

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

June 2007



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

May 19 Deacon Ordination

Nine men were ordained deacons at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish May 19, 2007. These men completed extensive theological studies plus four years of formation in preparation for ordination. See pages two and three for pictures and more information.

Congratulations!



Priest Ordination

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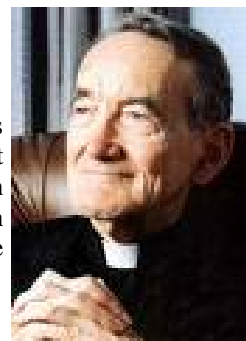
By Bill Sirl

John Linden will be ordained a priest June 9, at St. Mary Cathedral at 10:30 a.m. There are no seminarians scheduled to be ordained in 2008, so the deacon community is especially encouraged to attend this year to show support of John and the priesthood. Although the deacons will not be vesting, there will be reserved seating for them and their wives.

Cardinal Dulles Coming This Fall

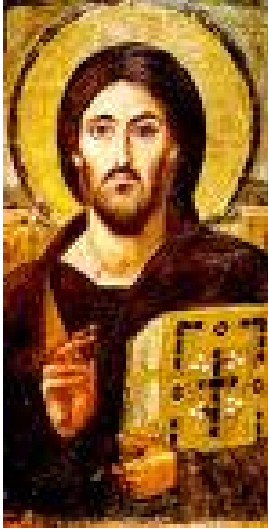
By Bill Sirl

Avery Cardinal Dulles is coming to the Lansing Diocese. Cardinal Dulles will be the featured speaker for the Catechetical days this Fall. Michael Andrews has arranged for Cardinal Dulles to be at the Catechetical Day in Lansing at Lansing Catholic Central on **Saturday, October 22** and at Fr. Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor on **Sunday, October 23**. Be sure to mark your calendar for one of those dates.



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

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



*“Receive the Gospel of Christ,
whose herald you now are.
Believe what you read,
teach what you believe,
and practice what you teach.”*

Words spoken by the bishop as he places the Book of the Gospels in the hands of the newly ordained deacon kneeling before him.
Rite of Ordination of a Deacon

Our newly ordained:



Terry and Mary Ann Carsten are members of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Fenton. They have been married 28 years and have two adult children.

Married 31 years, **Randy and Debbie Coffelt** have three children and one grandchild. They belong to St. Mary Parish, Pinckney.



Doug and Maureen Cummings celebrated their 25th anniversary last May and have two children. They are members of St. Andrew Parish, Saline.



Members of Holy Rosary Parish, Flint, **Mike and Cindy Dear** have been married seven years and have five children and two grandchildren.

Jerry and Alice Fust serve God's people at St. Joseph Parish, St. Johns and have two children. They have been married 15 years.



Gideon and Rosemary Marsal have been married 31 years and have three adult children. They belong to St. Peter Parish, Eaton Rapids.

At 40 years, **Chuck and Sue Thelen** have the honor of the longest marriage. They have five children and seven grandchildren and belong to St. Mary Parish, Westphalia.



Al and Helen Turkovich are members of St. Casimir Parish, Lansing. They have been married 19 years and have eight children and one grandchild.

Members of Christ the King Parish, Ann Arbor, **Dennis and Sue Walters** have been married 36 years. They have four children and two grandchildren.



May 19, 2007

Deacon Responsibilities

By Bill Sirl

Deacon Responsibilities to the Bishop or His Delegate

Every deacon has certain responsibilities that come along with the special blessing of ordination. The recently ordained men and their wives acknowledged these responsibilities when they read aloud and signed the following in the presence of the bishop during their Scrutinies. In so doing, they promised obedience to the bishop and his successors and that they will serve under the direction and discipline of the bishop, his delegate or any authority he designates.

- 1) Church employment of deacons is not the norm. Hiring is based on education and expertise. Those seeking such employment must obtain the bishop's permission through the Office of Permanent Deacons. If hired, deacons are subject to all pertinent personnel policies. Those employed outside the Church are to take care of their own and their family's needs from the incomes derived from their secular professions. Deacons are to provide for themselves and their families through their secular income. No salary, benefit, insurance or other financial consideration is provided by the Diocese or any of its units.
- 2) By Canon law, the bishop may ordain those who are destined for service in his diocese, or with the proper dimissorial letters, to another diocese.
- 3) Deacons are assigned to ministry by the bishop and may be transferred in light of pastoral needs with due regard for family and job responsibilities. They are under the working supervision of the pastor or pastoral coordinator.
- 4) Deacons are encouraged to minister as long as health permits beyond their secular retirement. The diocesan office will consult with retired deacons to evaluate lessening or ending active ministries.
- 5) Deacons are not to have an active role in political parties, the direction of labor unions, or volunteer military service unless approved by the bishop.
- 6) Deacons are strongly exhorted to place any stipends they receive toward the charitable work of the Church with due regard for Canon 531.
- 7) Deacons are to complete 20 clock hours in theological and 10 clock hours in pastoral education each year. Deacons are responsible for designing this continuing education, and of informing the diocesan office of courses taken and experience gained.
- 8) Deacons are to complete an annual review of ministry as provided by the diocesan office.
- 9) Deacons are to have ministerial agreements listing their duties according to the format issued by the diocesan office. The parish should budget for appropriate liturgical vestments, educational expenses and office space/needs. Mileage reimbursement is optional according to customary practice. Deacons should be reimbursed for expenses connected with ministry. The agreement is subject to annual review and change.
- 10) Deacons are to inform the diocesan office when they will be absent from the diocese beyond one month.
- 11) Deacons are to make an annual retreat, normally the group retreat provided by the diocesan office. Otherwise, they will arrange for a retreat and inform the office. Their spouses are encouraged to participate in an annual retreat.
- 12) Deacons should not hold themselves lightly excused from the obligation they have to recite morning and evening prayer.
- 13) The title of "Reverend Mr." and clerical clothing are not to be used by deacons unless approved by the bishop or his delegate for functions in the ministry.
- 14) Under the discipline of the Church, deacons may neither marry nor remarry after ordination. Single deacons and widowed deacons remain celibate. Any marriage is forbidden by Canon law unless there is a special dispensation from the Holy See. However, such dispensation is very rarely given.



What is the Color of Hope?

By Wayne Corrion

We received a call from the N.E.W. (North End Women's) Life Center that serves families at risk in Flint, Michigan. It began as St Luke Catholic Church's street ministry in 1999. From that, Sister Carol Weber and Sister Judy Blake began building the Life Center. The Center offers a three year program to support mothers and grandmothers in their struggle to raise, house, and educate their children or grandchildren. Participants take classes in many areas, including health, fitness, nutrition, budgeting, sewing, quilting, home care, communication, anger management, and building skills for the job market. The goal is to improve the health and well-being of their families and to strengthen the family unit.



Sister Carol offered to Sandy, my wife, and me the opportunity to bring our youth group from St Joseph's in Gaines to help an African-American women, named Gail, who had been in their program at St Luke's. Gail had recently been through some very difficult times and her five children were taken from her and placed in foster care. In order to reunite her family, Children's Protective Services stipulated that she get help in restructuring her life as a first step. She had been working very hard and made progress in moving her life forward. With help from Sister Carol she found a rental home where she would be able to, once again, have her children back together and with her under one roof.

Sister Carol's request of the youth group was for us to come and help paint the interior of the home. She told us by doing this we would bring much needed hope to this woman who had worked so hard to get her life moving in a positive direction.

Six people from our Youth Group and a few adults set out early in the morning for the north side of Flint where the house is located. The sun was shining and there was a hint of springtime and a gentle breeze that morning. As we drove there I noticed the faces of some of the youth as they paid very close attention to the run-down homes and the poor people walking down the streets. I sensed a hint of fear in their eyes as they saw the living conditions in these neighborhoods which is something they are not accustomed to. Much of what I saw in their eyes was a reflection of what I, myself, was feeling. Although I was trying to hide it I think they saw through my façade.

When we reached Gail's home we unloaded things and entered the home carrying paint cans, brushes, drop clothes, and our lunches (for later). These items were not the only things we were carrying into the house; we were also carrying our apprehensions, fears of the unknown, doubts about being able paint the entire interior of this house in one day, and so on.



Shortly after entering Gail's new home, Sister Carol introduced everyone. After we all met and had time to chat, Sister Carol invited us to join hands and pray. The prayer she offered was one of Hope; Hope for what the Holy Spirit could still bring into the Gail's life and thankfulness for the Hope she had already received. She prayed with Hope for a safe day as we worked on this project and for the Hope this work would accomplish in Gail's and her family's life. At the end of the prayer Sister Carol offered gratitude for the hope that WE would receive from Gail from participating in this activity. This is the part of the prayer that caught my attention and kept whispering in my mind all day long. How could we receive Hope from this woman who we came to help? I allowed that thought to linger as I worked throughout the day because it so impressed me and I just could not let it go.

Gail decided before we got to her home what color each room would be painted. She chose a blue for her eldest son's room. The girl's room would be pink. The kitchen would be yellow. The living room, her bedroom, the bathroom and hall way were to be a light beige color. We worked in small groups and made due with the limited supplies and tools we had. The only difficulty we encountered was that Gail had already moved in which meant we had to work around all the furniture.

See *"Hope"* on page 9



Sabbath Time Retreat

At only \$50 for two nights and two days, including meals, these retreats offered at the St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, are one of the best bargains around. The Sabbath Time Retreat offers pastoral leaders an environment of prayer, worship, rest, spiritual companionship and support for their pursuit of excellent pastoral ministry. There are structured times for Scripture Readings, collegial discussions and group prayer as well as plenty of time for private meditation and reflection. Future dates this year include, May 22-24, June 13-15, August 14-16, October 16-18, and November 27-29. Open to ministers of all faiths, these retreats fill up fast so call the Retreat Center now at 1-866-669-8321 to reserve your time.

Riding The Dragon

Dr. Robert Wicks , noted author and international speaker, will be at the St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, September 21, 2007. He will present a day long conference on the prevention of secondary stress (the pressure that results from reaching out to others in need) and the integration of psychology and spirituality. Cost for the day, including lunch, is only \$50. Call the Retreat Center at 1-866-669-8321to register.

Conversations In Ministry

Conversations in Ministry is an annual opportunity for all involved in ministry including our priests, deacons, lay ministers, seminarians and those in the Ministry Formation Program to come together for a day of fellowship and on going formation. This year, Fr. Timothy Gallagher will speak on “Discernment of Spirits” August 18, 2007 in the Cathedral Parish Hall. Fr. Gallagher has written a book of the same title and is a popular presenter. Watch for registration flyers. In the meantime reserve Saturday, August 18 on your calendar.

Left To Tell

“Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust”

Immaculee Ilibagiza is a survivor of the Rwandan wave of genocide. In her book of the above title, she writes of her harrowing experiences as she was hidden for ninety-one days in a four foot by six foot bathroom with five other women while former friends, neighbors and soldiers hunted her. Her story of fear for the atrocities taking place and her trust in God is both horrifying and inspiring. She has appeared on national network talk shows to tell her story. Now we have an opportunity to hear her in person as the Department of Formation has arranged for Immaculee to come to our diocese. She will be at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ann Arbor the evening of Thursday, October 4. The following day she will be at St. Thomas Aquinas in East Lansing. You will definitely want to hear her witness to the power of prayer and trust in God.



For the sick:

- Mike Barrett**
- Bob Chadwick**
- Bill Everett**
- Lisa Kenney**
- Margaret Krieger**
- Tony Mammina**
- Bishop Carl Mengeling**
- Tony Papp**
Papp's son
- Jesse Pizana**
Ray & Grace's grandson
- John Sundwick**
- Tony Verdun**
- Lynn Williams**
Papp's daughter



Necrology

June		
10	Deacon (John) Patrick Garber	2003
18	Deacon Richard Soucy	2003
19	Helen Bues	1992
28	Mr. James Hacker	1989
July		
14	Deacon Edward Fournier	1989



Community Prayer Line

For the safety and well being of our men and women in uniform, especially:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Spc. Daniel Flanagan
Flanagan's son | John Patrick Hilker
Hilker's son |
| Maj. Christopher Fogle | Maj. Timothy McDonald |
| 1st Lt. Mark Fogle | Spc. Michael McDonald
McDonald's son's |
| TSgt. Angelia Fogle | Capt. Donald Michael
First Year Candidate |
| SSgt. Glenn Fogle
Fogle's sons,
daughter-in-law
& nephew | MSgt. Bill Shively
Cahaney's son-in-law |
| Spc. Patrick Franklin
Franklin's son | |



Genesee/Owosso

Place: Holy Family Parish Center
Date: June 4, 2007
Time: 7:00 PM
Contact: Jack Daunt or Gary Gallagher
Other Details: Eve Prayer & refreshments

Jackson/Lenawee/Hillsdale

Place: Nicholson's House
Date: July 28, 2007
Time: TBD
Contact: Carol or Linda Franssen
Other Details: Potluck

Lansing

Place: St Mary, Charlotte
Date: September 21, 2007
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Contact: T. Heutsche, T. Fogle
Other Details:

Livingston

Place: St. John, Hartland
Date: June 23
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Contact: D. Piggot, J. Chevalier
Other Details:

Washtenaw

Place: TBD
Date: TBD
Time: TBD
Contact: T. Franklin
Other Details:

Cluster Meetings

Summer Scripture Days

The **2007 Summer Scripture Days** are scheduled for August 14 - 16 in Bethany House at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt. The Days are co-sponsored by the Department of Catholic Charities, Area Catholic Councils on Aging and St. Francis Retreat Center.

Back by popular demand, Rev. Msgr. Robert Lunsford, former Chancellor of the Lansing Diocese, will be the presenter for the three-day program based on the theme "*Wisdom & Proverbs Lighting Our Path*". Monsignor Lunsford received a B.A. in Scholastic Philosophy from Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and earned an S.T.B. from the Gregorian University in Rome. He received a Masters Degree in Religious Education from Fordham University. Monsignor Lunsford has served as pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle in Ann Arbor, Co-Rector of St. Mary Cathedral and pastor of St. Joseph Parish in St. Johns. He has also served as Superintendent of Education for the diocese. He was granted senior priest status in 2005.

Scriptural presentations will be combined with liturgies, creative activities, prayer, recreation and fun. Brochures with registration information are being sent to all parishes in the monthly diocesan mailing for June. Full registration is \$150 per person; commuters pay \$90 or \$110 depending on their meal choices. Due to the generous contributions of several K of C Councils, parishes, individuals and organizations, scholarships are available. Participation is limited so register early. For more information, call Linda Kolanowski at Catholic Charities 517-342-2465 or email: lkolanowski@dioceseoflansing.org.

One Good Book For The Preacher

Submitted by: Fr. Jude Siciliano, O.P.

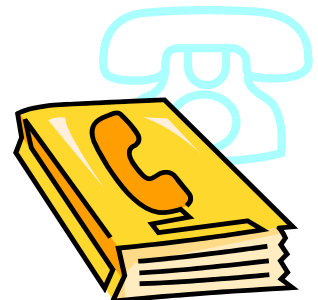
I hope many of you will enjoy Anna Carter Florence's *Preaching as Testimony* as much as I have. Florence is a Presbyterian preacher from Georgia who writes about Anne Marbury Hutchinson (1591-1643), Sarah Osborn (1714-1796), and Jarena Lee (1783-?) and a long tradition of Christian preachers who preach not so much from a position of power (ordination and a pulpit) but in compelling testimony to the experience of God whom they have encountered. Florence writes, "Christian witness will always hinge on the question, Can we really say that, even though we have no proof beyond what we have seen and believed? Somewhere between the question and the answer is where Christian preaching locates itself—again and again and again." I really like Anna Carter Florence, both personally and in print. I recommend this theological reflection on preaching to preachers, for our compelling vocation is to preach not from places of power but from what we have seen and believed.

(Westminster John Knox Press, 2007, ISBN 0664223907)

—Gregory Heille, O.P., Professor of Homiletics and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, Missouri.

Directory Updates

Richard & Mary Lou Bayes
cell phone: 517-270-3053
Please, delete home and work number and
email address



Hope

(Continued from page 5)

As we painted, Gail would go from room to room and showed a real interest in getting to know each of us. She told us about her children and the joy they brought in to her life. She expressed her strong desire for them to be all together again in this house. Her face took on a new dimension of happiness when she would talk about her ten month old son; how smart he is, how much she loved him and how proud she is of him. She, also, recalled her thirteen year old son had only one request for Christmas one year; the only present he wanted was to see his mother smile again! Her smile seemed to widen as each of the rooms brightened with the new paint. She never mentioned the hell she had been through previously that led to her children being taken away. She seemed to only speak about hopeful things. This went on for most of the day as she made her rounds wandering from room to room, her happiness increasing every time she would come by.

After many hours of labor, with only a short break for lunch, we were close to finishing by 4:00 in the afternoon. The day was long for all of us and I, along with some of our youth, noticed that Gail got quieter as were getting closer to finishing. She would sit in a room and stare at the freshly painted walls as if she was looking at a masterpiece painting. As we finished up some were wondering why she didn't seem more grateful but later we learned that Gail had never had a home of her own with freshly painted walls. It was a first for her and her quietness was due to being so overwhelmed by the hope that we had brought into her life through this project.

***I believe that
Gail's hope was
as bright as the
yellow of her
kitchen***

That day I believe Gail's hope was as bright as the yellow of her kitchen which reminded her of the sunshine that warms the earth. The pink in her girl's room brought the hope of springtime and resurrection after the dying that she experienced through her children being taken away from her. The blue in her son's room, the sign of hope we see when we peer into the endless blue sky that reminds us of God's endless love for us. And the color beige brought a calming hope to her life that had been missing for a long time. And I believe that she also found hope in learning that her family was not only the children she longed to be reunited with, but also that we were her family of a different color but of the same Father, God.



And what hope did we receive? Well for me, the hope I received was in knowing that our work was an extension of God's love for her and her family. I believe that this Hope of God's work, through us, had brought joy to her and a feeling that Hope was hers to grasp. I received the Hope from witnessing that our youth were spiritually touched by this experience. I also think we received the Hope that if we were ever in need that God would be there for us as He is for Gail. I also received a late Christmas gift that I shared with Gail's thirteen year old son, a love filled smile from her.

What is the color of Hope? Any color you want it to be as long as it is filled with compassion and love.

Come, Holy Spirit

It's A Punny World

- * I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- * Police were called to a daycare where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- * Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- * The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.
- * To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
- * When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.
- * The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

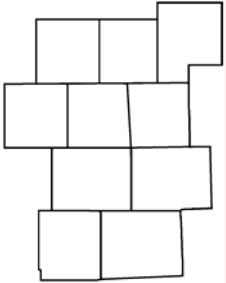




Diocese of Lansing Office of Deacons

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:

Angel Guevara	#0506556	(On death row since 6/20/96)
David K. Williams	#0440399	(7/23/96)
Thomas C. Walic	#0405380	(8/9/96)
Shawn d. Bonnett	#0037215	(9/27/96)
James F. Davis	#0510234	(10/2/96)
Melvin L White	#0434355	(10/15/96)
William Gregory	#0156529	(8/15/94)
LeRoy Mc Neil	#0275780	(11/15/96)
Gary A. Trull	#0412440	(11/19/96)
Lawrence E. Peterson	#0320825	(12/12/96)
Henry L. Wallace	#0422350	(1/29/97)
Terrence Taylor	#0539901	(2/18/97)

Central Prison 1300 Western Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27606



A special request this month:

Fr. Jude visits a young man on Raleigh's death row. He has been there since March, 18, 1999. He gets little mail and seldom a visit. His parents live out of state. He could use some mail these days. Thanks.

Please write to:

Lyle May #0580028
Central Prison
1300 Western Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27606

Pray for Peace