



Spring 2021 Issue

The Diaconate After Covid

Praise the Lord Jesus Christ
He is risen, risen indeed.



After almost a full year of lockdown and isolation, staying clear of potential infection from Covid-19, curtailed ministries are finally resuming after extensive virtual implementation, many of which will continue, hopefully increasing participation, in furthering spiritual growth through Zoom, YouTube and parish web sites. These twenty first century technological innovations, implemented during the times of isolation, will certainly continue as an adjunct to “in-person” mass, weddings, baptisms, confirmation, funerals, committals, bible studies and seminars.

Evidenced of this was the recent concelebration on the Third Sunday of Easter at St John the Apostle in Linden/Clark led by His Eminence Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin C.Ss.R, Rev. Mauro Primavera, Rev. William Halbing, Rev. Alex Pinto, Deacon Michael York and Rev. Jason Makarow (MC). In addition to the maximum allowable attendance at mass, plus many live on-line observers on YouTube and St. John’s parish website, it was a joy to behold for sure.

Optimistically, the additional on-line observances added to a revitalized, ultimately unrestricted, attendance will continue to grow.

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Office of the Permanent Diaconate

DeaconNews

Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey

Spotlight Deacon Albert Ganter



Deacon Al Ganter was born in Jersey City and grew up in Hoboken.

He attended Our Lady of Grace

Grammar School and Church, where he was an altar boy (as we were called back in the day)! He attended Hoboken High School. After graduation, he started working as a Page on the Trading Floor of The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). While working at the NYSE, he attended Saint Peter's College in the evening where he received his BS in Business Management.

After earning his degree, he was transferred to Human Resources where he worked for the next 25 years in various Human Resources positions. He left the NYSE as the Director of Employee Benefits to take the position of Vice President of Human Resources at The National Securities Clearing Corporation (NSCC). He also held other Human Resources positions at NUI (formally The Elizabethtown Gas Company) and AIG.

He married his high school sweetheart, Kerry. They will be celebrating their 49th anniversary this August. Al and Kerry have two grown sons.

While living his busy life working and raising a family, becoming a deacon was never in his thought process, until one day his pastor, Msgr. Philip Morris, asked him to think about entering the program. He looked around thinking Msgr. Phil must be speaking to someone else. He didn't feel worthy of such a blessing. After much discernment he decided to give it a try and entered the Diaconate Program.

Just around the time his diaconate studies started, 9/11 happened. At that time, he was working for NUI in Union NJ. Many of the employees were trying to make sense of this tragedy. They would stop by his office, knowing that he was studying to be a deacon to chat with him. Being able to help and console his coworkers further enhanced his decision to continue with the Diaconate Program.

Deacon Al was ordained on June 11, 2005 by Archbishop John Joseph Meyers with 35 of his diaconate brothers. He is currently serving at Saint John the Baptist Parish in Hillsdale.

Over the years he has been involved with the RCIA Program, Confirmation Program, Liturgy Committee, Men's Cornerstone, Pastoral Counsel, Monthly Holy Hour of Adoration and many other parish functions and ministries. Deacon Al was also the Spiritual Advisor to St. John's Holy Name Society, until its disbandment a few years ago.

He is involved in the Good Shepherd Ministry with his wife. They along with other parishioners cook and deliver a meal once a month to the residences of Harrison House in Paramus. It is a home for those living with HIV/AIDS.

Deacon Al helped coordinate his class's 10th anniversary celebration of ordination as well as hopefully their Sweet 16th celebration, since the 15th celebration was cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus.

During our Rite of Ordination as we were handed the Book of the Gospels, we heard the words "believe what you read, teach what you believe, practice what you teach". Those words are never far away from my heart.

"May the Lord give me the guidance to serve all of God's children with humility, compassion, understanding and love" Deacon Albert Ganter

Pope Francis on "The Way of a Pilgrim and Other Classic Russian Spirituality"

Edited by G.P. Fedotov
(submitted by Deacon Tim Kennedy)

Speaking at his general audience on April 21, the pope said that everyone could benefit from reading "The Way of a Pilgrim," the story of an unnamed pilgrim who travels across Russia seeking to discover the secret of constant prayer.

He said: "We all have something to learn from the perseverance of the Russian pilgrim, mentioned in a famous work on spirituality, who learned the art of prayer by repeating the same invocation over and over again: 'Jesus Christ, Son of God, Lord, have mercy on us, sinners!' He repeated only this..."

"If graces arrive in our life, if prayer becomes so warm one day that the presence of the Kingdom were perceived here among us, if that vision could be transformed until it became like that of a child, it would be because we have insisted on reciting a simple Christian exclamation. In the end, it becomes part of our breathing."

He added: "It is beautiful, the story of the Russian pilgrim: it is a book that is accessible to all. I recommend you read it; it will help you to understand what vocal prayer is."

Just Released

"A Deacon Prays: Prayers and Devotions for Liturgy and Life" by Greg Kandra, Forward by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano.

Greg Kandra's "A Deacon Prays"—the essential prayer book for Catholic deacons—is a practical, daily companion that speaks to deacons as no other book has because it comes from

Kandra, creator of The Deacon's Bench blog and one of the most popular voices and enthusiastic advocates of the diaconate in the Church today.

Kandra left a successful career as a television news writer and producer to become a Catholic deacon after the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center. Covering the devastating story set Kandra on a spiritual quest that led to his ordination in 2007. He serves a parish in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

In *A Deacon Prays*, Kandra has written prayers to greatly strengthen a deacon's spiritual life and richly enhance his ministry.

There are prayers for:

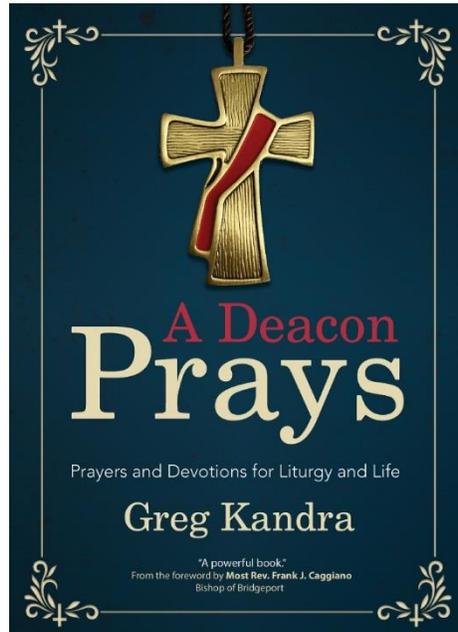
1. Daily life and seasons
2. Service in particular ministries
3. Patron saints
4. Devotion tailored for deacons
5. Petition and intercession
6. Marking special times in the life of a deacon.

This is an indispensable addition to any deacon's prayer corner, briefcase, or glove compartment, and will be a popular gift for ordinations, birthdays, holidays, and other special occasions in the life of a Catholic deacon.

With about 20,000 deacons serving the Catholic Church in the United States, the permanent diaconate is its fastest-growing vocation. Deacons serve in parishes, dioceses, schools, health care, social service agencies, and many more ministries throughout the Church.

"This wonderful collection of short prayers and devotions is just what the busy deacon needs. It is a trove of wisdom, insight, and humility written in an elegant, clear style that captures the very essence of prayer. Greg Kandra has created here a small library of spiritual nourishment, and we offer a prayer of thanks for his work." William T. Ditewig Former executive director Secretariat for the Diaconate, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Available on Amazon
Start reading it for free:
<https://a.co/bSupKDa>



Deacon Julio Roig



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Deacon Julio Roig, age 91, a long-time resident of Belleville, New Jersey on April 6, 2021. He was born on June 7, 1929 in Aibonito, Puerto Rico and he was the youngest of six children.

Julio traveled to New Jersey in 1949 to work on a farm and later worked at General Motors until he landed a job at American Airlines. He was employed by American Airlines as a Ground Serviceman and Fueler for 33 years until he retired. He met and then married the love of his life, Maximina Roig (NEE) Diaz on August 22, 1953. Julio was ordained as a Deacon on May 10, 1998 for the Archdiocese of Newark and served at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church and its community for 23 years. He enjoyed

serving the Lord and spending time with his loving family.

Julio was a Mets fan, loved fishing, music and playing his guitar. He also had a great sense of humor, was a jokester with an amazing wit. Julio had lots of fun with his grandchildren while making wonderful memories and spending time with family.

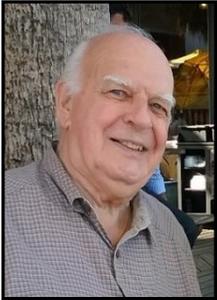
Julio is predeceased by his parents, Bernardina Roig (NEE) Torres and Natividad Roig, his siblings, Gumersindo, Gilberto, Virginia, Ana, and is survived by his loving wife of 67 years Maximina and his seven loving children. Yvette Roig-Bralczyk, her husband Kenneth, her son Jose Torres and his son Jaden, her daughter Jena Fernandez, her fiance Braulio Asenjo, their son Austin. Ana Patricia Martinez, her husband Henry, their daughter Alicia and her daughter Leila, their daughter Kimberly. Their son Julio Jr., his wife Yvette Dupre Roig, his daughter Larisa Roig, her fiance Ralph Rodriguez, their son Ralph Jr., his son Julio Michael. Their daughter Socorro Rosa, her husband David, their daughter Emily and their son Ethan. Their daughter Maria Kane, her husband Thomas, their sons Brandon and Tyler. Their son Francisco, his wife Juana, their son Francisco Jr. and their daughter Melina. Their son Antonio Roig, his wife Antonia, their son Marco and their daughter Giulia. Julio is also survived by one brother Luis Roig, many nieces and nephews and friends. Julio was loved by all who knew him and will be truly missed. His wisdom, patience and guidance helped countless people over his lifetime.

The visitation was held at St. Peter's Church, Belleville, New Jersey on Friday, April 9, 2021 from 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. A funeral mass was celebrated Saturday, April 10, 2021 at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church at 10 a.m. followed by committal at Holy Cross Cemetery Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the memory of Deacon Julio Roig to the Pastor's Tuition Assistance

Fund at St. Peter's School payable to:
St. Peter's Church, 155 William St,
Belleville, NJ 07109

Deacon Vincent Joseph Accardi



Vincent Joseph Accardi, 86, of Melbourne, Florida, passed away peacefully at home on February 10, 2021. He is survived by his loving wife Sheila, his sons and their spouses, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

After his proud service in the United States Air Force, Vince spent the following years doing cancer research and studying in Virginia, New Hampshire, Nova Scotia and Barcelona, Spain. The family settled down for his career in New Jersey where he was ordained a Permanent Deacon for the Archdiocese of Newark in 1999. His ministry was at Assumption Church in Roselle Park, NJ and Saint Mary's in Elizabeth NJ..

He retired to Florida in 2003, where he continued his ministry at Holy Name of Jesus, in Indialantic and then Our Lady of Lourdes in Melbourne. He was active with the Knights of Columbus. He enjoyed traveling worldwide and spending time with his family.

A funeral Mass was held at Saint John the Evangelist in Viera on Thursday, February 18, 2021, followed by interment at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Scottsmeer, FL. To make the celebration available in these difficult times see: https://youtu.be/y6fk_beBrmQ.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Justin Accardi Foundation for the Arts, www.justinaccardi.org/donate, a charity dedicated to giving Cinematic

Arts Scholarships. See Beckman-williamson.com for obituary details

Deacon Frank Andrew Gisoldi



Deacon Frank Andrew Gisoldi loving husband, brother and uncle; minister who "embraced and welcomed each calling";

enjoyed the holidays, especially calling"; Deacon Frank Andrew Gisoldi, 77, of Pocono Pines, Pa., entered eternal life Saturday, January 30, 2021. He was the loving husband of Antoinette (Giordano), with whom he shared 41 years of marriage. Born in Summit, N.J., he was the son of late Frank and Erisilia Gisoldi who was raised in Chatham, resided in Summit, and retired to Pocono Pines, Pa. As a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University Madison BA and Seton Hall University M.Ed, he pursued a career in sales, his company, Creative Media Production, and teacher of History, English, and Photography. The most holy and touching day was Frank's Permanent Diaconate Ordination on May 16, 1992. His ordained church ministry of the Catholic Church began at Sacred Heart Church, Vailsburg Newark, N.J., continued at Saint Teresa Avila Church, Summit, and then at Our Lady of the Lake/Saint Maximilian Kolbe Church, Pocono Pines, Pa. As Christ's servant, he embraced and welcomed each calling...Food pantry, hospital, altar servers, RCIA, religious education, Knights of Columbus, bereavement facilitator... Besides his wife, he is survived by his sister, Angela Pariso; his niece, Teresa Tighe and her husband, Patrick, and grandnephew, Owen; his "brother" Louis Giordano and his wife, Peggy, and nieces and nephews, Joseph and his wife, Jihyan Giordano, and grandnephews, Jonah, and Nicholas;

Michael Giordano and his wife, Malisa, and grandniece, Ruth; Christine Coyle and her husband, Andrew, and grandnieces, Grace and Meghan; Anne Cintolo, her husband, John, and grandniece, Jacqueline, and twin grandnephews, Charles and Colin. His sisters, Pauline Mazza and Elvira Gisoldi, predeceased him. Frank's joy was celebrating and decorating for each holy day and holiday. His favorite ~ Christmas. For Frank, Christmas was from Thanksgiving to end of the Christmas season, February 2...even later. Every day, now, Frank will be spending Christmas with Jesus. Reverend Father Sean Carpenter will celebrate a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Friday, February 5, at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 5112 Pocono Crest Road, Pocono Pines, Pa. The Rite of Committal will be at Saint Teresa of Avila Cemetery, Summit, N.J., at Reverend Thomas F. Blind will preside.

Deacons Wives & Widows Memorial



Elease Huff of Union County, NC entered eternal life on Friday, February 19, 2021. Elease was beloved by those who knew her. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Deacon Sidney Huff,

Rosary Scacciaferro Gilheany, the widow of Deacon Thomas J. Gilheany, entered eternal life on Sunday March 14, 2021 and was a resident of Cedar Crest Village in Pompton Plains, N.J.