

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

May 2004



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

COMING THIS FALL

Bill Ditewig to Address Priests & Parish Staff



Bishop Mengeling has invited Deacon William Ditewig, Ph.D., Executive Director of USCCB's Secretariat for the Diaconate, to address our priests, pastoral coordinators, deacons and parish staff on the history and sacramental identity of the diaconate. His presentation is excellent and he is a terrific speaker. Please mark your calendar for November 9, at St. Mary Cathedral Parish Hall from 9:30 to 3:00. Cost of the day will be \$15 per person, lunch included. Registration forms will be mailed from the Office of Deacons.

JUDGE ROBERTSON RETIRES

Probate Court Judge Marv Robertson retired in April after 25 years of service to the people of Clinton County. He is the longest-serving adjudicator to serve on the probate bench. The honorable Judge Robertson has earned many accolades over the years including the St. Thomas More Award in 2000 from the Catholic League of Lawyers. He was cited as a most respected and compassionate jurist of the court. He was also honored by the Michigan Supreme Court for his efforts in the formation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution which provides a means for parties to work through difficult cases using a mediator, rather than going through a lengthy court trial. He was named Probate Judge of the Year by the State of Michigan for 1995-96. And he is an adjunct professor of juvenile law at the Detroit College of Law. True to his diaconal calling, Marv believes that "the job of a probate judge is to protect those least able to protect themselves." We all wish Marv and Tita the very best in their retirement years.



RITA THIRON, NOTED AUTHOR

Available in May of 2004 from *Liturgical Press*, Rita Thiron's second publishing success, *Preparing Parish Liturgies: A Guide to Resources*.

Rita's latest endeavor should enable readers to prepare a liturgy with ease and confidence and help facilitate communication among presides, liturgists, musicians and assemblies.

Look for it soon for only \$16.95!

PROJECT RACHEL WORKSHOP:

The Pastoral Response

Project Rachel for the Diocese of Lansing and the Office of Deacons are pleased to present this workshop for deacons, candidates and wives May 15, at the Diocesan Center.

The issue of abortion is one that will present itself to all of us sometime in our ministerial life. The workshop is intended to provide a basic understanding of the issues and the help that is available to post abortive women coping with their feelings of guilt, etc. The excellent presenters have many years of experience working with post abortive women. They include Dr. Linda Blohm, a licensed psychologist, who works in a private practice in East Lansing and has worked with Project Rachel for the past decade and Angelika Lee, a post abortive woman herself, who has worked to help create the programs for Project Rachel in Lansing.

Don't miss this workshop on a very tragic and important issue in our society today. The workshop will run from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 pm and lunch (no charge) will be provided, so call the Office of Deacons to register. Five contact hours of on going formation will be awarded to attendees.



ON THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST

BY: TOM FRANKLIN

Lord, when you were growing up, did you look forward to hearing the really cool stories in the Scrolls? I can just see you and your friends sitting and trying to behave on Saturday mornings, and it was probably as tough for you as it is for the wonderful grandchildren with whom we're blessed. How did you behave without a baggie full of raisins and other goodies? (Yea, I know, you were perfect... —but then I'm looking forward to hearing Our Mom's opinion when I get there.) One of my favorite stories is coming up this Pentecost Vigil—the one about the dry bones. And as I am led into Mystery I hear the singing about "Them bones, them bones, them dry bones..." and how the bones are connected, one to the other.



Sit and I pray this story as our Father's story, telling me how much we are loved. He sees so much more than dead remains in the vast plane of the bones,— Our Father refuses to be bound by such appearances. He speaks, and You, His very Word, become our flesh, and the Holy Spirit, gathering from 'round the compass, gives us Life.



Jesus, give me the courage to pray unceasingly
"Come Holy Spirit, infill me, set me alight with the fire of your Love."

CONTEMPLATIO:

“BLESSED ARE THE PURE OF HEART,
FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD”

BY: DAVID ROSENBERG

In many of the talks on spirituality which I have given at my parish I know that I will get an almost universal response and spontaneous head-nodding when I quote the following from Romans 7:

“I do not understand my own behavior. I do not act as I mean to, but I do things that I hate... for though the will to do what is good is in me, the power to do it is not. The good thing I want to do, I never do. The evil thing which I do not want – that is what I do...”

This reading points unmistakably to our common beginnings – to our “fallen” human nature. We are all born egocentric versus God-centric individuals. Yet we all feel the same yearning in our heart for the source and meaning of our being. For those of us blessed to have experienced a “shifting of our center” through *metanoia* we begin to understand who we really are: our true self, the image of God, who is Love. For those still searching, I offer the following.

Fr. Charlie Irvin recently recommended to me a new book by Ronald Rolheiser, “The

(See “*Blessed*” on page 3)



LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION



The Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection in March was truly a spiritually uplifting experience. We are grateful to Fr. Tom McDevitt for facilitating this time of prayer and reflection for the deacon community.

Next year, Fr. Doug Osborn will be the presenter for our **Third Annual Deacon Community Lenten Day of Prayer and Reflection**. The scheduled date is March 12, 2005. Be sure to mark your calendars now and plan on attending.

QUOTABLE

SUBMITTED BY:
JUDE SICILIANO, OP

“The mind is a wonderful thing. It starts working the minute you're born and never stops until you get up to speak in public.”

*Projecting A Better Image:
Volume I*
By: Roscoe Drummond



LISTEN

A REFLECTION ON THE
READINGS FOR THE
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
BY: WAYNE CHARLTON

The first image that came to mind as I read the Gospel today is that of a new mom leaning over the edge of the isolette where her new born infant is lying. Amid all of the beeps and other sounds of the neonatal intensive care unit she quietly whispers to her child while gently resting her hand on the baby's head. Of all of the care that is given in that setting the voice and the touch from the mother (or father) is what the child needs and responds to the most. I see it time and time again, the child is so agitated and no matter what the nurse does the child is inconsolable. Yet when the mother arrives and whispers a few words the baby calms, the heart rate and respiration drop and the "bells and whistles" stop going off. With all of the available technology, there is, of course, nothing to replace the familiar voice that speaks a message of unconditional love.

Jesus speaks to each of us with a familiar and calming voice. That voice that spoke to us at our baptism and even before has the ability to calm all that is troubling us and offers us the protection we need in the turmoil of life. At our baptism we were adopted into eternal life, a relationship with our God that no one can take out of Jesus' hand. This is truly a gift that we need to unwrap each day in order to behold the beauty of life and receive the strength this gift provides. In this gift we find our place in God's plan, as well as within the community of believers.

Our first reading tells us that Paul and Barnabas "entered the synagogue and took THEIR seats." The place they take is not something they earned on their own, it is not something they

(See "Listen" on page 4)

"BLESSED ARE THE PURE OF HEART"

(Continued from page 2)

Shattered Lantern." For those who have not yet read this book, I, in turn, highly recommend it to you. It has been a great resource for assisting in my daily meditations and prayer. In the book Rolheiser describes how most of us, in this modern day and age, have become what he calls "non-contemplatives." A non-contemplative personality has a number of identifiable characteristics that really define us as products of a secular culture. Here are a few of the several he lists.



"Reality holds no mystery beyond the empirical." We are a society so pragmatic that we have all but lost our sense of wonder and awe. i.e. if it is not scientifically valid, then it is not real. But our mystical journey leads us to recover a known presence of God. God will be present in ordinary experience when ordinary experience is optimally open and non-reductionistic. When we recover our capacity to be astonished within *ordinary* experience we will be transformed.

We are "... too busy to go to the Wedding Banquet." In the scriptural parable, all those who were invited end up missing the banquet. Why? Because they generally had no free time. And neither do we. In this media-driven society, we are driven to a frenzied restlessness, and left with no time for proper reflection. This in turn destroys contemplation, and with it, the sense of God in our life. We lose our true center. Or, as St. Augustine puts it, "God is within us, but we are outside of ourselves."

And so, through this book, I have found new ways to turn people toward a contemplative path. And certainly my own spiritual journey has grown to yet another dimension. For you see, I am again amazed at the limitless expanse of spirit that stretches before me!

And so, the seemingly simple scripture passage, "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God" breaks open to be quite an epiphany. We come to recognize that it is not simply sin, moral laxity, or bad will that turns us from God. Excessive restlessness, narcissism and pragmatism are the big hurdles that we need to catapult, so that we might live in *contemplatio* and experience God daily from within our ordinary lives.

QUOTABLE

SUBMITTED BY: JUDE SICILIANO, OP

"As I listened to the Book of Revelation over several weeks I found in it a healing vision, a journey through the heart of pain and despair, and into hope. And I was consistently reminded of how subtly this vision works on us. It asserts that the evils of this world are not incurable, that injustice does not have the last word. And that can be terrifying or consoling, depending on your point of view, your place within the world."

The Cloister Walk
Kathleen Norris

BOOK REVIEW

BY: DICK STANFORD

United in Heart Divided in Faith, Sandra Stanko
Guide for Interfaith Marriages

I strongly recommend the book *United in Heart Divided in Faith* by Sandra Stanko as a guide for Catholic/Protestant couples beginning their journey together toward marriage, those in established interfaith relationships, and those who are wrestling with religious issues.

The book is divided into three main parts: Emphasizing the Similarities in Our Faith, Addressing the Differences in Our Beliefs, and Discussing Important Issues in Our Interfaith Marriage. Stanko outlines the beliefs Catholics and Protestants share, what their differences are, and anticipates questions couples may ask during marriage preparation and after they marry. Stanko emphasizes that each couple needs to respect the other person's beliefs, even those about which they disagree, and the importance of establishing a unified relationship through mutual respect rather than trying to undermine or disprove the other person's beliefs. For these relationships to work couples need to identify the spiritual gifts with which each is blessed and pray for God's guidance to use these gifts complementarily to work through issues in the couple's relationship. As a major theme, Stanko stresses that two people with strong religious faith have the best chance of building a successful marriage, even if they are from different denominations.

I do find two shortcomings in Stanko's viewpoint. First, she states that Catholic partners in an interfaith marriage do not have to promise to baptize the couple's children Catholic and rear them in the Catholic Church, but just have to do their best to see that their children are baptized and reared Catholic. According to Canon Law, the Catholic partner must declare or promise to do this (cf.C.1125). Second, in her attempt to be objective, when Stanko provides seven Protestant and Catholic options regarding which church the couple should attend after marriage and when they have children, she gives a false impression that any combination is acceptable. These options contain a broad interpretation of Canon Law, which range from attending two churches separately to attending no church at all. Stanko admits this latter option would have no positive religious outcome. I feel stronger emphasis must be placed on our Catholic traditions. With this book, the author, who is Catholic and married to a Protestant, provides a needed resource for Catholic/Protestant couples in an easy to read style.

JUSTICE NOTES

SUBMITTED BY: JUDE SICILIANO, OP

All must realize that there is no hope of putting an end to the building up of armaments, nor of reducing the present stocks, nor, still less--and this is the main point--of abolishing them altogether, unless the process is complete and thorough and unless it proceeds from inner conviction: unless, that is, everyone sincerely cooperated to banish the fear and anxious expectation of war with which men are oppressed. If this is to come about, the fundamental principle on which our present peace depends must be replaced by another, which declares that the true and solid peace of nations consists not in equality of arms but in mutual trust alone. We believe that this can be brought to pass, and we consider that, since it concerns a matter not only demanded by right reason but also eminently desirable in itself, it will prove to be the source of many benefits.

Peace on Earth, #113, John XXIII, 1963



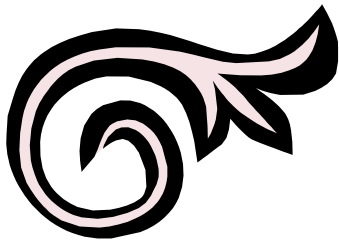
LISTEN

(Continued from page 3)

fought for-- it is a gift from God. The power and authority they exercise is not even theirs but it comes from listening for, recognizing and hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd. This authority is not the same as the world gives because it is not fleeting but eternal nor is it a position above others but a call to serve one another. This voice calls the apostles to and establishes their mission and with it they now urge others to "remain faithful to the grace of God" just as they have. The response to their invitation is astounding, "almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord" coming from their mouths.

However, not everyone is excited about their presence and some feel threatened. Those who feel threatened may have come about their power in another way and are finding it difficult to hand over. Their jealousy deafens them to the voice that is calling them to eternal life but, as we all know, the Word of God cannot be contained (thanks be to God!).

A friend of mine told me that one day in prayer she asked God why he wasn't talking to her anymore. She said that the response she got was unsettling-- God told her "I don't think I should have to talk so loud in order to get your attention!" Like the noises in the intensive care unit there are plenty of things in our life, both internal and external, that can easily drown out that gentle voice that continually calls us into a deeper relationship. Jesus calls us in the busyness of life and our most important job is to be attentive to that voice in order that we hear it and enjoy the experience of eternal life in the here and now!



ON GOING FORMATION

May 15, 2004
Project Rachel
Wilson Perkowski
Diocesan Center - 5 contact hours

November 9, 2004
Deacon Bill Ditewig
Exec. Director,
USCCB Secretariat for the Diaconate
St. Mary Cathedral Parish Hall
5 contact hours

ASPIRANCY

Deacons and their wives are welcome to join us for the sessions. They will meet on the listed Monday evenings at the Diocesan Center, beginning with supper at 6:00 and ending by 9:00. Call the Office of Deacons if planning on attending one of the sessions.

Date: May 8, 2004 *Subject:* Day of Prayer and Reflection



IGNORANCE AND ERROR IN MARRIAGE CASES PART III

BY: JOHN CAMERON, JCL

Fraud or Imposed Error (c. 1098) refers to fraud or deceit by the other party or even by a third party, so that the "victim" who is deceived contracts marriage invalidly.

Sometimes, it's called **fraudulent deceit**, or among the canonically hip, *deceptus dolus*.

Fraud or deceit are used very precisely by the law. Neither are the same as ignorance although they both lead someone into error. Yet **not just any kind of fraud or deceit invalidate.**

First, there must be a real quality about one of the parties which is so serious that it can by its very nature (though it doesn't have to) gravely disturb the partnership of married life. Second, this deceit must be inflicted on purpose by someone else in order to obtain the "victim's" consent to the marriage.

An example would be someone who concealed, to get matrimonial consent, one's homosexuality, criminal history, prior marriage, even sterility, etc. (Sterility does not invalidate or prohibit marriage, but concealing it might invalidate (can. 1084 §3.) Either the other party to the marriage, or even a third party (even the mother of a bride or groom, for example), has to commit the fraud. **The deceiver has to know the truth or at least suspect it.**

In a 1997 Rotal decision (*coram* Defilippi, 4 December 1997 - *coram* means before the judge in the panel who writes the decision), a very devout Laurentia was first very happy when her fiancé Gratianus, a non-Catholic Christian, professed the Catholic faith before the marriage. She was then very shocked when he then openly rejected the Catholic faith after the celebration. The Rota said marriage is a complete giving of

"He / She Tricked Me"

(A sad song by a number of petitioners)

self. So it is necessary that the appearance of something so profound in a person must match the reality. Laurentia's marriage was found to be invalid..

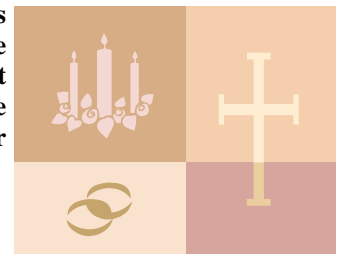
The quality of one's hair color probably wouldn't work for this canon. It has to be serious. Someone who concealed AIDS or a history of genetic abnormalities or a criminal record (maybe even a mother for her son or daughter) from the potential spouse to get matrimonial consent --- that's imposed error.

Usually the horror or amazement that the victimized party expresses upon discovery of the deceit lends believability to the ground. **However, the code doesn't actually require that it did provide the cause for the disrupted common life, only that it could by its very nature do so.**

Generally if there were any suspicion of the quality by the injured party, this error doesn't work. **The quality must be truly unknown.** If the "victim" either learns of the quality independently or strongly suspects it, then this error cannot be said to be present. **Somebody who has second thoughts and doubts about getting married, probably isn't in this ground of error. Just imprudent.**

Here's the kicker. As a special note, this canon is primarily one of ecclesiastical rather than divine law. It would not apply to two non-Catholics or marriages before the present Code (November 27, 1983).

John



SPOTLIGHT: CHAPLAIN COMFORTS PATIENTS

By Kevin Bergquist

The following article, spotlighting Deacon Wayne Charlton's work at University of Michigan Hospital, appeared in *The University Record*, March 22, 2004 issue.

Online at: http://www.umich.edu/~urecord/0304/Mar22_04/23.shtml

On the secluded eighth floor of C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, high above the Medical Campus, Wayne Charlton quietly prepares for the day in his office. What each day holds depends on a roster of hospital patients he receives every morning.



Charlton, a chaplain in the U-M Health System's Pastoral Care Department, soon will hit the ground running, literally, as he visits an average of 20 patients a day to counsel and minister their spiritual and sacramental needs. His areas of responsibility include all of Mott and the main hospital's Trauma Burn Unit.

"I don't know how many times I have walked into a patient's room and they look at me like, 'What do you know that I don't know?'" says Charlton, who mostly serves the hospitals' Roman Catholic patients. Additional chaplains serve people of other faiths.

"The perception is that because the chaplain is there, there must be something going on and that the doctors want them there because there is some bad news."

Charlton, one of five chaplains in the pastoral care department, has been on the job for 13 years. Also serving as a deacon at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Ypsilanti, he says many visits are routine, such as stopping in to let families know help is

available.

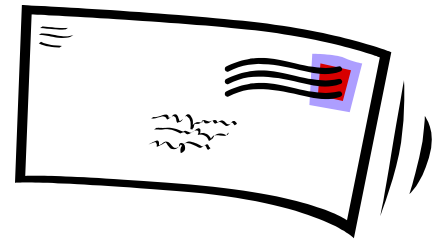
"Sometimes people are looking for answers where scientifically there are no answers," Charlton says. "I see my primary responsibility as a chaplain to remind people that God has not forgotten about them. The bottom line is we need to know that we are not alone."

Charlton says there are days when chaplains find themselves in the middle of three or four crisis situations. For Charlton, many of them come in Mott, where parents often seek guidance and answers for their sick children. But, Charlton says, his ministry is not just about helping the sick and dying.

"The reason why any chaplain is able to do their job is because they have seen the miracles and the good things that come," he says. "We see people beat all of the odds and prove that the numbers don't mean anything."

Charlton was ordained a deacon in 1990. He says he became interested in hospital ministry after both of his parents passed away during a six-month period in which both endured long hospital stays.

To deal with the stress of the position, Charlton spends time with his family. His wife, Linda, works in Medical Center Information Technology operations. Their daughter, Carol, is a sophomore at Huron High School. He spends free time working with computers and enjoying his water garden.



POSTCARDS TO DEATH ROW INMATES

Special Request:

I have a friend on San Quentin's death row who just had his last appeal, to the U.S. Supreme Court, turned down. He has been moved to a cell closer to the guard's desk so they can keep an eye on him---some prisoners get suicidal at this time. Guards check in on him regularly. Since he was convicted 20 years ago, when the gas chamber was used in California, they are asking him questions like: "What form of execution would you prefer, gas or lethal injection? What would you like for your last meal?" The date of his execution has not yet been set, but it is close. I saw him on Holy Saturday. He could use some mail from the outside. If you would like to drop him a line, write to:

Garry Hines #D91000
San Quentin Prison
San Quentin, California 94974

Thanks, Jude Siciliano, OP



COMMUNITY PRAYER LINE

For the sick:

- Judy Barrett**
Jim Corder
Father of Deacon Jim Corder
- Ed Holowicki**
Father of Deacon Gerry
- Gordy and Caren Kilburn**
- Ray Pizana**
- Vance Poole**
Son of Greg & Liz

NECROLOGY

May

- 2 Mr. Ferdie Savoie 1990
- 16 Bishop Alexander Zaleski 1975
- 19 Josephine Fournier 2000

June

- 10 Deacon (John) Patrick Garber 2003
- 18 Deacon Richard Soucy 2003
- 19 Helen Bues 1992
- 28 Mr. James Hacker 1989



POSTCARDS TO DEATH ROW INMATES

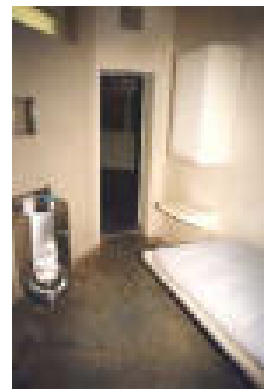
SUBMITTED BY: WAYNE CHARLTON

Inmates on death row are the most forgotten people in the prison system. I am posting in this space several inmates' names and locations. I invite you to write a postcard to one or more of them 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" Thanks, Jude Siciliano, OP

Please write to:

- Nathan Bowie #0038561 (On death row since 2/5/93)
- William Bowie #0039569 (2/5/93)
- Elton Mc Laughlin #0272408 (3/17/93)
- Rayford L. Burke #0057308 (4/1/93)
- John Burr #0058316 (4/21/93)
- Eugene Decastro #0104984 (4/28/93)
- Johnnie Spruill #0385535 (11/4/92)
- Perrie Simpson #0371096 (2/1/93)
- General Miller #0281791 (2/1/93)

Central Prison 1300 Western Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27606

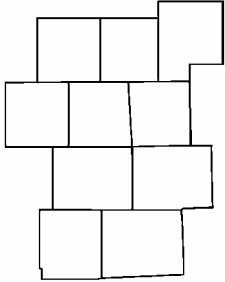


Cluster Meetings

Cluster Contact(s)	Meeting Date/Time Place
Genesee/Owosso Rod Amon or Jim Brown	May 10 St. Mary, Mt. Morris
Other Details:	
Jackson/Lenawee/Hillsdale Carol or Linda Franssen	After Deacon Advisory Council
Other Details:	
Lansing Cluster Terry Fleming, Dick Stanford, Mark Simmon	May 21 Most Holy Trinity, Fowler
Other Details:	
Livingston Cluster Dave Piggot or Endre Doran	May 3 T. W. Friends Restaurant
Other Details:	
Washtenaw Cluster Warren Hecht-Tom Franklin	May 8, 9:30 a.m. Guy Hollaran's
Other Details:	Mass at Christ the King at 9:00 a.m.



Diocese of Lansing
Office of Deacons
300 West Ottawa St.
Lansing, Michigan 48933



Newsletter submissions should be sent to the Office of Deacons (bsirl@dioceseoflansing.org or awoelf@dioceseoflansing.org)

The Lighter Side Returns!

Seen in a Church Bulletin or heard in an announcement in Somewhere, USA

Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

Next Sunday is the family hayride and bonfire at the Fowlers'. Bring your own hot dogs and guns. Friends are welcome! Everyone come for a fun time.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water" The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus"

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing "Break Forth into Joy."

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall, music will follow.

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

