

COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

September 2004



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

COMMON CONFERENCE

This year's Common Conference will be held October 21-23 at the Lansing Center. On Saturday, October 23, a special sit down luncheon is planned for the deacon community in the nearby Radisson Hotel. This hotel is connected to the Lansing Center by an enclosed overhead walkway.

Registration forms for the luncheon were mailed in late August. Please, remember space is limited to 125, so don't delay in returning your form to the Office of Deacons.

Common Conference registration booklets were sent out to each parish earlier this year. If you have not received one, check at your parish office or call the Office of Deacons to have one mailed to you.



DEACON COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

The Diocese of Lansing Deacon Directory will be updated in October and distributed at the Common Conference during the deacon community luncheon on Saturday. Please review the current directory information we have for you and contact the Office of Deacons with any necessary changes. Please, pay particular attention to the email address we have on file for you and make sure it is current.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY SERIES

Fr. Matt Fedewa and Fr. Jerry Vincke will be presenting an on going formation opportunity, Theology of the Body, based on Pope John Paul II's writings. This weekly series will be on Sundays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at St. John Student Parish, 327 MAC Ave. in East Lansing. Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. immediately following the presentation. Cost of the series is \$20 each for the Fall and Winter sessions. The Fall session, Love and Responsibility, will meet each week September 12—December 5. The Winter session, Theology of the Body, will meet from January 16—May 1. If interested call Fr. Matt at 517-342-2509 or email mfedewa@dioceseoflansing.org Don't delay! Seating is limited.



In Memory of:
**Robert Paul
Vatter**

✠ August 2, 2004 ✠
(see page 3)

Also in this issue:

**Twenty years of
Diaconal Service**

and others
(see page 10)

and

**Congratulations
to Acolytes and
Candidates**

(see page 8)

**The deadline
For the next issue of
Community Communications
is
September 24th.**

PREACH POLITICS?

SUBMITTED BY: STAN KUKLA

By Walter J. Burghardt, S.J.

FIRST, a cautionary note. Be it known that in this modest essay "politics" has a specific, restricted sense. It has to do with government (county, city, state, nation) and with those who are officially engaged therein (e.g. Clinton, Congress, Pataki, Barry), those who are campaigning to so engage (e.g., Buchanan, Alexander), and those who professionally or occasionally analyze, comment on, or try to influence any or all of the above (e.g., Reston, Koppel, Limbaugh, the gun lobby, the Christian Coalition, "letters to the editor"). For politics in a broader, richer sense, I recommend the insightful article by Judith Wray in this issue.

An American axiom that has enjoyed too long an uncontested life claims "The pulpit is not the place for politics." That axiom rests in large measure on two presuppositions: (1) the American separation of church and state; (2) a sense that the sanctuary is too sacred for the grime and grit of politics.

Two swift responses. (1) However one may interpret separation of church and state, the principle does not separate church from society. The church is part and parcel of society, as much as are atheist and agnostic, not only free but obligated to contribute to the common good. (2) The primary mission of the church is to preach God's Word. God's Word is not only broad principles such as Jesus cautioning that "No one lives by bread

The neuralgic problem, of course, is, how concrete dare I get?

alone." (Matt 4:4); it includes Amos castigating those who "sell the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and push the afflicted out of the way" (Amos 2:6-7). Above all, the church must proclaim and live, within its walls and outside, the mission of its founder, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because [the Lord] has anointed me to preach good

news to the poor, has sent me to proclaim release for captives and sight for the blind, to send the downtrodden away relieved" (Luke 4:18). More than two decades ago, German theologian Karl Rahner insisted that the institutional church should not see itself "solely as the doctrinaire guardian and teacher of abstract principles which become ever increasingly abstract and are liable to carry within themselves the danger of a terrifying sterility" (*The Shape of the Church to Come* [London: SPCK, 1974] 77). No, the Church should have the courage for concrete imperatives, concrete directives, "even in regard to sociopolitical action by Christians in the world" (*ibid.* 76). That vision, that courage, is not restricted to official documents, which are usually more prudent than passionate and are read by relatively few; it must be carried to the pulpit.

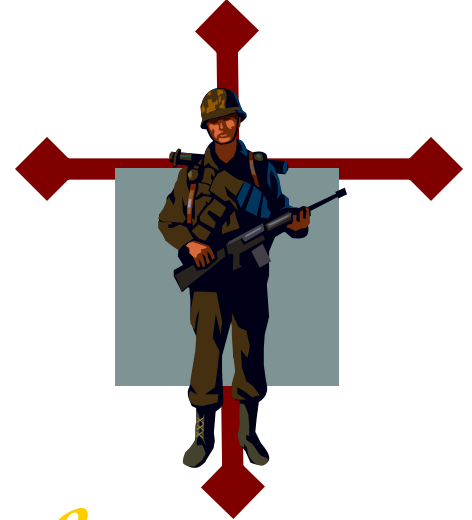
The neuralgic problem, of course, is, how concrete dare I get? There is no simple solution, no all-purpose push button to activate the answer. Issues can be confoundingly complex (environment, affirmative action, immigration legal and illegal, welfare policies); experts, men and women of good will, often disagree. Still, disagreement need not strike the preacher dumb. It can only render me mute if I see the pulpit as the podium for eternal verities alone, defined dogma, the very words of Jesus. Beyond that, **our delicate, indispensable task is to help form consciences. Not force conscience; simply, assist the faithful to share a genuinely Christian conscience.**

Here Vatican II was clear, concise, compelling: "Let the laity not imagine that their pastors are always such experts that to every problem which arises, however complicated, they can readily give a concrete solution, or even that such is their mission" (*The Church in the Modern World*, no. 43).

(Continued on page 6)

FATHER TO FATHER

BY: TOM FRANKLIN



Lord, God, my father, we need to speak of sons and sacrifice. And, I have discovered, I don't trust you. One of my beloved sons is to become a warrior, proud, uniformed, trained, believing at once in the ideal and in his own invincibility, and in his own immortality. I want to place him in your care, depending upon You to protect him. Father to Father, I want You to look me squarely in the eye and say, Father to father, that you will keep him safe— But look at what you permitted for Your firstborn, my brother Jesus.

Father mine, I dread the day when this young man, one of my precious sons, is called to don his combat uniform and go off to a war of dubious merit in a place where the gift of his service is at best tolerated, and where his death would be celebrated... My son fears not, but in my heart I have dread sufficient for us both—

Answer me, Lord God, my Father— for between us as fathers, there must be an honor, there must be a trust, and I now have none. Lord, hear my prayer.



Bob was very involved because he loved his God and wanted to serve the people of God.

Bill Sirl, Director

In the Peace of Christ



Robert Paul Vatter

**Diocese of Lansing
Deacon Candidate III
October 20, 1957 -
August 2, 2004**



An Outstanding Deacon

by Bill Sirl

Those who knew Bob Vatter knew that he had a heart as big as he was. He touched everyone he came in contact with just by being Bob. He was warm, approachable and always ready to help out.

Bob and Jill were married 24 years and had two college age sons, James and John. Bob was rightfully proud of that family and they meant everything to him. He grew up in the small Thumb area town of Cass City where he and Jill knew each other since the sixth grade. He worked for the state Democratic Party as their data base coordinator. Prior to that he had owned and operated his own auto parts supply business.

To say Bob was very involved at St. Casimir Parish would be an understatement. He headed the very successful parish fund raising effort, Stone Upon Stone Capital Campaign, and the annual Corn Roast Festival. Other parish activities included Knights of Columbus, Parish Council, Finance Council, Worship Commission, Education Commission, School Committee, Religious Ed, Confirmation Prep Team and RCIA. Also, he served the parish as an adult altar server, lector, Extra-ordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Mass captain and sacristan. He was the coordinator of "The Twins" Habitat for Humanity project in Lansing and regularly donated blood to the Red Cross. Bob was a servant leader through and through.

Yes, Bob was very involved because he loved his God and wanted to serve the people of God. When asked in his application essay for acceptance into diaconate formation to describe what he believed of God, he responded "that God is a lot like his Grandma. Very wise. Kind and understanding to a fault. Willing to always forgive." This not only said something about his view of God but also how he felt about the elderly and disadvantaged. He truly enjoyed visiting shut ins and patients in the hospital. I know he found God in those people from the beautiful spiritual reflections he wrote from those experiences.

It has been said that outstanding *ordained* deacons were outstanding deacons long before they entered formation. Bob would have been an outstanding *ordained* deacon.

Reflection on the Specialness of Bob Vatter

by Tom Fogle, fellow 3rd year Candidate

"I will go Lord, if you lead me..."

There are certain individuals who come into your life, bless you with their presence, and then leave abruptly. Although saddened by their departure you know you are better off now than before they arrived. The presence of Bob Vatter in my life is one of those blessings from God. I had the privilege of knowing Bob for a little more than six years, but what a significant impact he has made on my life.

Bob was a loving "Teddy Bear" and a Deacon's Deacon. No matter what needed to be done, Bob was the first to volunteer. If there was a need to be filled - his hand was the first into the air saying, "I'll do it." There was never a task focused on helping others that was below his dignity to accomplish. If a table needed setting up, chairs moved, food provided, camera operated, a cup of water to quench a thirst, or just to be present for support, he was always there to provide what was needed. It would have been easy for a man his size to let others do the hard work, but that never entered his mind. When something was needed, Bob was there lending a hand or a sympathetic listening ear. He was caring, compassionate, full of life, and with his family showed us how to live out the Beatitudes. It was easy to see the face of Christ in Bob and to feel Christ's love through Bob. When Bob would grace me with a hug, I knew I was in the loving arms of the Lord. His hugs were authentic and heartfelt.

Tom's reflection is continued on page 5

To My Brothers and Sisters in the Diaconal Community of Lansing

By David Rosenberg

For Jill Vatter, and the family of Robert P. Vatter

*A friendly smile,
A casual touch,
These are things
That mean so much.
To know you are with us
In our time of sorrow,
Sharing our prayers,
Today and tomorrow.
God gives us comfort
In the form of good friends,
May His peace be with you,
His love never ends.*

Fr. Bill Luggar, pastor and friend of Bob's, wrote the following words after hearing of his death.

"My brothers and sisters in Christ... We lost a good and valued friend ... He will be greatly missed by all.

It is certainly at times like this that our faith gets tested. We ask all the usual questions such as: Why? ... How Come? ... Why so soon before his ordination? ... Why at such a young age? ... How come God does this? It is OK to ask these questions. It is OK to question God. Asking God is a form of prayer. Remember the Gospel where Jesus said to us... "ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find; knock and it will be opened for you. (Luke 11:1-13) God always wants to remain in OPEN communication with us. We needn't close him off in times of difficulty or hardship or pain. God is there to comfort, guide, direct and most of all LOVE us as his children.

Anytime someone who has studied Theology, Sacred Scripture, and Sacraments, as Bob has done for these past five years, students are given numerous questions to ponder. Questioning and answering... dialogue and discussion makes us stronger. And as soon as I heard that Bob had passed from this life I knew that Bob had all the answers to all the questions as he looked at the face of God.

Am I sad? Yes of course! Bob was almost a brother to me in many ways. He could finish one of my sentences at a meeting before I ended it. He would know where help was needed before I even asked him. I was so looking forward to having Bob at the altar with me. He told great stories and felt very comfortable in his ministry, which served so many people. He was involved in Habitat for Humanity, R.C.I.A., Finance Council, Parish Pastoral Council, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Corn Roast 2004, Lector, Altar Server, Mass Captain, The 2004 Ministry Fair and so many other areas it is difficult to list them all. He will be greatly missed.

Are we also joyful? I hope so. We as Catholic brothers and sisters in communion with Bob through Christ in the Eucharist and Baptism celebrate Bob's faith and good works by celebrating Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection. Bob believed and his life reflected that belief and his faith. We can do nothing greater than to honor Bob by asking God who loves us all to raise Bob to new and Eternal Life in His Kingdom!"

And so life goes on. Words like Fr. Bill's certainly help comfort and heal. And Bob is present with us, but in his new and glorified existence. There was so much love in this holy man named "Bob" that it could not help but radiate and saturate those who knew him. And so our lasting treasure is that this diaconal community is stronger, thanks to his spiritual gifts and contributions. And we are certainly imbued with a keener sense of our mystical life for having been blessed with his presence.

David's reflection is continued on page 5

Homily from Vigil Service for Bob Vatter

by Rod Amon

About 3 years ago, I got a strange e-mail from someone named Bob Vatter. He told me he was on his way to becoming a deacon and would like me to think about being his mentor. I had only been ordained a year myself and for a time I thought someone was messing with me.

I checked with Fr. Bill Luggar and he told me that Bob was indeed a candidate and that we should get along well. So I decided to give this a try.

Bob and I met at a restaurant for the first meeting. I could tell then that this guy was for real.

The more we talked the more it became apparent to me that Bob was going to be an excellent Deacon.

All about Bob was genuine. He was very involved at the parish. There wasn't much that went on that he did not know about. He told me many times that he enjoyed everything he did at St Casimir, whether it was serving, being a lector, even if he had to wash windows, he was happy. Serving others is a sign of a true Deacon.

Yet through all this, Bob was humble, not wanting much time in the spot light. I think that is an important trait for a Deacon to have.

I also realized how much Bob cared for his family. His eyes would sparkle when he told me about John and James his sons. Bob is very proud of you. Always remember that.

The eyes really lit up when he spoke of Jill. From the way he spoke of you I knew he was deeply in love with you. Your infectious laugh will always remind me of you and Bob.

When we were together, Bob tended to Jill's needs very well. Jill, he was always smiling when you were around.

Bob loved his Detroit Tigers even though I never could understand why. I remember him preaching in class and using them as an example. He never

Rod's Homily is continued on page 5

Rod Amon's homily (Continued from page 4) gave up on them as bad as they could get. True caring. He also loved the Lions and almost had me converted back to them.

The MSU Spartans were also his team no matter the sport.

I know that Bob and Jill did some hospital ministry. That can be very tough to do. Yet I know that despite what they may have encountered, those they visited got what they needed and more because Bob and Jill were Jesus tending the children of God.

Bob's not being ordained did not stop him from sharing the words of God with everyone. I was proud of what I heard him preach. His messages were always clear even when he was nervous. He knew that it was not his will but that of God that propelled him on his mission of service.

This is the Stole of a Deacon. Bob, you truly earned this. You were Deacon Bob along time ago.

Bob you are my friend. When you have friends like Bob, make sure that you spend as much time with them as you can.

The world will be different without you there to all of us, especially your family and the extended family you have acquired just by being you.

But we all know that you are in a better place, and Jesus has ordained you Deacon Bob. Rest in the peace of Christ my brother, my friend.

"We are certainly sad to experience this great loss to our deacon community. Since it is necessary for one to "be" a deacon before one is "ordained" [officially proclaimed] a deacon. In Bob's case he certainly has achieved "deacon status" by his outgoing ministry. May deacon Bob Vatter rest in eternal peace!"

Tom Feiten

Reflection by David Rosenberg (Continued from page 4)

The weeks prior to Bob's death I had been pondering and reflecting on the spiritual reality of Holy Orders and the "laying of hands." And in particular II Timothy 1:6, "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands." And then, just a week before he died, I had a truly amazing dream that wrapped it all up for me. Here is an excerpt from my journal about that experience.

"In a dream I found myself present at our up coming ordination. It started out quite reasonable and normal. The cathedral was filling up. The music filling this sacred space was a beautiful and heavenly medley. Our bishop approached me in the sanctuary and asked if I could speak extemporaneously to the congregation of the meaning of this significant event in my life. I was naturally taken aback, for this was sudden and, liturgically speaking, very much out of character. Seeing that I was speechless, the bishop then took me by the hand and led me to the altar. At that moment a server in a glorified body, bathed in light and wearing a gossamer alb approached me. He handed me the Book of Gospels, which I opened to Luke 11, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples..." I looked up to start reading and the cathedral ceiling opened up to a heavenly presence. Before me stood not only people from around the diocese, but also countless millions of souls rejoicing and giving thanks. I am sure this truly was the Mystical Body of Christ, the faithful that are living and dead. And within its ranks the white robed martyrs who willingly shed their blood and for two thousand years have been there to support our Community.

"And so I am left with a sense of awe and wonder. And I draw closer to living the immeasurable essence of being in this world, not of it, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness" And I find the words our Father gave us lifting me anew and strengthening my resolve to do his will.

"Thy will be done, on earth and in heaven!"

After I heard of Bob's death I could not help but tie these experiences together. I now wonder if it was Bob in his glorified body that handed me the Gospel. It is human nature to become pragmatic and turn away from those gifts that fill us with wonder and awe. And so, maybe, just maybe, it will be Bob's new charge to stand there for all of us. And from time to time, we might feel a gentle touch on the shoulder to remind us that indeed our daily challenge to be present for others and to be in this world, not of it.

Reflection by Tom Fogle (Continued from page 3)

The first time I met Bob, I was immediately drawn to him by his warmth, his straight forward sense of humor, his down-home mannerisms, and his caring attention. His laughter was contagious, his caring sincere, and his compassion genuine. I remember how he would beam with pride when talking about his family and the love he had for his sons and for Jill. He would remind us how fortunate he felt and how much God had blessed him with his family and with his faith. God was never very far away from Bob and it showed. Bob was eternally optimistic about the future because he knew that to be in the service of our Lord was the ultimate path to happiness. He was a gifted speaker, an articulate student, and an excellent homilist. His love of Jesus and the Scriptures were evident in his homilies, in his personal sharing and reflections, and in the way he lived.

His untimely departure from this earth has been a reminder to me how short life is and how quickly life of this earth can change. I am saddened to think that Bob will not finish the Diaconate formation journey along with the rest of us; but true to form, I know that Bob has just run ahead of us slightly and raised his hand to volunteer to be first again. He heard God calling and said, "I'll do it."

I love you good friend.

Preach Politics (Continued from page 2)

At times the issue is clear. In 1964 I simply had to endorse the Civil Rights Act, even from the pulpit. There was no alternative, save the continued enslavement of a race. But few political and socioeconomic issues are that clear-cut. Once we get beyond the general principles the right to live and eat and work, to education and health care, to decent housing – it is difficult to locate evil, identify the villain, pinpoint the solution.

But what if I am convinced I do have the answer? The answer to the arms race is unilateral disarmament; to the parochial-school crisis, tax credit; to capital punishment, life imprisonment without parole; to discrimination against women, the ERA; to migrant-worker injustice, a boycott of grapes and lettuce; to black slavery anywhere, economic sanctions. These are indeed moral issues, but may I preach my own solution in the name of the gospel? Of all homiletic mine fields, this may well be the most perilous.

Four suggestions:

1. I do not see how we can bar the controversial from the pulpit simply because it is controversial. I dare not be content with glittering generalities. I must move the gospel to this age, to this people. But the meaning and demands of the gospel today are chock-full of complexity. And the more complex an issue, the more open to controversy, especially in a pluralistic society.

2. I submit that "the pulpit, as a general rule, is not the proper forum in which to pontificate on complicated and highly controversial political and socioeconomic issues" (George Higgins, "The Problems in Preaching: Politics/ What Place in Church," *Origins*, Sept. 21, 1972, 213). Here the crucial word is "pontificate." On such issues, in a short span of time, with no room for counter-argument, I dare not speak in dogmatic fashion, as if I alone am the trumpet of the Lord.

3. If I dare not dogmatize, I may still raise the issues, lay them out, even tell a congregation where I stand and why. Not to impose my convictions as gospel, but to quicken their Christian conscience, spur them to personal and communal reflection.

4. I may not take unfair advantage of a captive audience, especially since the expertise in the pews often exceeds my own. Inasmuch as the suffering faithful, however sorely provoked, are exacted by immemorial custom to bite their tongues as I empty my quiver against risking American lives in brutal Bosnia, I should provide another forum (parish hall, public lectures, smaller discussion groups) where controversial issues may be properly debated, where all who wish to speak their piece maybe heard.

Perhaps we should learn from our African American believers. I recall the story of the service where the minister was hemming and hawing, starting and stopping, getting simply nowhere, when a devout lady shouted out, "Help 'im, Jesus, help 'im!" I have also been moved by an Irish layman who rapped our knuckles some years ago with this observation:

I am afraid that too often our preachers entirely ignore what we, the silent faithful, expect to hear in a sermon...They address us as rebels whom they must subdue; as idlers whom they must shake up; as hardened sinners whom they must needs terrify; as the proud who require to be humiliated; as the self-satisfied who need to be disquieted... [They] are never done telling us of our duties and of our neglect of duty...The thing which is really difficult...is to give us a taste for our duties, and to awaken in us a wish to do them and to be generous in the doing (Quoted by Higgins, "Problems" 216).

Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., is President of The Living Pulpit, and associate editor of the Journal. He is also founder and director of the retreat/workshop Preaching the Just Word. His expanded Lyman Beecher lectures of 1994 will be published this year by Yale University Press under the title, *Preaching the Just Word*.

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Article from The Living Pulpit, April-June 1996 *Politics*

Of all homiletic mine fields, this may well be the most perilous.

QUOTABLE

[On preaching from more than one scripture reading.]

"To seek a theme arising from a de-contextualized Old Testament snippet, a psalm, an unrelated epistle, and a Gospel that looks back to the snippet—all the while respecting one's exegesis of each text—is to seek a chimera.

But even beyond the exegetical difficulties, it is my experience that preachers who tackle more than one text often deliver not a homily with a single message, but rather a series of mini-homilies held together by conjunctions, semicolons and hope."

Preach: Enlivening the Pastoral Art
May-June, 2004, page 35-36

—Stephen Vincent DeLeers

JUSTICE NOTES

SUBMITTED BY: JUDE
SICILIANO, OP

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. All believers are called to faithful citizenship, to become informed, active, and responsible participants in the political process. As we have said, "We encourage all citizens, particularly Catholics, to embrace their citizenship not merely as a duty and privilege, but as an opportunity meaningfully to participate [more fully] in building the culture of life.

Every voice matters in the public forum. Every vote counts. Every act of responsible citizenship is an exercise of significant individual power." Even those who are not citizens are called to participate in the debates which shape our common life.

"Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility"

US Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2003.



Registration and Information
 Both the Fall Lecture Series and the Richard McCormick Conference will occur at Corpus Christi University Parish.

To register for the Fall Lecture Series and/or the McCormick Conference, please mail the form below to:

Corpus Christi University Parish,
 2955 Dorr Street, Toledo, Ohio
 43607-3023.

Checks should be made payable to Corpus Christi University Parish.

For additional information, please call 419-531-4992.

Please print clearly!

Name _____
 email _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____
 Zip _____
 Phone _____

_____ \$40 Tickets (Includes the six lectures of the Fall Lecture Series and the McCormick Conference – a savings of \$15!)

_____ \$30 Tickets (Includes the six lectures of the Fall Lecture Series only.)

_____ \$25 Tickets (Richard McCormick Conference on Moral Theology only.)

_____ \$30 Donation Tickets (If you wish to purchase tickets for someone who cannot afford them.)

_____ Please send me additional information about the 2005 Spring Lecture Series addressing *The Church and Public Life*.



2004 FALL LECTURE SERIES

Prophets Old and New



Corpus Christi
 University Parish

September 28—

Martin Luther King: A Liberation Theologian

James Bacik, Pastor, Corpus Christi University Parish

October 5—

L'Arche: A Theology for Today, A Sign of Hope

Becky Brady, Community Leader & Exec. Director, L'Arche Cleveland

Anita Maroun, Board Member, L'Arche Cleveland

October 12—

Learning from the Hebrew Prophets Today

Daniel Smith-Christopher, Professor of Theology (Old Testament) & Director of Peace Studies, Loyola Marymount University

October 19—

Mary Magdalene, Scarlet Woman or Apostle to the Apostles?

Mary Ann Hinsdale, Associate Professor of Theology, Boston College

October 26—

Prophets: New and Old

Richard Rohr, Founder, Center for Action and Contemplation

November 2—

Yves Congar: Vatican II Prophet

Richard Gaillardetz, Murray/Bacik Chair in Catholic Studies, University of Toledo

JOIN US TUESDAY NIGHTS!

Lecture 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Question Period 6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

ALSO

Fourth Annual Richard McCormick Conference on Moral Theology

The Church as Moral Teacher

featuring two presentations by

Richard McBrien

Crowley-O'Brien Professor of Theology at The University of Notre Dame

on *the Church and Homosexuality and the Church and Abortion*

Tuesday, November 9, 2004, 4:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Dinner will be served

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2005 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

The Church and Public Life

March 29 – May 3

James Bacik †† Richard Gaillardetz †† Margaret Steinfels

Monika Hellwig †† Michael Himes †† John Allen, Jr.

Newsletter Deadline September 24th

SPIRIT FILLED CELEBRATION

The Rite of Candidacy for eleven men and the Institution to Acolyte for six men took place August 18 at St. Mary Cathedral with Bishop Mengeling presiding. Eighteen priests concelebrated and the church was about three quarter full.

It was a wonderful, spirit-filled evening. The number of priests and the large crowd was very affirming of the diaconate and showed that the Order of Deacon is well regarded and supported in our diocese.

The following men begin the first year of Candidate Formation this month. Rite of Candidacy on August 18 during Mass in St Mary Cathedral. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on their path of formation for the diaconate.

Terry William Carsten (Mary Ann)	St. John the Evangelist, Fenton
Randy Eugene Coffelt (Debra)	St. Mary, Pinckney
Douglas Arthur Cummings (Maureen)	St. Andrew, Saline
Michael Robert Dear (Cynthia)	Holy Rosary, Flint
Gerald Raymond Fust (Alice)	St. Joseph, St. Johns
Michael Robert McCrandall (Diana)	St. John the Evangelist, Davison
Anthony Manuel Mammina (Beth)	Holy Trinity Student Parish, Ypsilanti
Gideon James Marsal (Rosemary)	St. Peter, Eaton Rapids
Charles Raymond Thelen (Suzanne)	St. Mary, Westphalia
Albert Anthony Turkovich (Helen)	St. Casimir, Lansing
Richard Dennis Walters (Susan)	Christ the King, Ann Arbor

These seven Candidates begin their final year of formation this month. Ordination is scheduled for May 14, 2005. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their discernment and journey through these last months of pre-ordination formation.

Thomas Jay Fogle (Jo Anne)	St. Mary, Charlotte
Ronald Lee Kenney (Lisa)	St John the Evangelist, Fenton
Stanley Joseph Kukla II (Celeste)	Holy Trinity Student Parish, Ypsilanti
Michael Aloysius Murray (Linda)	St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing
Gregory Vance Poole (Elizabeth)	St. Mary, Charlotte
David Bruce Rosenberg	St. Joseph, Dexter
Michael William Sullivan (Patricia)	St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor



Plan to attend:

The History, Sacramental Identity and Theology of the Diaconate

Tuesday, November 9, 2004 9:30 am-3:00 pm

St. Mary Parish Hall, Lansing, MI

Presenter: Deacon Bill Ditewig

Registration forms were mailed in early September. Extra forms are available on-line at:

<http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/org.asp?p=3&ID=20401>

SENIOR APPRECIATION WEEK

BY: LINDA FRANSSSEN

Our Diocese has an autumn tradition that is becoming more popular each year. We acknowledge and honor our senior citizens. Most local churches have a special Mass followed by a luncheon or evening dinner. Often the oldest gentleman and lady receive accolades. Bishop Mengeling has asked for special prayer intentions from everyone. These can be petition prayers for any needs or one can ask for prayers of thanksgiving. These prayer requests from the people of the Lansing Diocese are distributed to the senior citizens who have volunteered to be in a year long prayer parade. The power realized in this project of senior prayers is absolutely remarkable.

As deacons, you can step forward and be an active part in this. Maybe volunteer to assist at their Mass....or serve food at their lunch. As visible leaders in our church we should show support and express our personal thanks for what they have contributed to our lives and our faith.

ONE GOOD BOOK FOR THE PREACHER

Sharing the Word Through the Liturgical Year, Gustavo Gutierrez

(translated by Colette Joly Dees)

New York: Orbis Books, 1997.

Commentaries on the three-year Sunday readings by the renowned Peruvian theologian. These reflections were first shared with his small Christian community and so they have a strong pastoral tone.

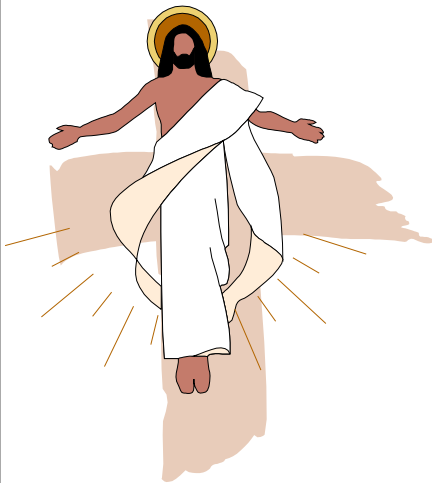
COMMUNITY PRAYER LINE

For the sick:

- Judy Barrett**
- Jim Corder**
Father of Deacon Jim
- Jack Daunt**
- Betty Garber**
- Patricia Guarnaccia**
- Ed Holowicki**
- Gordy and Caren Kilburn**
- Ben Mammina**
- Jim Miles**
- Ray Pizana**

For those who have died:

- Virginia Bentrum**
- Robert Paul Vatter**



NECROLOGY

September

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

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:

- Charles P. Bond #0036850 (On death row since 3/24/95)
- Thomas M. Larry #0233526 (4/28/95)
- Russell Holden #0187200 (5/9/95)
- Isaac J. Stroud #0478925 (2/9/95)
- James E. Thomas #0404386 (2/24/95)
- Tony M. Sidden #0368820 (3/15/95)



Central Prison 1300 Western Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27606

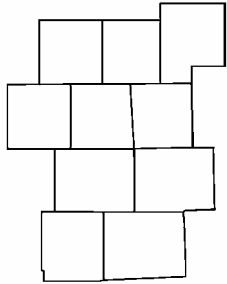


Cluster Meetings

Cluster Contact(s)	Meeting Date/Time Place
Genesee/Owosso	
<i>Other Details:</i> Contact Gary Gallagher for info on next meeting	
Jackson/Lenawee/Hillsdale <i>Carol or Linda Franssen</i>	September 11, 9:00 a.m. Steve's Ranch Restaurant
<i>Other Details:</i>	
Lansing Cluster <i>Terry Fleming, Dick Stanford, Mark Simmon</i>	September 17, 6:30 p.m. Most Holy Trinity-Fowler
<i>Other Details:</i>	
Livingston Cluster <i>Dave Piggot</i>	September 18, 9:00 a.m. St. John-Hartland
<i>Other Details:</i>	
Washtenaw Cluster <i>Warren Hecht or Tom Franklin</i>	September 11, 9:30 a.m. Guy Hollaran's
<i>Other Details:</i> 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)

Congratulations!

Twenty Years of Diaconal Service

September 29, 1984



Richard Bernard Bayes Jr.
David John Borzenski
Neil Francis Huiskens
Gordon Paul Kilburn
Robert McPhilamy
James John Miles
Robert Richard Poulson
Claude Smith Spencer
Francis James Wines

Also, celebrating this year—

30 Years: **Calistro Torres,**

February 2, 1974

25 Years: **Daniel Foley,**

June 16, 1979