

Community Communications

July-August 2003

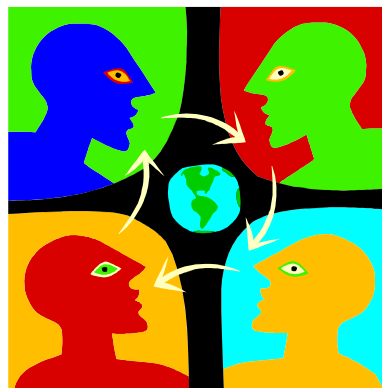


A communication tool for the Deacon community of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing

CONVERSATIONS IN MINISTRY

What is the role of theologians, our bishops and the Pope when it comes to church teaching? Recent dialogues give evidence that for some Catholics there is a lack of clarity regarding church teaching, or regarding the nature of assent to be given to teachings.

On Saturday, August 16, 2003, 8:30 am - 2:45 pm in Madonna Hall, the Department of formation is offering a Conversations In Ministry to address: What is the role of the Theologians and the Magisterium? The event is directed to all who have taken theology classes in our diocese or are presently enrolled in such courses, all who have taught in our Ministry Formation Program, and diocesan seminarians. Priests, deacons and ecclesial lay ministers are also invited. Bishop Mengeling and Msgr. Lunsford will be the main presenters, with an opportunity for dialogue in the afternoon. Registration forms have been mailed to all prospective participants but an additional copy can be obtained from Arlene at 517-342-2510 or awoelf@dioceseoflansing.org.



Chaplain Position — Catholic Social Services of Lansing/St. Vincent Home

Catholic Social Services of Lansing/St. Vincent Home is seeking a quarter time (1/4) CHAPLAIN who is CPE certified or working towards certification by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains or the Association of Pastoral Counselors. A person of the Catholic faith is sought for this position, which will plan and coordinate an organization-wide ecumenical Spiritual Care program. Organization-wide implementation will begin in the first project year with services to the children of St. Vincent Home, a residential treatment facility providing therapeutic services to children. Contact Cheryl Williams-Hecksel, ACSW, Vice President, Planning and Organizational Development at 517-272-1524, ext. 106 for more information.



MINISTERING TO YOUTH AT RISK

Recently, Gene Hausmann was elected President of the National Chaplains Association for Youth at Risk (NCAYR). As President, Gene has initiated a publication, NCAYR Digest. This one-of-a-kind quarterly journal for ministers to troubled youth is excellent. Contact Gene at 517-423-7451, ext 574 or Ghausman@hccsnet.org for a copy.

Gene is Director of Pastoral Services for Holy Cross Childrens Services, formerly known as Boysville. They serve over 1,000 delinquent and abused children at nearly 30 locations throughout Michigan. Gene recently presented "The Contributions of Spiritual and Religious Research to the Science and the Practice of Medicine" at a MAYO Clinic conference.

Also, the Michigan Chapter of NCAYR is hosting their 55th annual conference September 29- October 2, at St. John's Retreat Center in Plymouth. This conference is entitled "The Roles of the Chaplain and the Church in the Reconciliation of Victims, Offenders and God." Andy Tardif has been a key consultant for the conference and is one of the workshop presenters. Registration forms are available from Gene or the Office of Deacons. This looks to be an outstanding conference that can be attended for a day or for the entire conference.

Gene notes that Ron Rowe has been working with the girls' program at Mt. Morris. Any deacons who might consider working with delinquent, abused and fatherless children should become a member of NCAYR and join them for the conference this Fall.



Subject: The rope

There were 11 people hanging onto a rope that came down from a helicopter.

Ten were men and one was a woman.

Because of the weight on the rope, they all decided that one person should let go. Failure to do so would result in them all dying. No one could decide who should go.

Finally, the woman gave a really touching speech saying how she would give up her life to save the others, because women were used to giving up things for their husbands and children, giving in to men, and not receiving anything in return.

When she finished speaking, all the men started clapping.

Never underestimate the power of a woman.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN PROGRAM

The Diocese of Lansing recently selected the VIRTUS program to assist us in our ministry to create safe environments for our children. This program teaches staff, volunteers, and parents to recognize the warning signs of sexual abuse and to respond appropriately. The session will show participants how offenders commit abuse and provides five easy steps to help prevent child sexual abuse.

The first session will be for priests, deacons, pastoral coordinators and principals Wednesday, August 13, 2003, at Lansing Catholic Central High School, 501 North Marshall St. just off East Saginaw St., from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. You may register by calling Sally Ellis at 517-342-2551 or sellis@dioceseoflansing.org.



IN MEMORIAM

Dick Soucy - Good and Faithful Servant

by Bill Sirl

I first became acquainted with Dick Soucy in February, 2000 when I received a letter from him requesting deacon faculties in the Lansing Diocese. Dick had been ordained a deacon in May of 1975 for the Archdiocese of Detroit. By his own admission, he had been inactive due to the demands of his job for a number of years. He had recently retired as Maintenance Supervisor of Oakland University and was living in Columbiaville, attending St. Francis in Otisville. With the encouragement of Fr. Eoin Murphy, then pastor of St. Francis, Dick was interested in getting back into active diaconal ministry. I must admit I had my doubts, but worked with Dick on obtaining permission from the Archdiocese for Dick to minister in our diocese. Well, it was like Dick had received a new life. He

really became involved with St. Francis Parish, visiting the sick and shut ins and helping in many ways at the parish. And he participated in the Cluster meetings and attended Deacons Convocations and numerous on going formation sessions. These past three years, Dick seemed like a recently ordained deacon. He found renewed zeal in his ministry and appeared to have found fulfillment. His love of God and God's people was readily apparent.

Dick and Pat have a small farm outside Columbiaville and he enjoyed caring for their animals and working it almost as much as his ministry. In fact, he was out in the barn with Pat (two of the things he loved most) when he had his quite sudden heart attack. He died peacefully at the age of 65. Dick and Pat were married 43 years and had three grown children, all married, and eight grandchildren.



Project Rachel

In the April, 2003 issue of *Community Communications*, Wilson Perkowski, director of Project Rachel for the Lansing Diocese, introduced herself. Project Rachel is a healing, listening ministry for anyone affected by an abortion experience. It operates with a network of counselors and priests who help with the more profound feelings and issues which come from abortion.

However, most people are unfamiliar with Project Rachel. Wilson would like to see Project Rachel become a parish resource. This is where the deacon community comes in. We can be a conduit for those in need of the services of Project Rachel. Oftentimes, people in need are more comfortable approaching a deacon or wife to initially discuss such concerns.

To that end, Wilson has offered to conduct a Saturday session, November 15, for the deacons and wives of our diocese on Project Rachel. This session would feature the who, how, etc. of serving those in need of these services, utilizing a very pastoral approach. Also, a case study featuring Project Rachel will be presented. Look for a special Project Rachel information brochure in the mail in August to register for this very worthwhile program.

John Patrick Garber

Deacon John Patrick Garber, 79, of Sun Lakes Arizona, passed away June 10, 2003. Military service: Army Medical Unit WW II. Rosary 8pm Thursday, June 12th, St. Mary's Catholic Church, 230 W. Galveston St., Chandler Az. Services 10am, Friday, June 13th at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 230 W. Galveston St., Chandler Az. Arrangements by Bueler Mortuary.

Published in the Arizona Republic on 6/11/2003.

IN MEMORIAM

Pat Garber - Mentor and Model

by Bill Sirl



Pat and Betty Garber entered our lives in 1977. Our pastor asked us to start an "Evenings For Parents" program at our parish and the Garbers were the area coordinators for couples from several Flint parishes attending the training session in Windsor, Ontario. Something special clicked that day and our lives were changed forever. Pat and Betty celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and Pat's 25th anniversary as a deacon in 1999. They were unable to have children but over the years opened their hearts to many, many people, including our family. It has been said that "family you have but friends you choose." In our case we felt fortunate to have chosen and been chosen as both friends and family to Pat and Betty. They were largely responsible for me becoming a deacon. He never tried to "recruit" me but the example of his life and ministry lead me to the diaconate.

Pat was ordained in 1974 and assigned to St. Leo Parish, Flint where he served for 19 years. One of the first deacons of our diocese, Pat traveled from Flint to Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit two nights a week for three years for his formation. Talk about perseverance. In 1994 he was assigned to St. Mary Parish, Morrice, until the move to Phoenix. The past eight years or so they lived in Phoenix, Arizona. Very much a "marketplace minister," Pat had the unusual distinction of retiring three times. First, he retired from General Motors after 31 years with Fisher Body. Then he retired after ten years as a hospital chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital in Flint. And, finally, he retired as a deacon in the Phoenix Diocese upon reaching their mandatory retirement age of 75. But even then Pat stayed active as a deacon at St. Mary's Parish in Chandler where he assisted at Sunday Liturgy regularly, conducted rosary services, funeral and committal services, home blessings (very popular in Phoenix), hospital visits and communion calls, occasional baptisms and preached when requested by the pastor.

Pat battled various cancers for at least the past 12 years but never complained and went right on ministering to others. We visited with them in February and you could see the pain in his face, but he dismissed it as a sore back. Pat was the epitome of the suffering servant, always at service to others and never complaining about his own pain.

Prayers from the Heart

When I was in the hospital recently for a 'revision' (i.e., replacement of a replacement) of my left knee, I was blessed to have as a roommate Howard, an 89-year-old deacon in a Toledo Presbyterian Church. One evening he said his evening prayers quite loudly. Celeste and I were on the other side of the curtain, and she jotted down some of his thoughts.

"Jesus, I know where I've been but you know where I am going."

"Jesus stop by tonight and give me a refill."

"Jesus, give me your heart. Create in me a clean heart. Renew my spirit. Search my mind and my heart."

"Give me a deeper depth with you. I want to be with you when you come."

"Jesus stop by tonight and give me a closer walk with you."

To pray with that sincerity and that faith is a goal I constantly strive for.

Stan Kukla

2003 CALENDAR

August 16	Role of Magisterium and Theologians - 6 hrs Conversations on Ministry Bishop Mengeling, Msgr. Lunsford, Rev. Pung - Diocesan Center
September 26/27	Church History - Church Today as Viewed from Our Total History - 3 hrs Rev. Ted Ross, S.J. - St. Agnes, Fowlerville
October 10-12	Deacon Convocation - 3 hrs Dcn. Bill & Diann Ditewig - Crystal Mountain
October 22	Lay Ecclesial Ministers Convocation
November 15	Lay Ecclesial Ministers Commissioning St. Mary Cathedral Project Rachel tbd
November 22	Transitional Deacon Ordination St. Mary Cathedral

2003 Deacon Community Directory

It's time again to update the information in the Deacon Directory for distribution at the Fall Convocation. The Office has tried to keep up with changes as they come through, but sometimes we don't hear about new addresses, phone numbers or email addresses. Please check your copy of the Directory and let us know of any corrections so they can be included in the next Directory.

Special Thanks

Many thanks to the deacon community for all the prayers last year. Thanks in part to them, I'm still able to do 50 push-ups with this half century old carcass.
Gary Asby

A Glossary of Catholic Terms

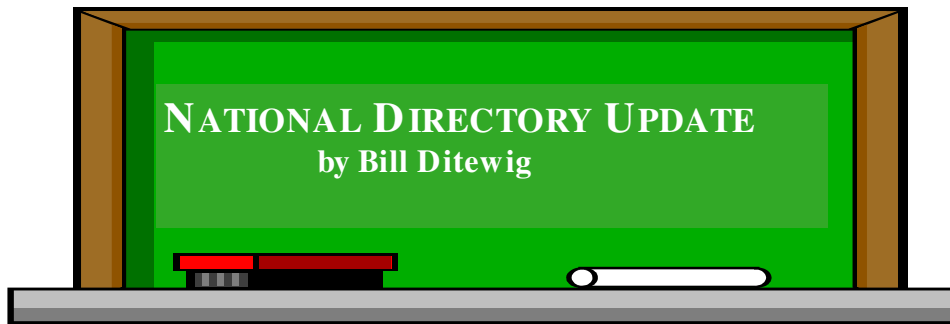
Amen: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

Choir: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

Pew: A medieval torture device still found in Catholic churches.

Procession: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of Mass, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant and late parishioners looking for a seat.

Recessional: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of Mass, led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.



The "National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States" passed resoundingly: 235 yea, 2 nay, with 3 abstentions. I have just finished some final edits and the document is being prepared as I write this (July 11) for transmission to the Holy See. It will be sent next week. Although life in Rome during the Summer is always at a more relaxed pace (!), we still anticipate a relatively quick approval, since the revisions made to the document reflect the observations and recommendations previously made by the Congregations for Catholic Education (formation), Clergy (ministry and life) and Doctrine of the Faith (overall doctrinal content).

Once we receive the final "recognitio," the document will be finalized for publication, and will be available in print form and on the web. We will also be releasing supplemental documents to aid in the implementation of the document.

Deacons Focus of Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation

John Cameron found an interesting article on the USCCB web site June 26 regarding recent discussions at the annual meeting of the Oriental Orthodox-Roman Catholic Consultation, June 9-10. This group has been meeting annually since 1978. The main topic of discussion this year was the diaconate in theology and practice for the various churches represented. To review this article go to www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2003/03-133.htm. If that doesn't work, call the Office of Deacons at 517-342-2451 for a hard copy of the four page summary.

On The Lighter Side

Several men are in the locker room of a golf club. A cell phone on a bench rings and a man engages the hands-free speaker function and begins to talk.

MAN: "Hello"

WOMAN: "Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?"

MAN: "Yes"

WOMAN: "I am at the mall now and found this beautiful leather coat. It's only \$1,000. Is it OK if I buy it?"

MAN: "Sure, ...go ahead if you like it that much."

WOMAN: "I also stopped by the Mercedes dealership and saw the new 2003 models. I saw one I really liked."

MAN: "How much?"

WOMAN: "\$60,000"

MAN: "OK, but for that price I want it with all the options."

WOMAN: "Great! Oh, and one more thing....the house we wanted last year is back on the market. They're asking \$950,000."

MAN: "Well, then go ahead and give them an offer, but just offer \$900,000."

WOMAN: "OK. I'll see you later! I love you!"

MAN: "Bye, I love you, too."

The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are looking at him in astonishment. Then he asks: "Anyone know who this phone belongs to?"

COMMUNITY PRAYER LINE

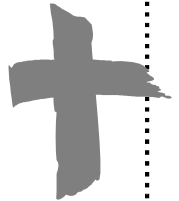
For the sick:

Most Rev. Kenneth Povish
Elizabeth Alfano
Judy Barrett
Jack Daunt
Gordy and Caren Kilburn
Virginia LaChance
 Mother of Deacon John Hubbarth
John Mageean
 Father of Nuala Holowicki
Jill Rutherford
 Daughter of Jim Mathias

For those who have died:

Deacon (John) Patrick Garber
Deacon Richard Soucy
Ron Rowe, Jr.

NECROLOGY



July

14 Deacon Edward Fournier 1989

August

1 Kathleen Weitzel 1987

CANDIDATE FORMATION SECOND YEAR

August 16, 2003 Diocesan Center
 Conversations On Ministry "Role of Magisterium and
 Theologians"
 Bishop Mengeling, Msgr. Lunsford

August 27, 2003 St. Mary Cathedral
 Institution to Reader

September 6, 2003 St. John - Fenton
 Homilies

September 26/ 27, 2003 St. Agnes - Fowlerville
 "Seeing Our Times in Light of the Total History of Our
 Church"
 Rev. Ted Ross, S.J.

October 4, 2003 St. Casimir - Lansing
 Homilies

October 10-12, 2003 Crystal Mountain
 Deacon Community Convocation
 Deacon William and Diann Ditewig

November 1, 2003 Holy Trinity - Ypsilanti
 Other Religions
 Rev. Phil Gallagher

December 6, 2003 St. Casimir - Lansing
 Canon Law I
 Msgr. Raymond Goehring, J.C.L. Eileen Jaramillo,
 J.C.L.

January 10, 2004 St. Mary - Charlotte
 Canon Law II
 Msgr. Raymond Goehring, J.C.L. Eileen Jaramillo,
 J.C.L.

February 7, 2004 St. Thomas - East Lansing
 Canon Law III
 Msgr. Raymond Goehring, J.C.L. Eileen Jaramillo,
 J.C.L.

February 27, 2004
 Theology and Spirituality
 Rev. Robert Barron

March 6, 2004 St. Francis - Ann Arbor
 Homilies

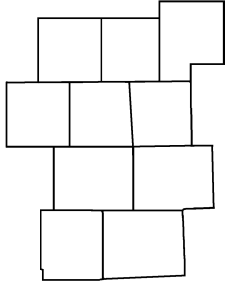
March 20, 2004 St. Francis Retreat Center
 Deacon Community Lenten Day of Prayer and Re-
 flection
 Rev. Tom McDevitt

April 3, 2004 St. Joseph - Dexter
 Homilies

May 1, 2004 St. Mary - Westphalia
 Homilies



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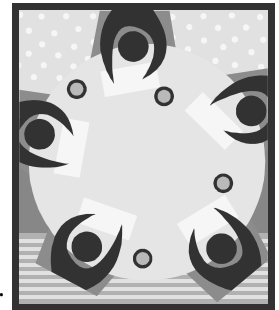
CLUSTER MEETINGS

The **Genesee/Owosso Cluster** will have a picnic on Monday, **August 11**, at 6:00 p. m., at Holy Redeemer. Contact Jim Corder or Nancy Lake.

The **Jackson/Lenawee/Hillsdale Cluster** meets for dinner, prayer, discussion and fellowship soon after Deacon Advisory Council. Contact Mary Lou and Joe Kratofil for time and place.

The **Livingston Cluster** will meet Saturday, **September 20**, at St. Agnes, beginning at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast, prayer, discussion and fellowship. Call Pete Gauditis or Dave Piggott for more information.

The **Washtenaw Cluster** will be picnic-ing on Sunday, July 27th at 5:00 PM at St. Mary in Chelsea. Contact Tom Franklin for additional information.



What it is a Deacon? A Newly-Ordained Deacon finds out — maybe!

On a recent trip, Frank Papp ‘suffered’ his first post-ordination identity crisis. Frank and his wife, Barbara, stopped at a convenience store along the route to stretch, relax, and pick up a few snacks. As Frank tells it: “I was wearing a white shirt with my deacon pin on the collar. As we were leaving the store, a man looked very intently at the pin. His question came as quite a surprise. ‘Excuse me, but are you a rabbi?’” Can you help Frank with an answer? How about, “No, but my Master is.”