

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

May 2007



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

Bishop Mengeling Health Update



From the Office of Communication, Diocese of Lansing

Dear Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Coordinators and Agency Directors:

Good News, Good News! The prayers of the faithful for the recovery of Bishop Mengeling have truly been powerful!

According to Bishop Mengeling's doctor, the tumor was contained within the bladder itself. The lab report on the tissue biopsy samples taken during the surgery last Tuesday reveals no evidence of cancerous cells. His doctor also reports that Bishop is making excellent progress in healing after the surgery. It is not expected that other cancer treatments will be necessary. Bishop Mengeling is very grateful for all your prayers and good wishes. Please continue to pray for him during this time of recovery and recuperation, and for all who are ill.

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Priest Ordination

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.

As a side note, John will vest and process with the deacons at the deacon ordination May 19.

Deacon Ordination

By Bill Sirl

Bishop James Murray of Kalamazoo will preside over the deacon ordination on the 19th. He was formally the Chancellor of the Diocese of Lansing until his ordination as Bishop in 1998.



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

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

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.



Sacred Storytelling

Inspired by the 2005 National Conference for Community and Justice’s production called “The Children of Abraham Project”, the Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County has launched its own initiative with high school students. In conjunction with director and playwright Jeffrey Steiger, we are creating “Sacred Storytelling”, an arts-based project for fostering interfaith dialogue. Through storytelling and acting, the production will spark dialogue regarding the prejudice and misunderstanding that can often accompany difficult conversations across faiths and religions. Most importantly, these performances will be used as an opportunity for bridge-building toward greater appreciation and respect. In this religiously diverse community, we see some signs of harmony and cooperation, but we are also well aware of other stories of prejudice and exclusion. "Sacred Storytelling" will attempt to bridge the gaps by bringing community youth together to theatrically adapt their sacred stories into an interfaith invitation for the rest of the community.

And where will we hear these personal stories? There are many existing groups of students in our community that already meet for educational, religious or social reasons. One such set of groups is the youth groups of the various member congregations of the Round Table. Jeffrey has met with ten such groups for the purpose of hearing their stories and engaging in dialogue. These two-hour sessions dealt with issues of faith and values, memories and experiences. These conversations have become the basis for the script of a play dealing with religious diversity in Washtenaw County. Performers are from the U of M’s CRLT theatre program under the direction of Jeffrey Steiger, as well as from students in our faith communities.



All of this is about much more than just a play. It is about building better bridges. “Sacred Storytelling” is an opportunity to engage in extended conversations. What did we hear? What did we assume? What stereotypes were brought to our attention? What does it take to overcome prejudice? How can we build better bridges of friendship and understanding?

Funding for “Sacred Storytelling” comes from the Interfaith Round Table, its supporting congregations and friends, the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and the U of M’s Life Science and Society Program.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES

Sunday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.

The Neutral Zone

310 E. Washington, Ann Arbor

Parking: on the street, Bank of Ann Arbor, Comerica Bank, the Public Library lot and the city structure lot on 4th and Washington

Monday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.

Temple Beth Emeth--St. Clare's Episcopal Church

2309 Packard Road, Ann Arbor

Parking: on the street, in the Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's lots and in the Hollywood Video lot on Packard a block north of the venue.

TICKET PRICES

\$10 for adults, \$5 for high school students and younger.

Tickets can be ordered through this site using the contact form or by calling 734-424-1535. Many of our supporting congregations have contact people selling tickets for Sacred Storytelling.



Do With Me As You Will

by *Brother Charles de Foucauld*
submitted by *Fr. Charlie Irvin*

“Lord, I abandon myself into your hands;
Do with me as you will.

For whatever You do I thank you ...
I am ready for all; I accept all.

Let only Your will be done in me,
As in all Your creatures,
and I ask nothing else, my Lord.

Into Your hands I commend my soul;
I give it to You, O Lord,
with the love of my heart.

For I love You, my God, and so need to give –
To surrender myself into Your hands.
With a trust beyond all measure,
Because You are my God.

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.

Spring Work Bee At Cormier's

by *Bill Sirl*

You may recall last year we asked for volunteers to help plant the gardens at Cormier's. Currie was a master gardener and his home had been on the Spring Garden Tour a number of years. With his illness he was unable to put in all the work required last year. So the deacon community came to the rescue and a number of us met at Cormier's on a Saturday in May to help with the planting. It turned out to be a beautiful day and very enjoyable. Currie and Donna were most appreciative not only for the help but especially for the presence of the deacon community. We all felt wonderful at the end of the day. Donna has scaled back this year but could still use some help with planting. Wayne Charlton and I have scheduled this for the morning of Saturday May 26 because it is the first available date. I know this is Memorial Day weekend but it should only take a couple hours in the morning. Your help would be appreciated. "Many hands make light work" as my mother used to say.

If you can join us please let Wayne (deaconwc@med.umich.edu) or me (bsirl@dioceseoflansing.org) know so we have an idea how many will be coming. Donna is planning on serving lunch (which will make it all worthwhile!)

For the sick:

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

For those who have died:

- Ruth Feeny Solzer**
Mother of Kathy Borzenski



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



Community Prayer Line

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

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



Genesee/Owosso

- Place:** TBD
- Date:** TBD
- Time:** TBD
- Contact:** Gary Gallagher
- Other Details:**

Jackson/Lenawee/Hillsdale

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

Lansing

- Place:** TBD
- Date:** May 18
- Time:** 6:30 p.m.
- Contact:** T. Heutsche, T. Fogle
- Other Details:** E. Schneider on Funerals

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

Dear Holy Spirit...

By Tom Franklin

O Comforter, You who enfolds me in most loving arms...

O God, animating fount of life, whose breath roiled the untamed waters of The First Dawn...

O Hagia Sophia, She who spreads Wisdom's Holy Feast before me...

Holy Spirit, Your great feast of Pentecost is coming upon us, and I am only beginning to understand what it means to have a tongue of fire descend upon me.

Holy Spirit, *SISTER SAID* we should pray to you before taking a test –and, in mortal fear of Sister and of a “C” I so prayed, fervently, and some times miracles happened. Was that You or was it simply statistics at play – do You play? Do You laugh? Do You delight in us?

Holy Spirit, how shall I call you? I am “of a certain age” and I am a man who prays to You, and in 60 years of prayer I have never known Your Name. You remain Holy Spirit, Lover of my soul, Desire of desires, and you remain shrouded in awe-filled clouds of unknowing.

You are Mystery to me, Holy Mystery, Sweet Mystery, Mystery of purest Light, Mystery of Love aching in the core of who I am, and yet You are nameless. Moses asked the Father for a name and at least he got “I am who am” and Jesus is my brother as well as my God, but You- You remain this ineffable Presence, this One who prays for me when all that is left in me is a retching auuuggggh... It is You who are this One most Other and yet most immanent, You are the One whose heart songs bring me from the wintry fear of the worst of human doings to the white heat of Divine Possibilities, making life a worthwhile enterprise after all... and yet I have no idea of how to call You by name...

Perhaps You withhold your secret name from me because I still have work to do, and if I simply knew who you called yourself, I would no longer breathe, lest I profane the air with sounds other than the echo of Your holy name. Or, maybe You delight in my pursuit of You. As it is, Your Cyrene-like call to me echoes in my heart, inviting me to make Love present in the face of human joy, human suffering and pain. And I glimpse You in the Mystery of Church, but still and all, I am left with calling you “Holy Spirit” - or simply speaking to You without preamble, free of the pretense and formality of a Name.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart and renew my spirit, that I may help You renew the face of the earth.

Directory Updates



Deacons:

Deacon Mike Barrett

email: mmbarr@charter.com

Deacon John & Jane Hubbarth

email: jhubbarth@verizon.net

Deacon Joe & Mary Lou Kratofil

email: jakmlk8@modempool.com

Deacon Ray & Sandy Kunik

email: kunikhowell@aol.com

Candidate:

Mike Dear

email: mikiedear@sbcglobal.net

Don Michael

William Beaumont Army Medical Center

Attn: Capt. Donald Michael - OT Clinic

5005 North Piedras St.

El Paso, TX 79920

email: donald.michael1@us.army.mil

CCUP Lecture Series

by *Wayne Charlton*

Corpus Christi University Parish in Toledo, Ohio sponsors two Lecture Series each year. The Spring 2007 series finished on Tuesday May 1, with an outstanding talk on Thomas Aquinas given by Dr. Richard Gaillardetz. Although I would love to expand on what I found most interesting about this talk and the others in this series, I would not do them justice. They do have audio CDs available from their library, if you are interested, and I would highly recommend the talk given by Michael Himes on Augustine of Hippo and the one I mentioned above.

I mention this just to capture your interest because this Fall they have what promises to be another great line-up for the six week series beginning Tuesday, September 25th. The one name that is certainly familiar to most is Ronald Rolheiser, OMI; author of "The Holy Longing" and popular writer featured in many Catholic newspapers. Fr. Rolheiser will be presenting on October 30th.

The flyer for the entire series is available at the CCUP website: <http://www.ccup.org/2007%20FLS%20Flyer.pdf>

Justice Notes

Submitted by Fr. Jude Siciliano, O.P.

"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:14b-17)

Today's Second Reading from the Book of Revelation tells us that "every tear will be wiped away". But what are we to do with this Easter promise of Life in the face of so much death in our world? In his Easter message, Pope Benedict named just a few of the horrors in our world for which countless tears are being shed by God's children, our brothers and sisters.

"How many wounds, how much suffering there is in the world! Natural calamities and human tragedies that cause innumerable victims and enormous material destruction ... the scourge of hunger, of incurable diseases, of terrorism and kidnapping of people, of the thousand faces of violence ... of contempt for life, of the violation of human rights and the exploitation of persons...peace is sorely needed: in Sri Lanka...Darfur ...Afghanistan ... the Middle East, and in Iraq, torn apart by continual slaughter...

***In the face of
human
destruction, in the
face of human
rejection, God
cannot and will
not be less than
God.***

The Pope continues with these words:

"Christ is risen and he is alive among us. It is he who is the hope of a better future...United to him and ready to offer our lives for our brothers, let us become apostles of peace, messengers of a joy that does not fear pain -- the joy of the Resurrection" (Pope Benedict XVI ,Easter Message 2007)

"Easter declares that God is neither a product of our best selves (our best hopes and dreams) nor is God limited by our worst nightmares. Resurrection is God being God. In the face of human destruction, in the face of human rejection, God cannot and will not be less than God. God will not be mocked. God cannot be defeated. Newness, wholeness, and fullness of life will define holiness now and in the world to come. Resurrection is God in a single moment of glory reinventing everything and then inviting us along for the ride." (Wrestling with Presence, Reflections for Lent: Pax Christi USA)

What can I do?

We can open our hearts and our prayers to the suffering and tears of the world.

We can remind each other, when it's hard to remember, that Easter has happened and continues to happen, all around us, within us and among us. We are called to be witnesses to this. Rejoice!

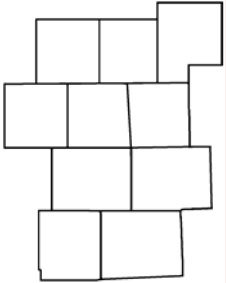
(Submitted to Fr. Jude by Anne and Bill Werdel, from the parish bulletin of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Raleigh, NC)



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:

Fernando L. Garcia	#0702066	(On death row since 4/19/01)
George M. Kelly	#0223210	(5/29/01)
Jim. E. Haselden	#0561943	(6/6/01)
Eric Murillo	#0499258	(4/18/96)
George F. Page	#0310202	(4/26/96)
Guy Le Grande	#0238344	(4/26/96)
Jamie L. Smith	#0376917	(5/10/96)
Robbie D. Locklear	#0246186	(5/14/96)
Archie L. Billings	#0471315	(6/5/96)

Central Prison 1300 Western Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27606



Pray for Peace