29th – the Feast of the Holy Family. May the Holy Spirit guide the Holy Farm to help form men for a greater future.

For more information, please visit the website: www.holyfamilyfarm.org or call 1-833-JMJ -FARM (1-833-565-3276). Deacon Andy can be reached at 201-615-9353 for additional information. Your prayers

and support are appreciated as we endeavor to make a difference in the lives of many for generations to come.