

# DIACONATE JOURNAL

November 2012

VOL 1 ISSUE 1

## ***Blessings and Thanks to our Newly Retired Deacons!***

***Deacon Mike Keable 34 years***

***Deacon Fred Reker 34 years***

***Deacon Frank Schmainda 30  
years***

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## NEWSLETTER RESURRECTED!

This issue of the Diaconate Journal represents the resurrection (of sorts) of the St. Cloud Diocese Deacon Community Newsletter. Like the Resurrection, it is characterized by a new body, a bright spirit and hopefully, an unending life!

It is intended to represent in written and graphical form the work, life and ministry of the Deacons in the Diocese of Saint Cloud. It will present news and articles that are relevant to the local community, that are the product of the local community; and that are primarily for the local community. However, meeting these intentions will require the input and contributions of the Community. With a few exceptions, it is hoped that most information and articles will be the fruit of the Deacons themselves rather than some expedient cut and paste inserts taken from the internet or other non-community sources. With that in mind, this inaugural issue has a section called "Book Nook," where the deacons share what they are reading. Also, members of the spirituality committee have a column called "The Upper Room" where they share news, views and information bearing on the spirituality of deacons. Deacon Don Tzinski will be contributing articles and information for the community from a canon lawyer's point of view in a column called "Canon Fodder." There is also a section called "Heavenly Humor," where it is hoped deacons (who are a joyful group) share humorous stories they have heard or even used as a way to lift up spirits. Finally, to cap every issue, there will be comments and guidance from our community Vicar, Fr. Ralph Zimmerman. Of course this does not exhaust all the possibilities a newsletter presents and I expect that other columns and areas of interest will soon blossom through all our efforts.

As time goes on it is hoped the Diaconate Journal will be something the entire community takes pride in contributing to, gains insight and knowledge from, and looks forward to reading. I encourage you to ponder ways in which you might contribute; think of some humor, share some news about yourself, or ask a question which, if answered, will be of benefit to all.



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

By Deacon David Lindmeier

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## 2013 Community Calendar

Jan 11-12 Couples Retreat- Abbey Guesthouse  
(for Deacon Couples and Formation Couples)

Jan 17 Deacon Advisory Board Meeting,  
Pastoral Center 3-4:30 PM Ordination  
Candidate Interview

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

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

August 8 Deacon Advisory Board Meeting  
Interview Candidates



## Last Community Meeting With Bishop Kinney

The Community meeting with Bishop Kinney, which will be held on March 16, 2013 at St. Paul's Church in St. Cloud, probably will be the last meeting we will have with him before his retirement. Therefore, you are urged to set aside this day in advance so that a respectable complement of deacons is present. This will be an opportunity to express our gratitude to someone who has graced our community with his prayers, support, leadership and Christ-like example during a time of transition, change and growth.

## Deacon Information Nights a Success

Eleven Deacon Information Nights were held around the Diocese between September 6 and October 15, 2012. Approximately twenty men attended these meetings. Of that number, five have followed with applications, with the rest continuing in their discernment. Please keep all these men in mind as you pray for vocations and the Deacon Community.

## Book Nook

*What Deacons in the Diocese are Reading*

Deacon Ken Roshia recommends "G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle of Common Sense," by Dale Ahlquist, published by Ignatius Press

Deacon Bob Shaffer recommends "The Plague," by Albert Camus

Deacon Randy Alstadt recommends "Sex au Naturel: What it is and Why it is Good for Your Marriage," by Patrick Coffin

Deacon Bruce Geyer recommends "Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics," by Ross Douthat

Deacon Jeff Kowitz, MD recommends "Life of Christ," by Fulton J. Sheen

Deacon Mark Zenner recommends "Women in Ministry," by Phyllis Zagano, Paulist Press, 2012

Deacon Joe Hilber recommends "The Ecumenical Councils of the Catholic Church," by Joseph E. Kelly, Liturgical Press

Deacon Vern Schmitz recommends the blog

<http://monkschronicle.wordpress.com/> for the book-challenged

## Did You Know...?

Before the Gospel reading, the deacon of the Mass is to greet the people *with hands folded* while saying, "The Lord be with you."

Many deacons do the greeting with hands in the orans

(outstretched) position, which is the posture the priest uses.

# THE UPPER ROOM

News from the Spirituality Committee

November 2012

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*'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

An elderly woman died without ever having been married. In her will she specified that there be no male pallbearers at her funeral. In an attached note she stated, "They didn't take me out when I was living, so they aren't going to take me out when I'm dead!"

-From a Homily by Fr. Gerry Dalseth

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A rabbi, a priest and a minister walk into a bar. The bartender looks up and says, "What is this, a joke?"

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A little boy was listening to a long and excessively boring homily in church. Suddenly the red sanctuary lamp caught his eye. Tugging his father's sleeve, he said, "Daddy, when the light turns green can we go?"

For others see:

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

The winter couples retreat is scheduled for Friday/Saturday January 11/12 at the Abbey guesthouse. Fr Tony Oelrich will be our retreat master and he will be talking about the Year of Faith. The summer men's retreat will be June 21-23 at the Dunrovin retreat house in Marine-on St Croix. Fr Tony will once again be the retreat master and he will be speaking about the Second Vatican Council.

The women's retreat is tentatively planned for April, the time and place are pending. This will probably be just a one day event rather than an overnight as it has been in the past.

As of now there are no concrete plans regarding a service project.

Continued on next page...

-Deacon Jeff Kowitz, MD

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### Excerpt from: The Ideal Family of the Permanent Deacon

The word 'servant' specifies the deacon's sacramental mystery and therefore his spirituality. The 1968 Apostolic Constitution of Pope Paul VI, *Pontificalis Romani*, underlines this. He writes that deacons, "strengthened by sacramental grace, in communion with the bishop and the presbyterium, ... serve the people of God in the *diaconia* of the liturgy, of the word, and of charity". The consecratory words likewise indicate that the hands of the bishop are imposed upon the deacon "not for priesthood but for ministry", a description dating back to the ancient Constitutions of the Egyptian Church and cited in *Lumen gentium* (28). The bishop alone, and not priests, imposes hands upon the deacon at his ordination, thus manifesting in a negative manner the difference between the 'ministry' of the deacon and the 'priesthood' of the priest.

The sacramental nature of the diaconate becomes clear. The deacon is a *sacramentum-persona* of Jesus the Servant of God. All the liturgical references - the 1968 Apostolic Constitution of Pope Paul VI, the ordination homily, the prayers and signs - affirm not simply the deacon's functions but, above all, his permanent diaconal essence through the imprint of the sacramental character.

- J. Francis Cardinal Stafford

President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity February 19, 2000

## Canon Fodder

By Deacon Don Tzinski, J.C.L.

### Q: When is the annulment process complete?

A: This is an important question since there is quite often a corresponding question underlying it. That is, when can a new marriage be scheduled and legitimately celebrated by a party/couple with an annulment decision in process. First, it should be recalled that a Decree of Nullity issued by one Tribunal (called First Instance) is *not* finalized until a second Tribunal (called Second Instance) confirms that same Decree of Nullity. In short, a case that is waiting for that second conforming decision is *not* complete, and thus, no new marriage can be licitly contracted (c. 1684§1). This is so because until that second decision is rendered, a prior bond (*ligamen*) still exists for the party seeking the annulment. This constitutes a divine law diriment impediment which absolutely prohibits a new union (c. 1085§2).

Therefore, second, one should never schedule a wedding while an annulment proceeding is in process, no matter what a party/couple wants, since 1) there is no way to accurately know when a case might be finalized, 2) if the particular case is even going to be confirmed, and 3) whether any other potential canonical issues might arise (e.g., a complaint of nullity/cc. 1619-1627; a *vetitum*/prohibition/c. 1684§1). To schedule a wedding while all this is underway in the “hope” that everything will be completed on time is simply playing with ecclesiastical fire. It should be noted that the law allows the Court of First Instance one year to complete its work and the Court of Second Instance six months (c. 1453) and that parties are routinely and clearly instructed about this by most Tribunals (ours for sure). Now, as you all well know, couples often want a certain season, month, day, phase of the moon for their wedding because such has been their dream from time immemorial. Alas, while one can pastorally sympathize, no one can lay aside the law without dire consequences.

That is, third, if a second marriage is illicitly celebrated even one day before the completion of the whole annulment process (the second conforming decision) that marriage is *invalid*. And, importantly, the subsequent granting of a final Decree of Nullity *does not retroactively* supply validity. The only way to fix, that is, make valid, this kind of marriage is either by way of a convalidation (validity *with* renewal of consent/c. 1156) or by means of a radical sanation (validity *without* renewal of consent/c. 1161). Generally speaking, the Bishop must grant the latter (c. 1165§2). Furthermore, it should be noted that neither common error (c. 144§1) nor *supplet Ecclesia* (c. 144§2) apply here since these are concerned with acts of executive power and jurisdiction and not sacramentality *per se*. In marriage, because the consent of the parties affects the sacrament (c. 1057§1), both parties must be capable (*habiles*) of marriage, someone with a prior bond is not, and they cannot be made so by the mere intentionality of the moment.

In the end, if you have a party with an annulment underway, no matter what he/she tells you and remembering that people in love are awash in hope, it is best to call the Tribunal and find out about the status of the case for yourself. To act otherwise is only an invitation for much grief and a full head of premature grey hair. 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.stcdio.org](mailto:dtzinski@gw.stcdio.org). Peace!



## VICAR'S VIEWS

By Fr. Ralph Zimmerman

*Serving the Lord*

Fifty years ago, when I was 12-years-old and in grade school, one my all-time favorite church leaders, Good Pope John XXIII, surprised the Church by simply opening some windows to the Holy Spirit, and calling for an ecumenical Council. The Year of Faith 2012-2013 has reminded all of us of the importance and the profound influence of the Second Vatican Council on the life of the Church.

One of the many windows re-opened to the Church was the restoration of the permanent diaconate. Brothers, as we all share in Holy Orders in the life and ministry of the Church, so many doors have been opened to ministry and to the pastoral care of the People of God in the ministry of the permanent diaconate. Thank God for that breath of fresh air from the Holy Spirit of God!

I am honored to serve the diaconate community as Bishop Kinney's vicar. I will do my best to keep in touch with you and with the formation of candidates. Please let me know if there is some way I can be of service to you. Together, as priests and deacons of the Diocese of St. Cloud, we do our best in serving the Lord.

For your information, here is what my job description says:

- Meets with deacons on a regular basis to review with them ministry satisfaction or dissatisfaction.
- Meets with pastors or immediate supervisors of deacons to assess quality of diaconal ministry and ministry environment.
- Reviews with pastors/supervisors and their respective deacons the Covenant or job description of deacon.
- Determines after consultation with Diaconal Advisory Board what areas of ongoing education should be implemented.
- Informs the Bishop on an annual basis how the diaconal community is serving the Diocese.
- Maintains regular contact with Director of the Permanent Deacon Program the sake of mutual support and assessment of formation program.

Job descriptions, of course, give us more to do that we can possibly accomplish, but they do provide us a focus for our ministry.

I do intend to re-read the *Documents of Vatican II* this year (I hope that I will be able to keep that resolve). I would invite all of you to do the same. If you can manage to read just one, read again the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, *Lumen Gentium* published on November 21, 1964. Pope Paul the VI promulgated two apostolic letters eight years later on August 15, 1972 – the reform of the minor orders and the restoration of the order of the permanent diaconate. It is a relatively short document and well worth reading again.

**Blessings to you and your families! Together we are serving the Lord.**