Community Communications

October/November 2007

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

Convocation 2008

A Deacon Community Convocation has been scheduled for October 3-5, 2008at Shanty Creek Resort. It will precede the Priests' Convocation and we will share presenters again. The theme for the 2008 Convocations will be preaching. For parish budgeting purposes the cost of the Convocation will be $450 for a couple. Mark your 2008 calendars now!

Couples Retreat

The Livingston Cluster is having its very own couples retreat the weekend of November 2-4 at Maryville Retreat Center in Holly with Msgr. Bill Fitzgerald. Cost of the retreat will be $300 per couple. Anyone interested in joining the Livingston Cluster that weekend should contact Dave Piggot at 810-632-5110 or dpiggot@parishmail.com

Blessed Are They Who Mourn

A Workshop on the Celebration of the Funeral Rites
from Rita A. Thiron
On August 22, Bishop Mengeling promulgated "Guidelines for the Preparation of the Funeral Rites." Three copies were sent to all parishes in the September mailing. Additional copies may be downloaded from the Office of Worship page on the diocesan website -- www.dioceseoflansing.org/worship.
A workshop will elaborate on that guideline. It will be offered at two sites -- on Tuesday, October 30 at St. Mary Star of the Sea (Jackson) or on Thursday, November 8 at Holy Family (Grand Blanc). Each workshop is scheduled from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.
Who should attend? Priests, deacons, liturgists, music directors, parish staffs, bereavement teams, funeral directors, and any interested parishioner.
Registration brochures are posted on the diocesan website. Go to the main page, see "news and information" on the upper right, click the hyperlink "Funeral Rites Workshop."

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Distance Learning for Deacons

Distance Learning for the Diaconate (Pontifical College Josephinum)
Since 1888, the Josephinuum has continued the vision of its founder, Msgr. Joseph Jessing, by preparing clergy for the new evangelization and to serve the pastoral needs of the Church. The Josephinuum now provides educational resources through distance learning, delivering continuing education programs to priests and deacons throughout North America.

Deacons enrolled in the Distance Learning Program for the Diaconate complete courses in 12 weeks or less and earn 2 semester hours for each course. The courses will help them gain knowledge from a practical pastoral focus, including such topics as pastoral care of the family, medical morality, Hispanic ministry, hospital chaplaincy, and Canon Law for deacons.

To learn more about the program and view the course titles and descriptions visit their web site: http://www.pcj.edu/distance/index.html and click on "New! Continuing Education for the Diaconate" (right hand side of the page). It also provides additional information and allows deacons to register for courses.

Intimacy With the Lord

Intimacy with the Lord (or Avoiding Excess Baggage)
by Gary Prise, 2nd year Candidate

I actually went to the hospital to visit with a hospice patient when I encountered Tim who happened to be Catholic, too. He was sitting in a chair with a lap top in front of him, busily typing away, with stacks of papers around him. He appeared to be in his office and not in a hospital room. I estimated Tim to be in his forties, well groomed and, given his intense focus, should have been wearing a business suit instead of a hospital gown. It appeared he was hospitalized for some kind of heart related issue as he had monitoring equipment attached to his chest.

I had a brief conversation with him and offered him Holy Communion. He declined the offer stating he has been away from the Church and is not currently practicing the faith. Tim said he has a number of unresolved issues with the Church. I asked him if I could pray with him and he said not today. I asked him if there was anything I could do for him; did he want to see a priest? Tim politely declined the offer.

I got the impression from our conversation that Tim is a successful businessman, a bit driven and so focused on success that even though he was hospitalized he could not put work on hold. I felt a real sadness for him.

After leaving Tim, I began wondering if his apparent obsession with work was self imposed or was he a slave to some company or boss that demanded everything from their employees? I also wondered how much his work contributed to his medical condition? My short lived experience with Tim reminded me of the stories in the Gospels (Matt 19:16-20, Mk 10:17-31, Lk 18:18-30) about the man who could not give up his possessions to follow Jesus.

I began thinking about the obstacles and possessions, the extra baggage, that has weighed me down in my life; those things which have competed with God. They have caused extra worry and concern both in accumulating them and protecting them. Things in and of themselves are not evil; it is when excessive desire and attachment for these things result in consuming us that they become a problem.

What are the priorities in my life? What I value is an indicator of my relationship with God. I believe God wants to keep our lives simple. Our hearts yearn for something more than any possession can satisfy. Our hearts yearn for intimacy with God.

Duty, Honor, Faith:
Lessons in Diaconal Service

by Donald Michael

Don is a second year Candidate and a Captain in the United States Army Reserves, Medical Specialist Corps. This past April he was called up for a year long tour of duty and is treating soldiers at the large army hospital in Ft. Bliss, Texas. Here he reflects on the working of the Holy Spirit in his life and the lives of those he treats.

The duties of a U.S. Army Medical Specialist Corps Officer can be daunting, if not for the faith that keeps us determined to serve the needs of the wounded warriors who need medical and rehabilitation care. At William Beaumont Army Medical Center, (WBAMC), Ft. Bliss, Texas, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and other medical personnel, are busy with developing treatment programs to help soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines recover from their injuries (physical or psychological) in order to resume their duties as service members or successfully transition to the civilian world.

As a reservist, assigned to this hospital, I have seen courageous examples of the soldiers who have passed though our clinic. Most are stoic, good humored, and have a sense of purpose that can not be shaken. Their determination to get better and to move on is a lesson for all of us whose challenges in life may be small in comparison. It is also a lesson in faith.

Before coming aboard, as the assistant chief of occupational therapy, at WBAMC, I was happy being a civilian therapist, practicing at a small hospital in a rural corner of Indiana. I was a traditional reservist who only served one tour of duty in Desert Storm. I was generally happy with my one weekend per month commitment and didn't think I would be called back until 9/11. It took almost five years after that event when I was eventually called back into duty at Ft. Bliss.

Leaving family, friends, and a supportive hospital staff was difficult. Dealing with the challenges of taking care of wounded warriors was a greater challenge. Most of America, when they hear of the injured soldiers returning home from the war, only witness snap shots of wounded troopers doing rehab beside a treatment mat or attempting to ambulate along parallel bars. Their fifteen seconds of fame comes and goes, along with the memory of the civilians and politicians who often forget that these are more than hero figures— they are also human.

I have become very mistrustful of politicians, from either the left or the right, who are using these troopers to defend or criticize the war. They often speak as though they are speaking up for the troops. Actually, they are only speaking for themselves. Most of these elected officials have no children serving in the military so their statements of 'concern for our troops' often rings hollow to the warriors we treat. After these warriors' few seconds of fame fades, they are faced with the hard reality that all they have is their willingness to do the best they can and to rely upon each other to get through the long and painful course of rehabilitation. That is where I come in.

In occupational therapy, we talk of the "therapeutic use of self." It is a process by which we realize our strengths and limitations in the milieu of therapy. It is a measuring tool to informally connect with the patients we treat. In my spiritual journey, at Ft. Bliss, I have discovered another device in the realm of therapy: the "therapeutic use of the Spirit." As a Christian, and especially as a Catholic, I have learned long ago that my intelligence, skills and physical attributes are only a part of what connects me to the human race. There is also a spiritual side of everything I do. The decisions I make must take into consideration the total human dimensions of the soldiers I treat. Each morning, I now reflect on "What would Jesus do." After praying the morning office, I remind myself to offer to God and to my soldiers my total commitment of mind, body and spirit in order to be an authentic witness of Christ in the care of these men and women in uniform.

Sometimes it seems easy, until a soldier wants to talk about personal problems in their lives. Sometimes it requires extra hours at the office (that soon becomes your second home). Fortunately, each experience provides a lesson on leadership, servant hood, and the wisdom that can only come from the wry wit of a soldier and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I have learned little things matter. Soldiers love to eat things with hot sauce. Their food reflects their lives of emotional highs and lows. I have discovered the value of Tabasco and candy bars as little rewards for the troopers achieving a therapeutic goal. Occasionally it takes a cigarette break to get a soldier to discover his or her place in the universe. And most of all, simply demonstrating a willingness to connect with them is all they need to make that 'difference' in therapy. The spiritual lesson I have learned from my tour of duty is the need to be present to the Spirit. Sometimes that presence of the Spirit comes through prayer. Currently, that presence comes to me one soldier at a time.

Thursdays Can Be Epiphanies…

even in October

by Joy Franklin

October 25th is a December 7th and a September 11th in our household…a day that is held in "infamy." October twenty-fifths come and go mostly quietly anymore, they slide in silently with only a hint of a breeze of the cold wind that used to blow; sometimes it has just slipped by without notice or fanfare; only to be remembered wistfully on the twenty-seventh or twenty-ninth as "gee…I forgot!" Maybe that is how it should be all the time…

October 25, 1977 was the day that I became a grown-up for real, and the day I discovered that my relationship with God was both blown away and knocked down through the foundation and also rooted strongly enough to eventually thrive again. On October. 25, 1977 our fifth child, third daughter, sixteen month old Mary Rebecca Michelle died at 5:30 in the afternoon after removal of her ventilator. She had lived two weeks in a deep coma, on complete support after being found face down on top of the water in our swimming pool. Her down time had been too long; she never regained a hint of consciousness.

It was a gorgeous October day, sunny, and cool…not too bad for San Diego in October. It made all the images on the drive home from the hospital even more vibrant than usual, more intense, more meaningful…Getting in the station wagon and seeing her car seat… and knowing it would not be used for her again…the decision…leave it up or take it out…we had not even left the parking lot yet of the hospital and were aware of the momentous hole and change that had now invaded our family.

I don't know what made this year so different, why the foreboding before the day came… I chalked it up to Patrick being so close to coming home from his dangerous tour in Iraq, or to the fact that the days have been so warm and lovely and colorful much like that October thirty years ago…I don't know.

But, this morning I knew I would have our great grandson to share the morning with as he and his eighteen year old mom are living with us, and I decided that I would just let God gently heal my soreness of spirit and body with Michael Patrick's warmth and puke and poop and laughter and gentle touch. He looks in my face and SMILES, then giggles…he doesn't want anything, he doesn't want to borrow money, he doesn't want a ride anywhere, he doesn't want to tell me I am too old to do something right. He just looks at me and smiles…and I smile back and giggle back, and get warm and gooey inside (outside too as burp rags leak in addition to diapers). He is just a delight in a fifteen pound package!

Tom and I tend to not mention the date to one another anymore like we used to…like so many other things in our lives we are comfortable with each other and with our differences. Should be after nearly fifty years together I guess…this is one of them. But I do know that Tom usually is always home early that day …as close to 5:30 as he can be…in case.

See ***"Epiphanies"*** *on page 5*

Afraid of Dying—

submitted by Linda Charlton

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know." "You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?" The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

Epiphanies *(Continued from page 4)*

Today the phone rang… Patrick's unit had had injuries, bad ones… they seem to be coming heavy and heavier in the last few weeks, ten more days is all they have left…after fourteen months…they have had two deaths, twenty or so serious injuries, and innumerable other injuries that did not require coming back home to treat… not the safe little deployment at all. I was so distressed that today of all days this would happen…. after such a lovely gift of a morning with Michael Patrick. I was close to tears.

Then there were male voices, and activity in the stairwell…Brady and Rob our foster sons who both are home from Iraq and Afghanistan tours had come to just say hi…to share how they are doing, their plans… asking about Patrick, playing with Pat's big dog Chauncey…and I realized what a lovely gift I was being given in the AFTERNOON! These boys love us, we are not their parents…not their friends…we are just the ones who love them without expectation or without agendas. They made me laugh, cry, and rejoice with them… I had to admire Brady's new tattoo that takes up his whole back… his wife is not going to be happy…it is an eagle with wings spread full…in one talon there is a mechanic's wrench of some kind, in the other an M-16 rifle. And underneath it reads Psalm "something or other" about the feathers being the ultimate shield from God for protection. It is what he hung onto in Mosul for thirteen months. That faith…he calls it God's Kevlar!

Then just when the day was almost over. The phone rang…it was Iraq… Patrick Andrew Franklin, a surprise. Sounded so close, so near, he is so tired, so old…he says he has the spirit of an eighty-year-old…I told him no…he has the wisdom of an eighty-year-old and the heart of a little boy who memorized all the dialogue from "Man from Snowy River" when he was two! We laughed and giggled and made plans for he and his girlfriend to go to our son Anthony's wedding in December in Florida. We can make plans again without too much worry…he will be here…they will all be here…even the baby is going …four generations…

I am loved…I am human…I am slowly realizing that with God not only are all things possible…all things are as they should be…no matter what it may seem at the time ….it is as it should be.in God's time, and in God's world…

That is the time zone I am going to care about from now on…God's. It will be so much simpler. I have spent the last year and a half trying to figure out what time it is when I want to talk to someone. It is eight hours in the future where Patrick is and the boys were, that is really too weird for me to understand…it is Thursday here , 8 pm and for Pat is is Friday morning I think 4 AM…and Tom's family called from the fire zones and it is early afternoon on Thursday still…GADS!!!!!

So…God's time zone….God's Time…and … best of all GOD"S TIMING!!!

Yep…Thursdays can be epiphanies.

Directory Updates

John & Jane Hubbarth
289 Land or Drive
Ruther Glen, VA 22546
804-448-5380
cell: 540-903-2813
deaconjohn1@comcast.net

Bob & Karen McPhilamy
415 Morgan Falls Rd. Apt. 9306
Sandy Springs, GA 30350
404-345-3866
rmcphilamy@comcast.net

Jim & Shirley Matthias
May-September
120 Kellogg St.
Nashville, TN 49073
cell: 517-667-0969
October-April
36807 Kiowa Ave.
Zephyrhills, FL 33541

Richard Preston
2141 Risdon Rd.
Concord, CA 94518

Marriage and Sanctity

by Marv Robertson

Awhile back, I picked up a book entitled "Married Saints and Blesseds Through the Centuries" by Fr. Ferdinand Holbock (Ignatius Press). The author's preface states that "it can be demonstrated for the married people of our time, from the example of the lives of these blessed and saints, how a person can become holy---not in spite of, but precisely through marriage…" Having retired from 25 years as a juvenile court judge, I wholly concur that modern husbands and wives are sadly in need of saintly married models. In 507 pages, the author traces saintly couples from Mary and Joseph to the present day

I focused on the author's biographies of those who lived in approximately the last 500 years. In my analysis, there were 41 couples so listed, with only two couples where both husband and wife were recognized as saints. In the greater majority of cases, the wife only was recognized as "saint" or "blessed," but the husband was not. Most of the couples listed were descended from the nobility or aristocracy. The majority of the wives were widows who entered professed religious life, many as "foundresses" of new orders of nuns. From the author's biographies, it is inferred that most of these pious ladies were deemed worthy of sainthood primarily for their post-marital lives.

One interesting case is that of Marie Martin (1599-1672). In her autobiography she spoke of the "cross of being married." She wrote about her widowhood in these words: "I was nineteen years old when the Lord freed me from the fetters of marriage by taking my husband home to himself. As soon as I became free I felt a great repugnance for marriage." She later left her child and became an Ursuline nun, and left France for Canada. Sister Mary of the Incarnation, as she was now named, later wrote this: "Everyone blamed me for leaving a child who was not yet twelve years old, especially leaving him without secure support, as well as leaving my father who was very old and who was deeply moved at not having me with him any more." She became a renowned mystic and missionary in Canada, and was beatified in 1980.

I do agree with the author's premise that "a person can become holy---not in spite of, but precisely through marriage." Unfortunately a number of his saintly biographies (like that of Marie Martin) disprove his point. I was not inspired by the biography of Marie Martin, and I would not likely pose her story to inspire any Catholic wife and mother. But who am I to question the wisdom of Holy Mother Church in this matter?

While sadly observing that the book has a number of biographies that fail to inspire Christian married life, I must state that I am more inspired by the Christian witness of many living saintly couples that I have been privileged to know, who will not—in this life—have the *official* title of "blessed" or "saint."

We must not only seek inspiration, we must give it from our own married life. "In particular, the deacon and his wife must be a living example of fidelity and indissolubility in Christian marriage before a world which is in dire need of such signs… Deacons and their wives and children can be a great encouragement to all others who are working to promote family life." *—John Paul II, Sept. 19, 1987, Detroit*

QUOTABLE

Submitted by Jude Siciliano, OP

If we simply repeat the formulas of the past, our words may have the character of doctrine and dogma but they will not have the character of good news. We may be preaching perfectly orthodox doctrine but it is not the gospel for us today. We must take the idea of good news seriously. If our message does not take the form of good news, it is simply not the Christian gospel."

—Albert Nolan, O.P.

Community Prayer Line

For the sick:

Bill Everett
Betty Garber
Lisa Kenney
Joseph Kratofil
Tony Mammina
Bishop Carl Mengeling
Penny Novak
Jesse Pizana
Ray & Grace's grandson
Ronald Rowe
John Sundwick
Thomas Timms
Donna Cormier's Father

For those who have died:

Mary Fogle
Tom Fogle's mother

Necrology

November

13	Lucille Miller	1993
23	Deacon Terry Fleming	2006

December

1	Bishop Joseph Albers	1965
12	Gloria Poulson	2002
18	Deacon Michael Lynch	2001
21	Deacon Bernard Endebrock	1999
21	Deacon Santos Ceballos	2006
22	Helen Mathias	2000
27	Judy Barrett	2006

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
Second Year Candidate
MSgt. Bill Shively
Cahaney's son-in-law

Cluster Meetings

Genesee/Owosso

Place: TBD
Date: TBD
Time: TBD
Contact: Jack Daunt or Gary Gallagher
Other Details:

Jackson/Lenawee/Hillsdale

Place: Steve's Ranch, Jackson
Date: October 13, 2007
Time: 9:00 a.m
Contact: *Carol or Linda Franssen*
Other Details:

Lansing

Place: St. Michael, Grand Ledge
Date: February 15, 2008
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Contact: *T. Heutsche, T. Fogle*
Other Details:

Livingston

Place: Maryville Retreat Center
Date: November 2nd-4th, 2007
Time:
Contact: *D. Piggot*
Other Details: with Msgr. Bill Fitzgerald

Washtenaw

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

Newsletter Deadline: Friday, November 30th

Message to Permanent Deacons

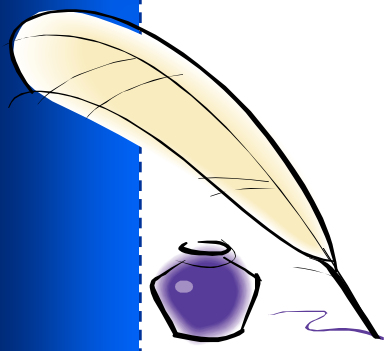
Message to the Permanent Deacons from Cardinal Claudio Hummes

Dear Permanent Deacons,

It is indeed a great joy for me to be able to turn my thoughts to you on the feast of St. Lawrence deacon and martyr, in this my first year as Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy.

You have always occupied a privileged place in my heart. I admire you and wish to say that I see a precious grace of the Lord to His people in the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate following Vatican Council II. This ordained ministry has great potential value and is highly topical in the context of the mission of the Church.

I thank God for the calling you have received and for your generous response. For the majority of you, who are married, this response has also been made possible by the love, support and cooperation of your wives and children.



Concerning deacons, Vatican Council II stated that 'sustained by the sacramental grace in the ministry of the liturgy, preaching and charity, they are at the service of the people of God' (LG 29). Your ministry is 'ministry of the Church in the local community, sign and sacrament of Christ the Lord Himself, who did not come to be served but to serve' (Paul Ad Pascendum, Introduction). Quite rightly Ignatius of Antioch says that deacons are 'ministers of the mysteries of Jesus Christ...ministers of the Church of God' (S. Ignatii Antiocheni, Ad Trallianos, II,3).

Vatican Council II also explains that the sacramental grace conferred through the imposition of hands enables you to exercise your service of the word, of the altar and charity with special effectiveness (cf. Ad Gentes, 16).

Therefore you have been ordained for the service of the Word of God. This means that all that concerns the preaching of the Gospel, catechesis, spreading of the Bible and explanation to the people is ordinarily entrusted to you, though naturally under the authority of your Bishop. Nowadays the Church calls all Her members, especially ordained ministers, to missionary activity, i.e. to rise and move in an organic way firstly towards our baptized who have drifted away from the practice of their Catholic faith, but also towards those who know little or nothing of Jesus Christ and His message, in order to proclaim the Christian message, the kerygma, for the first time and through this to take them to a real and concrete encounter with the Lord. In this encounter faith is renewed and personal acceptance of Jesus Christ and His message is strengthened. This is the foundation of true faith and faithful witness in the world. We can no longer limit ourselves to waiting for our baptized in our churches. We need to find them where they live and work, through a permanent missionary activity, with special attention towards the poor in the suburbs of our cities. This ministry of the Word requires that you, dear Deacons, develop a constant closeness with the Holy Scriptures, and in particular the Gospels. May listening, meditating, studying and practicing the Word of God become your everyday tasks. In this way you will become more disciples of the Lord and you will feel called and enlightened by the Holy Spirit for your mission.

You have been ordained for a liturgical-sacramental service. You have your own liturgical functions in the celebration and giving out of the Eucharist, the center of the life of the Church and, therefore, also the center of the life of ordained ministers. Your ministry entrusts a special responsibility to you for what concerns the sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony. The Bishop may entrust to you all that concerns baptismal and matrimonial-family pastoral care.

See ***"Letter"*** *on page 9*

Letter *(Continued from page 8)*

You have been ordained for charity. You have many things to do, to organize, and to animate! The poor, the disenfranchised, the unemployed, the hungry, all that are reduced to extreme misery, an innumerable crowd, raise their hands and their voice to the Church. Deacons play a vital role for them both historically and in view of their ordination. Charity, solidarity towards the poor, social justice, have always been an ambit of extreme urgency that challenges Christians, as Christ said: 'through this everyone will know that you are my disciples, that you have love for one another' (Jn, 13:35).

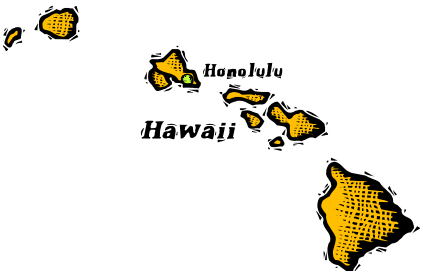
Dear Permanent Deacons, once again I would like to convey all my affection and gratitude. I greet your wives and your families. Witness the love of God! I entrust you to the most Holy Mary who continues to proclaim: 'I am the handmaid of the Lord' (Lk 1:38). And following the example of her service, we too serve our brothers and sisters in the great family of humanity and of the Church. My blessing is upon you all!

From the Vatican, 10th of August 2007

Feast of St. Lawrence, deacon and martyr

Claudio Cardinal Hummes
Prefect

Aloha From Hawaii



We are sending you information regarding a **Pacific Catholic Diaconate Conference** (PCDC) with a request for deacon e-mail addresses so that Permanent Deacons in your diocese will have the opportunity to register for this conference.

We are inviting all Permanent Deacons in the U.S. and Canada to the **Pacific Catholic Diaconate Conference (PCDC) to be held on the Norwegian Cruise Line vessel Pride of America from October 25, 2008 to November 2, 2008.** The conference is designed to bring Permanent Deacons and their families together with other deacons for inspiration, spirituality and community building.

The program includes daily liturgies, general sessions in the morning by major speakers on the following topics: Social Justice and Outreach as Integral to the Diaconate**;** Immigration, Diversity, Multi-Culturalism**;** Marriage Enrichment within the Diaconate**;** the Spiritual and Psychological Development of the Deacon**;** and evening panel discussions. During the day, participants will have the opportunity to visit the major Hawaiian islands.

The cost of the cruise includes all standard meals and lodging at a price that is far more reasonable than a hotel stay in Waikiki. Conference registration costs have been kept low to increase opportunities for deacons and their families to participate. Information on conference registration, agenda, and cruise reservations are available on our web site: **www.deaconshawaii.org**

It is important for deacons to book the cruise early as cruise prices may be higher in 2008. Therefore, we would appreciate if you would send us e-mail addresses or mailing addresses of your deacons, by Saturday, October 27, 2007, or forward this information to the deacons in your diocese. You may e-mail these to **portr001@hawaii.rr.com**, or mail them to **Deacon Richard Port, 1600 Ala Moana Blvd. #3100, Honolulu, HI 96815.**

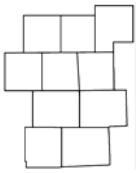
Margaret Miner or I will follow up this e-mail with a phone call to answer any questions you may have.

Mahalo,
Deacon Richard Port
Diocese of Honolulu

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)



Pray for Peace

Postcards and Prayers

Here's a note from someone who started writing to one of the inmates listed in Fr. Jude's weekly email:

I wanted to share a story with you about what happened when I sent off some post cards to death row inmates a year ago. One of the men dropped me a note thanking me for writing so I replied and it was the beginning of a correspondence that has been a gift to both of us. Just this week, he was returned to general death row population after 9+ years on lock-down and he attributes some of his positive changes to the support and encouragement that our written conversation has offered. Certainly there are multiple pieces to the puzzle that is our life and every person and experience adds something to the finished picture. I feel very privileged to have been able to be a part of this man's journey towards healing. Whether or not there is acknowledgment of the message, it seems pretty obvious that sending postcards is something that needs to be continued. We become who we are in relationship to each other and it is very difficult to discover the many positive aspects of our selves in isolation. Continue to encourage people to reach out to these men, reminding them that they do have an inherently good self and reminding them that there is always the opportunity to become more of what God has intended for them.

—Mary Therese Lemanek Allen Park, Mi.

Please write to:		On death row since
Jeffrey Neal	#0113234	(9/26/03)
Linwood Earl Forte	#0133102	(10/8/03)
Scott D. Allen	#0005091	(11/18/03)
John Henry	#0406487	(11/14/02)
Terry (Jathiyah) Morre (Al-Bayyinah)	#0290634)	(6/14/03)
Jimmy Mc Neill	#0507467	(7/15/03)
Terrance Campbell	#0064125	(3/28/02)
Wesley Toby Smith	#0765397	(5/29/02)
Quintel Augustine	#0612123	(10/23/02)

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