

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

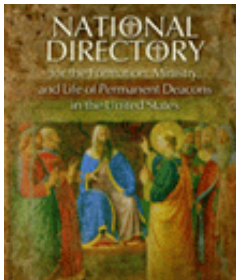
July/August 2005



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

National Directory

By Bill Sirl



Recently, Bishop Mengeling provided copies of the USCCB's new *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*, to all the deacons of the diocese. It is an excellent document and sets the standard for diocesan diaconate programs in the U.S. Every deacon should become familiar with its contents. It provides not only what is required of formation and life and ministry for deacons but it explains the rationale behind it. There are one-hundred-forty pages of primary content, two informative appendices and a couple of secondary documents. It is not a book one sits down and easily reads from cover to cover but is a handy reference guide that incorporates a comprehensive index to make locating specific information easy. A good overview can be achieved by reading the fifteen page Self-Study Instrument on page 204. This section covers the major requirements and cross references information with the main body of work for further details.

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A Reflection on Orthodoxy

By Marv Robertson

In recent chit-chat with a couple of brother clerics, an interesting issue was posed: *Can a Christian minister be too orthodox in belief or practice?* If orthodoxy is perverted into a rigid self-righteousness or clerical elitism, the answer is obviously yes. However, I would submit that *orthodoxy*, as commonly defined and understood, is something that we should all commit to and strive for.

Orthodox *adj.* 2. Adhering to the accepted or traditional and established faith, especially in religion. [American Heritage Dictionary]

As I compose this on my keyboard, the phone rings, and I negotiate with a court administrator to pull my black robe out of mothballs to serve as a visiting judge. All judges, and indeed many public officials, are required to take an oath of office to be faithful to our laws and Constitution. By analogy, it should not seem unreasonable for the clergy to promise to be faithful to the Faith.

(See *Orthodoxy* on page 6)

Newsletter on-line at: <http://parishesonline.com/CommunityCommunications>

Lansing Deacons on-line at: <http://parishesonline.com/LansingDeacons>

What is Zenit?

Frequently news items and other material from the ZENIT News Service appear in *Community Communications*. So what is it and why is it called Zenit?

ZENIT is an independent, international, non-profit news agency committed to the dissemination of the Catholic Church's message, especially the wealth of its Social Teaching, as a guide in addressing the issues of our time. The agency realizes that this wealth is often under-reported or simply distorted in the world's media.

ZENIT endeavors to present this message without filters or editorial commentary in the major languages on the Internet. Their aim is to report professionally and objectively on "the world seen from Rome," namely, the position of the Holy See on issues in the Church and the world. Thus they address arguments, debates, and events of particular interest to Catholics worldwide.



▶ The ZENIT team is made up of forty-one journalists, writers, translators, technicians and administrators, of a dozen nationalities. Some are consecrated lay people (for example, of the Archdiocese of Paris, the Teresian Institute and Verbum Dei); others are members of new or old ecclesial associations (including Franciscan or Ignatian spirituality, Opus Dei and Charismatic Renewal communities, leaders of parish groups, and members of Regnum Christi). Two priests of the Legionaries of Christ provide counsel and help in the writing of the Weekly News Analysis service, as well as in the weekly section on the Liturgy in the English edition. A number of husband-wife teams also work together in this project. The agency also benefits from a network of regular or occasional contributors—including directors of press offices of bishops' conferences—who ensure worldwide coverage.

ZENIT does not have any centralized office space, as it makes use of the electronic media to carry out its work. This not only keeps their costs down, but also means they can easily adapt to changing circumstances.

ZENIT publishes in six languages. The service is received directly via email by more than 330,000 subscribers. Its news is republished by more than 25,000 media outlets. Hundreds of thousands of people consult ZENIT on their web site.

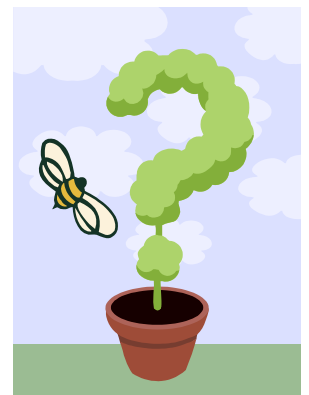
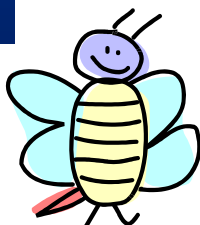
Why is the service called ZENIT? Based on biblical prophecies, for the early Christians the sun was one of the signs of Christ. They referred to him as the "Sun of Justice." The early Church fixed the date for Christmas on December 25, the ancient feast of the sun, the winter solstice, which represented the annual victory of the sun over darkness. Christians see the world with the eyes of Christ, from the highest point of the sun, the zenith – or "zenit" in Spanish.

The Birds & The Bees... and B.O.

By Marv Robertson

My fifth grade grandson D.J. attends St. Joseph parochial school here in St. Johns. His growth spurt, deepening voice, and broadening shoulders hint that he's soon to leave the Age of Innocence and enter the Age of Raging Hormones. It was certainly age-appropriate for the school to schedule a special class for the fifth grade boys to introduce them to the "facts of life." D.J. proclaimed to me later with enthusiasm, Guess what I learned today, Granpa!

When you get to be a teenager, your body changes a lot. Teenage boys should shower a lot and use deodorant, 'cuz they get B.O. . . that's *bad odor!*"



Let Us Pray...

Submitted by Fr. Charles Irvin

God, give me today

- the courage I need
- the will to forgive
- and reverence for You.

Help me today to be alive to others,
to belong to my friends and my family of faith,
to share Your presence with all whom I meet.

Help me to be humble, while realizing I can make
a difference in our world,
that with You, Lord, I can do beautiful things
and bring your love to all whom I meet.

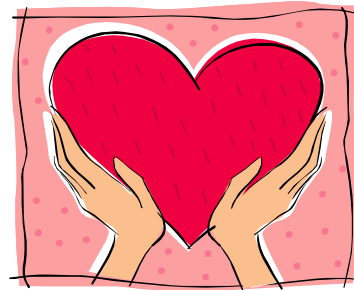


From the Heart

Reprint of an email to Bill Sirl and the diaconal community.
July 27, 2005

Bill,

It is with sadness that I must tell you this. Judy will not be having any surgery at all. The Drs., are unable to shut off the blood supply to the tumors without paralyzing her completely. Because they can not cut off the blood supply she would die on the operating table. She and I decided to continue to leave her care fully in the hands of our Lord and Savior. I brought her home yesterday, and with the help of her two sisters are getting a hospital bed and we will be taking care of her here at home. She continues to fight this cancer in her own beautiful way. Never say never. Live life to the fullest, and enjoy her family, especially her grand children, as long as she can. We have so much to be thankful for, our last five years have enriched us both in ways that we would have never ever thought possible. We both have come to appreciate the little things in life. Also this illness has drawn us closer to our Lord, Jesus. in so many ways. We would ask the community of deacons and their families to pray that the pain of the bone cancer be minimal, however not our will be done but the the will of God. I want to say thank you to the Deacon community for their support, both their prayers and their monetary support. God bless you all
Mike & Judy



Need For On-Going Formation

Need for Ongoing Priestly (diaconate) Formation Underlined

from Zenit News Agency

The permanent formation of priests (this applies to the diaconate as well) is a call to continuous conversion and sanctification, says the prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Clergy.

Cardinal Darío Castrillón Hoyos made that point when he opened a theologians video conference on July 1, held over Internet. The event attracted some of the Church's leading theologians to discuss "Permanent Formation of the Clergy."

"The essential theological reason for permanent formation is based on the daily divine and human dialogue of Christ's 'Follow Me,' and the response in faith of his minister: 'I go and follow,'" said Cardinal Castrillón Hoyos.

Permanent formation "is a process of continual conversion, it is love of God and of all men who have the right to see and meet, in the priest, Christ himself," he said.

"Permanent formation is the daily rediscovery of the absolute need of the priest's personal holiness, which is made concrete in the search for 'being' and 'living' as another Christ, in all the circumstances of his life," the Vatican prefect said.

Permanent formation, he added, must include the priest's "different realms of life," "the human and spiritual, intellectual and pastoral dimension of his life."

Such formation is decisive given the time of "rapid social transformations" that humanity is undergoing, in particular, in "the era of globalization, understood also as facility of communication and information," Cardinal Castrillón Hoyos noted.

Characteristics of the present time, such as "religious pluralism; a culture—especially the Western—penetrated by existential relativism in which God is not denied but is increasingly less known; a disincarnated spiritualism that rejects the truth of the Incarnation of the Word of God, continually confront and sometimes challenge with aggressive ways the ministers of the Church, who neither can nor want to be silent," the cardinal said.

"For this reason, permanent formation is essential for the life and growth of the People of God," he added. "It is a right and duty of every priest, and to impart it is the right-duty of the universal Church, sanctioned by canonical law."

On-Going Formation

Fr. Bryan Hehir will be the featured presenter for the On-Going Formation program this fall to be held November 18 at St. Agnes Parish in Fowlerville. Fr. Hehir is a much acclaimed presenter and writer on social justice issues and is on the faculty of Harvard. We are, indeed, fortunate to have him available to come to our diocese. You will want to reserve November 18 on your calendar.

Convocation 2005

The Deacon Community Convocation will be held October 7-9 at Boyne Mountain. Michael Fonseca, author of *Living In God's Embrace* and *Loving In the Master's Footsteps*, will be the main presenter. Michael is Director of Spiritual Formation for diaconate programs in the dioceses of Grand Rapids, Gaylord and Victoria, Texas. Bishop Mengeling will also be joining us for the weekend. Mark the weekend on your calendar. Boyne Mountain requires our rooming list be submitted by September 7, so all registrations must be received in the Office of Deacons no later than September 5.

Diaconal Formation, Second Year

Assistance with critiquing homilies is greatly appreciated. Also, the candidates and their wives really enjoy meeting and getting to know members of the deacon community. Call the office of Deacons to sign up to help.

August 20, 2005 Conversations On Ministry <i>What Was Handed on to Me...</i> Fr. Karl Pung	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Diocesan Center
August 23, 2005 Solemn Vespers Institution to Reader	7:00 p.m.	St. Mary Cathedral
September 10, 2005 Homilies	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Christ the King - AA
October 7-9, 2005 Deacon Convocation 2005 <i>Loving In the Master's Footsteps</i> Michael Fonseca		Boyne Mountain
November 5, 2005 Canon Law I Msgr. Raymond Goehring, J.C.L. Eileen Jaramillo, J.C.L.	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Madonna Hall
November 18, 2005 On-going Formation Social Justice Fr. Bryan Hehir	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m	St. Agnes - Fowlerville
December 3, 2005 Canon Law II Msgr. Raymond Goehring, J.C.L. Eileen Jaramillo, J.C.L.	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Madonna Hall
January 7, 2006 Canon Law III Msgr. Raymond Goehring, J.C.L. Eileen Jaramillo, J.C.L.	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	St. Casimir
February 4, 2006 Homilies	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Holy Trinity - Ypsilanti
February ?, 2006 On-going Formation	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m	St. Agnes - Fowlerville
March 4, 2006 Homilies	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	St. Andrew
March ?, 2006 Deacon Community Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	TBD
April 1, 2006 Homilies	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	St. John - Fenton
May 6, 2006 Homilies	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	St. John - Davison

Saints of God...

By Tom Franklin

Nedra Smith, Born to Eternal Life July 5, 2005.

Lord, yesterday, you called Aunt Nedra home, and I find myself missing her, and grieving over her absence from this world. As we reminisce together over her life as I knew it, it will be a short conversation between us, if I do all the talking. Yes, Lord, some day I may well learn to shut up and our conversations will grow longer and deeper, if also quieter, but that's for another day... In my fifty-eight years, I have seen her on maybe seven occasions, and have spoken with her perhaps eighteen times, and yet I miss her.

I thank you for the gift of ache and missing – I'm not sure why, but, all the same, I thank you. I thank you for making her a part of my life –for in one of her cameo appearances, she made you real and touchable, and that was the beginning of our ongoing encounter. There we were in the car. Me at age 18, she then 40 something, me in the back seat, half asleep somewhere past midnight and before Austin, she and her childhood friend up front, driving into the hot, humid South Texas night, and all of a sudden they began to sing the hymns and songs that were the joy of their youth, songs learned in Sunday School at Union Baptist Church in Puckett, Mississippi. Simple, joy-filled songs, songs of celebration and songs of repentance. The stuff of conversion, served up and delivered by angels unaware. That night I came to discover that I come by my less than golden voice quite honestly, but their singing, unselfconscious, heartfelt, simple, caused a crack to open in my fearful heart– and all they did was to sing your praises as you gently began to move in.



Lord, grant that I may always be willing to sing your praises, in song, word and deed, that, unaware, I too may be an instrument of your peace, a conduit of your grace. I entrust Nedra to you. She is the one with the voice like mine, only higher pitched and a tad less painful to hear – but then you knew that.

Orthodoxy (continued from page 1)

Many of us were thrilled to see the seven new deacons recently ordained at our cathedral. That brought back memories of my class's ordination 15 years ago. Prior to ordination, we were required to copy and sign completely in our own hand, the "Profession of Faith." That profession began with the Nicene Creed, and concluded with this formula:

With firm faith, I also believe everything contained in God's word, written and handed down in tradition and proposed by the Church, whether by way of solemn judgment or through the ordinary and universal magisterium, as divinely revealed and calling for faith.

I also firmly accept and hold each and everything that is proposed definitively by the Church regarding teaching on faith and morals.

Moreover, I adhere with religious submission of will and intellect to the teachings which either the Roman Pontiff or the college of bishops enunciate when they exercise the authentic magisterium, even if they proclaim those teachings by an act which is not definitive.

The class of 1990 was ordained on June 30, the Feast of the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. Those martyrs were faithful through fire and sword. Their memory should dissuade us from compromising true orthodoxy in preaching, teaching and practice.

For the sick:

- Judy Barrett**
- Bill Everett**
- Terry Fleming**
- Cal Haan**
Ed & Florence Schneider
son-in-law
- Warren Hecht**
- Al Krieger**
- Bobby McGee**
Jim Hashman's nephew
- Tom Moore**
- Peggy Tabor**
Penny Hashman's sister

For those who have died:

- Wally Hilker**
Father or Deacon Steve
- Nedra Smith**



Necrology

August

- 1 Kathleen Weitzel 1987
- 2 Robert Paul Vatter 2004

September

- 5 Bishop Kenneth J. Povish 2003
- 24 Deacon Len Dell Miller 1994



Community Prayer Line



Genesee/Owosso Cluster

Place: St. John Vianney
Date: September 19
Time: 6:30 PM
Contact: Gary Gallagher
Other Details: Potluck

Jackson/Lenawee/Hillsdale Cluster

Place:
Date:
Time:
Contact: Carol or Linda Franssen
Other Details: TBD

Lansing Cluster

Place: St. Jude—DeWitt
Date: September 16
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Contact: T. Fleming, D. Stanford,
Ed or Florence Schneider
Other Details:

Livingston Cluster

Place:
Date:
Time:
Contact:
Other Details: TBD

Washtenaw Cluster

Place: Guy Hollaran's
Date: August 13
Time: 9:45 a.m.
Contact: W. Hecht or T. Franklin
Other Details: Mass at Christ the King at 9:00 a.m.

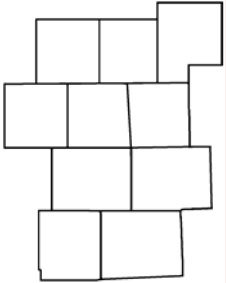
Cluster Meetings



Diocese of Lansing Office of Deacons

300 West Ottawa St.
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Submit newsletter articles to the Office of Deacons
(bsirl@dioceseoflansing.org or awoelf@dioceseoflansing.org)



Postcards and Prayers

Submitted By: Wayne Charlton

Inmates on death row are the most forgotten people in the prison system. Fr. Jude Siciliano, O.P. posts these names along with his “First Impressions” weekly scripture reflections. You are invited to write a postcard to one or more of these inmates to let them know that: we have not forgotten them; are praying for them and their families; or, whatever personal encouragement you might like to give them. If you like, tell them you heard about them through North Carolina's, **“People of Faith Against the Death Penalty”**

Please write to:

John Conaway	#0084604	(On death row since 10/19/92)
Perrie Simpson	#0371096	(2/1/93)
Nathan Bowie	#0039561	(2/5/93)
Eddie C. Robinson	#0347839	(5/19/92)
Ernes P. McCarber	#0264009	(9/23/92)
Carl Moseley	#294214	(10/1/92)

Central Prison 1300 Western Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27606



Pray for Peace