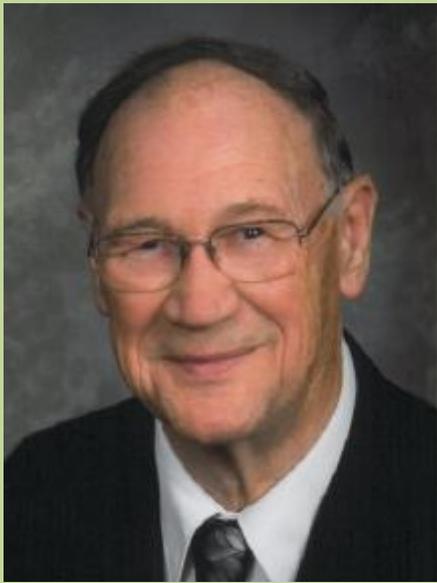


DIACONATE JOURNAL

February 2013

VOL 1 ISSUE 2



Deacon Fred Reker Dies

The Diaconal Community continues to mourn the death of one of its most respected elders, Deacon Fred Reker, who passed away at his home surrounded by loved ones on December 31, 2012.

Deacon Fred always remembered the call of his ministry by being “present” for people, for his parish and for the Diaconal Community. It was a rare occasion indeed when Deacon Fred wasn’t at a community meeting, retreat or liturgy that involved any group of deacons or their spouses. He was a gentle presence who always had a treasure trove of stories and humorous anecdotes that would liven up any individual or group he was with. He was a wise presence who in many ways represented the conscience of the diaconal community as it grew and matured from the days when he was ordained with the first group of St. Cloud deacons, to his last days when the community was approaching equity in numbers with the presbyters of the diocese.

Deacon Fred will be a continuing presence for all who knew him and to his beloved community of deacons. Indeed, it is already being felt by those children who benefit through the proceeds of his memorials to the Catholic Education Foundation. In keeping with his spirit of story telling and humor, may we all continue to be uplifting of one another by sharing our stories about Deacon Fred and his presence among us.

May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in Peace.

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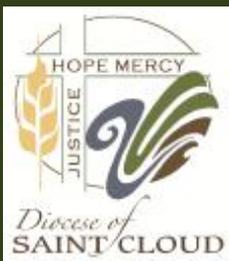
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COMMUNITY UPDATE

By Deacon David Lindmeier

ISSUE 2

VOL 1



Photo L to R: Dcn. Ernie Kociemba; Dcn. Randy Alstadt; Dcn. Joe Kresky; Dcn Gene Kramer. Not pictured: Dcn. Bruce Geyer; Dcn. Craig Korver and Dcn. Dave Lindmeier

2013 Community Calendar

February 28 Deacon Advisory Board Meeting, Pastoral Center 3-4:30 PM Review Applicants

March 16 Community Meeting with Bishop, St. Paul's Church, St. Cloud **Mark your Calendar!**

April 14 Women's Retreat, Pastoral Center

April 20 Couple Formation, place TBD

May 16 Deacon Advisory Board Meeting, Pastoral Center 3-4:30 Review of Candidates

May 27 Memorial Day Mass, Assumption Cemetery

June 8 Ordinations, St. Mary's Cathedral

June 21-23 Men's Retreat, Dunrovin Center, Stillwater, MN

June 22 Transitional Deacon Ordination, St. Mary's Cathedral 10:30 AM

August 8 Deacon Advisory Board Meeting Interview Candidates

September 30 Diocesan Ministry Day



Deacons Participate in Service Opportunity

Seven deacons from the St. Cloud Diocese participated in the food distribution program held at Ruby's Kitchen in Little Falls on December 17, 2012. This was in response to the community decision at the Arrowwood Community meeting to arrange opportunities for the deacons of the diocese to have a more public face as servants to the poor.

Deacon Joe Kresky was instrumental in arranging the details of involvement and made sure everyone had a job to do from beginning to end.

On specified days of the month, Ruby's Kitchen distributes boxes of food to over six hundred individuals and families. Recipients contribute \$15 and receive approximately \$75 in various food items including generous portions of meat, dairy and vegetable products.

Other service opportunities are being planned in the coming months. If you have an idea, please share it with the community!

Book Nook

What Deacons in the Diocese are Reading

Deacon Steve Yanish recommends *The Gift of Years* by Sister Joan Chittister OSB. New York: BlueBridge Publishers.

Deacon Joe Hilber recommends *40 Days For Life (Discover what God has done - Imagine what He can do)* by David Bereit and Shawn Carney. Nashville: Cappella Books.

Deacon Todd Warren recommends *History of the Catholic Church: From the Apostolic Age to the Third Millennium* by James Hitchcock. San Francisco: Ignatius Press.

Craig Stich recommends *The Fulfillment of All Desire* by Ralph Martin. Stuebenville: Emmaus Road Publishing.

Deacon John Wocken recommends *Take the Plunge: Living Baptism and Confirmation*, by Timothy Radcliffe. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Deacon Bruce Geyer recommends *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. New York: Harper.

Deacon Ken Rosh recommends *Heresy: Ten Lies They Spread About Christianity* by Michael Coren. Toronto: McClellan and Stewart.

Did You Know...?

Before proclaiming the Gospel and after receiving a blessing from the Bishop or priest, the deacon should bow to the altar in a graceful and unhurried manner. This is true whether there is a solemn procession with acolytes or is processing alone.

THE UPPER ROOM

News from the Spirituality Committee

February 2013

VOL 1 ISSUE 2

'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

- Mark 14:15

HEAVENLY HUMOR

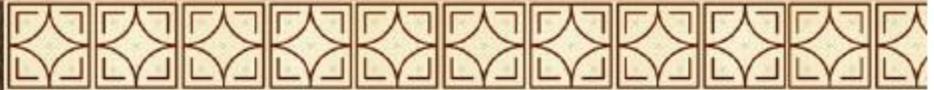
HOW ENLIGHTENED ARE YOU?

IF....If you can live without caffeine, If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains, If you can resist complaining, If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time, If you can take criticism and blame without resentment, If you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct him or her, If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend, If you can face the world without lies and deceit, If you can conquer tension without medical help, If you can relax without liquor, If you can sleep without the aid of drugs, If you can honestly say that deep in your heart you have no prejudice against creed, color, religion, gender preference, or politics,

--Then you have almost reached the same level of spiritual development as your dog!

For others see:

<http://www.fisheaters.com/jokes.html>



Couples Retreat Held At St. John's

26 people attended to retreat on Saturday Jan 12 at the Abbey Guesthouse Father Tony Oelrich spoke about Faith and we attended Mass with the monks.

The women's retreat is scheduled for Saturday April 13 at the Pastoral Center. More details will be mailed soon.

Check out the following link for an interview with Tom Schulzetenberg (Deacon Jim and Bonnie's son) about the Pope's resignation: http://kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=62037

Women's Spirituality

For many of our deacons, the Sacrament of Holy Orders is intimately intertwined with the Sacrament of Marriage. One Sacrament does not super-cede the other, but each enhances and expands upon the holiness of the other. Therefore, it is essential that couples' spirituality be recognized as two spiritual voices in harmony with each other. However, like singing in a choir (or a duet, as the case may be), it is difficult to know if we are in harmony if we can't hear the other voice singing with us. It is in that spirit that we welcome the voices of the wives for this column. There is a depth of wisdom and love that is eager to be heard and hoping to be shared with others in the community. Please email Deacon Dave Lindmeier at the following address if that voice is you: dlindmeier@gw.stcdio.org

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Request for Wives' Email Addresses

If you are the wife of a deacon or deceased deacon and believe your email address is not included in our mailing list, please send your address to dlindmeier@gw.stcdio.org and we will update the information.

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The marvels of God are not brought forth from one's self.

Rather, it is more like a chord, a sound that is played.

The tone does not come out of the chord itself, but rather, through the touch of the Musician.

I am, of course, the lyre and harp of God's kindness.

--HILDEGARD OF BINGEN, attributed, *Soul Weavings*

Canon Fodder
By Deacon Don Tzinski, J.C.L.

Q: Please explain in some detail the impediments to Catholic marriage as seen on the form that we send into the Chancery.

A: First, it should be noted that the faithful have a basic *right* to receive the sacraments of the Church (c. 213). Also, all persons who are not prohibited *by law* can contract marriage (c. 1058). So when we marry people we are not granting them a privilege, but rather, we are assisting them in the rightful practice of the Faith as is our ministerial duty. Second, a diriment impediment renders a person *unqualified* to contract marriage validly (c. 1073). As an aside, it should be noted that *only* the Holy Father can establish impediments to marriage (c. 1075§2), so one must be very careful here not to propose other personal criteria for marriage in the form of impediments beyond what the Supreme Legislator has already decreed. No other cleric has that authority. Now, the principle impediments found in the Code, and reflected on the Prenuptial Investigation Form of the Diocese (questions), are as follows: 1) **Age** (c. 1083§1) (question #1): The male must be at least 16 years old and the female at least 14 years old in order to marry. Minnesota law (517.02) is higher: 16 years (both) with parental consent and 18 years (both) without parental consent. 2) **Impotence** (c. 1084§1) (question #9): One must *be able* to “perform a complete conjugal act” to marry. Always a fun question to ask an older couple! This is not the same as sterility which does *not* impede marriage. 3) **Prior Bond** (c. 1085§1) (question #7): *No one*, absolutely no one (Catholic, Protestant, non-Christian, atheist), may marry if they have been married before (civil or religious), no matter where they were married (Church or Vegas), who married them (JP or Minister), how long the marriage lasted (even one day), or even given what they have since learned about marriage on the Internet, until any prior union(s) is declared null and void by a church tribunal. 4) **Sacred Orders** (c. 1087) and **Perpetual Vows** (c. 1088) (question #8): You cannot marry a priest or a perpetually vowed religious. 5) **Crime** (c. 1090) (question #8): A party cannot be married who brought about the death of their intended spouse’s former husband/wife or their own former husband/wife in order to be free to marry (i.e., conjucide). This impediment does not mean you cannot marry other types of felons should they be otherwise qualified. 6) **Consanguinity** (Blood relationship) (c. 1091) (question #8): No one related in the direct line (father-daughter, grandmother-grandson) or up to the fourth degree of the collateral line (first cousins) can validly marry. If you get parties who are somehow related by blood, it is best to contact the Chancery or Tribunal for help. These things get very tricky at times. 7) **Affinity** (c. 1092) (question #8): This is a legal relationship (similar to consanguinity) which arises from *valid* marriage (not blood). This impediment invalidates marriage in all degrees of the direct line. Again, if you have parties somehow related by marriage and they wish to marry, call for help, just to be sure. 8) **Public Propriety** (c. 1093) (question #8): This impediment results from an *invalid* marriage or notorious public concubinage and prohibits a party from attempting marriage to the blood relatives of the other party’s prior union (first degree/direct line: father/mother/daughter/son). Again, please call for help. 9) **Legal Relationship** (adoption) (question #8): Someone who was adopted into a family cannot marry anyone in the direct line (adopted parents/grandparents) or up to the second degree in the collateral line (adoptive siblings). 10) **Abduction** (c. 1089): One cannot abduct a woman (does not pertain to a man) in order to force her to marry. Interestingly, this impediment does not appear on our Diocesan Prenuptial Investigation Form.

Obviously, some impediments will rarely appear (e.g., crime) no matter how many years you are ordained. Others (e.g., prior bond) are commonplace. However, one basic principle remains very clear. When in doubt get help. Furthermore, some impediments can be dispensed by the Apostolic See (e.g., Sacred Orders) and some by the Bishop (e.g., Consanguinity/collateral line to the second degree) so, again, please seek assistance. God Bless!

N.B. I would be happy to answer any canonical questions, in private if best, or in public if useful, should there be any and if I am capable. The matters need not necessarily pertain to just marriage law. These should be sent to my email address: dtzinski@gw.studio.org. Peace!

VICAR’S VIEWS

By Fr. Ralph Zimmerman

Brothers!

Remember the Covenant of Ministry... it is an important statement of ministry, and I often wondered why we do not make a similar covenant as priests. One of my duties is to sign the *annual* updated covenants that you make with your pastors and parishes. Only two covenants have crossed my desk this past year! Past year!

Here's a challenge for you -- why not take some time now to update your covenants and have them all in order before our next bishop is named. That would be helpful for him, and also a note of gratitude for Bishop Kinney that all is in order for his successor.

I would urge you to take some time now -- make it a Lenten penance is you want -- to review your covenants and to update them as necessary. It may seem like just more paperwork, but it does help to focus your ministerial tasks and to remind all of us of the importance of your appointment as a deacon in your parish.

Thank you for your attention to this! It was a great delight to have Deacon Joe Kresky and his dad on the *Visitor* Holy Land pilgrimage.

Although some of the Franciscans friars were puzzled by deacons, it reminded me how far ahead we are in our diocese and nation with the restoration of the permanent diaconate for the Church.

Lenten days go quickly; enjoy each one in prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

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“In a Gloria of gratitude I am made mindful of the many marvels of life that spark my heart.”

-- Edward Hays “Prav All Ways”