

Office for Diaconate Formation  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
Archbishop Cousin Catholic Center



# The Servant

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John Paul II recalled "Deacons, both married and celibate, to serve God's People by their witness to the gospel value of sacrificial love, a quality of life too easily dismissed in today's society." For those whom the Lord calls and whose lives' give such a witness, the ODF is the place to continue your journey.

(NDPD, 30)

## From Deacon John's Desk

Dear Friends of the Diaconate,

As I compose my thoughts for this column it is bitterly cold outside (-8F) and I know the new aspirants and the deacon-candidates will have to drive in for class this evening. I marvel at their dedication, strength of community and desire to learn all they can and so be sent out as laborers in the name of Christ the Servant.

The second semester has begun and the aspirants have one semester of formation under their belts. Together with their wives they are a great group of "student servants" eager to serve the Church. The deacon-candidates have begun the preaching track sequence and, though a bit nervous, they are certainly up to the challenge to learn how to preach via the homily, the Good News!

As a result of the newly released *Hispanic Pastoral Plan*, our Hispanic brother deacons are working very hard to surface and recruit men from the Spanish-speaking parishes into diaconate formation. Speaking at Mass and holding small gatherings, they are working to establish a pool of potential applicants for the next admissions class to start in January of 2014. With the growing population of Hispanic faithful in the Archdiocese it is important that there be well-formed deacons prepared to serve this growing community and to lead them deeper into the mystery of the Eucharist lived out in service to the Body of Christ.

On a similar note we are asking all deacons, priests and pastors to personally invite men you think may have a calling to the vocation of service. Personally invite men to consider the ministry—men who can be light to others; men who see the sanctity in all life; who witness to the sacrament of matrimony or faithfully live a life of celibacy; give witness to Christ through evangelization, catechesis and ministry to the Word; men who have a charism of radical availability to serve others; and men who are beacons of hope to others in need and who seek to be more completely transformed into Christ the Servant. Have them contact our office, or you contact us and we can arrange to come out and visit your parish to meet with small groups of interested inquirers. We will be hosting an open house here at the ACCC in the late spring with tours and information about the formation program. Additional sessions of our *Inquiry for Discernment* program are being scheduled now as well!

As you can see there's lots going on "...the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few..." Mt 9:37. Won't you help us fill the vineyard with laborers for the Lord!

Deacon John A. Ebel, Director



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## Phoenix's Bishops address deacons in pastoral letter for Year of Faith



### **For your Reflection**

By Deacon Greg Kandra  
November 4, 2012

The bishops of Phoenix, Thomas J. Olmsted and his auxiliary Eduardo Navares, issued a pastoral letter several weeks back, to mark the beginning of the Year of Faith, and they devoted one section specifically to deacons:

"In the Acts of the Apostles (6:1-7), we see that with a growing community, the Apostles needed helpers to assist them by taking care of the widows and the orphans. Here in the Diocese of Phoenix, we are very blessed with men of great faith who have responded so generously to God's call to holiness and the Church's call to serve as deacons. During this Year of Faith, we are newly grateful to God for our deacons engaged in a variety of pastoral settings: administering parishes, visiting the sick and the elderly, visiting the prisoners, working among the outcasts and forgotten, bringing the charity of Christ to our Native Peoples, witnessing the Sacrament of Marriage, administering the Sacrament of Baptism, preaching the Word of God at Liturgical celebrations and Holy Mass, catechizing the faithful, and many other roles of charitable service. Your tireless efforts and consistent dedication offer a unique witness in this Year of Faith.

During this special Year, we ask all Deacons throughout the Diocese to commit to renewed efforts of evangelization of our culture and to outreach to the materially poor and the poorly catechized. In your vocation as deacons, strive to engage all persons and all your work with the same passion, love, and zeal as the deacons of the early Church, bearing witness to Christ in both word and deed.

We encourage you also to meditate on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, and especially on how Jesus, by seeking not to be served but to serve, brought the light of faith, hope, and charity into the world. Throughout this Year of Faith, contemplate further how you are called to

be channels of the luminous presence of Christ in today's world. When you pray the Luminous Mysteries of the rosary, reflect on the life of Christ and on your own life as a Deacon in service to the faithful:

► The First Luminous Mystery, "The Baptism in the Jordan": As you prepare families for baptism and as you celebrate baptisms you are in a privileged position to help parents and children to discover anew the life and light that come from Christ and His Gospel. Never underestimate the many graces that God pours forth at every Baptism through your sacred ministry.

► The Second Luminous Mystery, "The Wedding of Cana": When you assist couples in their preparation for Holy Matrimony and when you officially witness marriages in the name of the Church, remember that Jesus worked His first miracle at the Wedding Feast of Cana. Let this inspire you to help these couples look beyond the wedding ceremony and enter into a life-long sacrament in which the love of Christ for His Bride the Church shines forth in mutual love.

► The Third Luminous Mystery, "Jesus Proclaims the Kingdom of God": You are Heralds of the Gospel. You share in the Church's mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of God. As Jesus brought new light into the world through His preaching, so too do you bear witness to Christ in your teaching, preaching and catechesis. Be ever mindful of the power of God's word to transform our lives and the lives of those we serve.

► The Fourth Luminous Mystery, "The Transfiguration": When the first disciples were tempted to despair, the Lord Jesus took some of them up a mountain and was transfigured before them so that their faith might be strengthened. Your faith too is strengthened by your encounter with Christ through ordination. Stay always close to Him and you will find the grace to be beacons of hope for all, especially for the least of the Kingdom. Remember always, when serving those affected by loss and tragedy, to point them to Christ, the source of our hope.



► The Fifth Luminous Mystery, "The Institution of the Eucharist": As a deacon you are privileged to assist the priest at the altar of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. In this most public role you are witnesses of Christ's humble gift of Himself. May this mystery inspire you to live an intensely Eucharistic life of generous service.

We are deeply grateful for you, our brothers in the faith, who serve alongside the Bishops and priests in your unique ministry of Word, Altar, and Charity. During this Year of Faith, may all of us come to a greater understanding of your roles as servants of the mysteries of Christ and of your brothers and sisters. May your humble service always reflect the light of Christ to all.

## Obispos de Phoenix a los Diáconos en la Carta Pastoral del Año de la Fe

**Para reflexionar: Por el Diácono Greg Kandra  
November 4, 2012**

Los obispos de Phoenix, Thomas J. Olmsted y su auxiliar Eduardo Navares, emitieron una carta pastoral varias semanas atrás, para marcar el comienzo del Año de la Fe. En ella dedicaron una sección específicamente para los Diáconos:

“En los Hechos de los Apóstoles (6:1-7), vemos que con una creciente comunidad, los Apóstoles necesitan ayudantes para estar al cuidado de las viudas y los huérfanos. Aquí en la Diócesis de Phoenix, estamos muy bendecidos con grandes hombres de fe que han respondido generosamente a la llamada de Dios a la santidad y la llamada de la Iglesia al servir como diáconos. Durante este Año de la Fe, estamos nuevamente agradecidos a Dios por nuestros diáconos que participan en una variedad de entornos pastorales: administración de las parroquias, visitando a los enfermos y los ancianos, visitando a los prisioneros, trabajando entre los marginados y olvidados, llevando la caridad de Cristo nuestros Hermanos Nativos, presenciando el Sacramento del Matrimonio, la administración del Sacramento del Bautismo, la predicación de la Palabra de Dios en la Santa Misa y celebraciones litúrgicas, catequizando a los fieles, y muchas otras funciones de servicio caritativo. Sus esfuerzos y dedicación incansable ofrecen un testimonio único en este Año de la fe.

Durante este Año especial, pedimos a todos los Diáconos en la Diócesis que se comprometan a renovar los esfuerzos de evangelización de nuestra cultura y de ayuda a los materialmente pobres y los pobremente catequizados. En su vocación como Diáconos, esfuércense en poner toda su persona y su trabajo con la misma pasión, amor y celo como lo hicieron los diáconos de la Iglesia primitiva; dando testimonio de Cristo en ambas maneras, de palabra y obra.

También le animamos a meditar en los Misterios Luminosos del Santo Rosario, y en especial en cómo Jesús, que buscó no ser servido, sino servir, llevó la luz de la fe, la esperanza y la caridad al mundo. A lo largo de este Año de la Fe, contemplan aún más, cómo están llamados a ser canales de la presencia luminosa de Cristo en el mundo actual. Al rezar los Misterios Luminosos del Rosario, reflexionen sobre la vida de Cristo y en su propia vida como diácono al servicio de los fieles:

- ◆ El Primer Misterio Luminoso: "El Bautismo en el Jordán": Mientras se prepara las familias para el bautismo y al celebrar los bautismos, ustedes se encuentran en una posición privilegiada, para ayudar a los padres y a los niños a descubrir de nuevo la vida y la luz que viene de Cristo y su Evangelio. Nunca hay que subestimar las muchas gracias que Dios derrama en cada Bautismo a través de tu ministerio sagrado.
- ◆ El Segundo Misterio Luminoso, "Las Bodas de Caná" Cuando ustedes ayudan a las parejas a prepararse para el Santo Matrimonio y cuándo oficialmente eres testigo de los matrimonios en el nombre de la Iglesia, recuerda que Jesús realizó su primer milagro en las bodas de Caná. Que esto te inspire para ayudar a estas parejas a mirar más allá de la ceremonia de la boda y entrar en un Sacramento para toda la vida en donde el amor de Cristo por su Esposa la Iglesia resplandece en el amor mutuo.
- ◆ El Tercer Misterio Luminoso: "Jesús proclama el Reino de Dios": Ustedes son Heraldos del Evangelio. Ustedes compartes la misión de la Iglesia de proclamar el Reino de Dios. Al Jesús traer la nueva luz al mundo por medio de su predicación, así también ustedes dan testimonio de Cristo en sus enseñanzas, la predicación y la catequesis. Sean siempre conscientes del poder de la Palabra de Dios para transformar nuestras vidas y las vidas de aquellos a quienes servimos.
- ◆ El Cuarto Misterio Luminoso: "La Transfiguración": Cuando los primeros discípulos se sintieron tentados a la desesperanza, el Señor Jesús llevó a algunos de ellos a la montaña y se transfiguró delante de ellos para que su Fe fuera fortalecida. Su fe se fortalece también por su encuentro con Cristo a través de la ordenación. Manténgase siempre cerca de Él y encontrarán la gracia de ser Diáconos de esperanza para todos, especialmente de los más pequeños del Reino. Recuerde siempre, al momento de servir a las personas afectadas por la pérdida y la tragedia, llévenlos a Cristo, fuente de nuestra esperanza.
- ◆ El Quinto Misterio Luminoso: "La Institución de la Eucaristía": Como Diáconos, tienen el privilegio de asistir al Sacerdote en el Altar del Sacrificio Eucarístico. En este rol más público, ustedes son testigos de Cristo humilde que se da a sí mismo. Que este Misterio te inspire a vivir una vida intensamente eucarística de servicio generoso.

Estamos profundamente agradecidos por ustedes, nuestros hermanos en la fe, que sirve junto a los Obispos y Sacerdotes en su ministerio único de la Palabra, la Liturgia y la Caridad. Durante este Año de la Fe, lleguemos todos a una mayor comprensión de los roles como servidores de los misterios de Cristo y de sus hermanos y hermanas. Que tu servicio humilde siempre refleje la luz de Cristo a todos.



## News and more

### **Hispanic Deacons to promote the diaconate in the Latino communities**

This January a group of Hispanic deacons started promoting the vocation to the permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This initiative is in response to the *Hispanic Pastoral Plan* from the Intercultural Ministry Office-Hispanic Ministry. This office, in conjunction with the Office of Diaconate Formation (ODF) worked on a plan that promotes the vocation of deacon in all parishes serving the Hispanic community. Permanent deacons are attending and assisting during the Spanish masses and then will be giving a motivational message and appeal to all those men who may have a desire to serve and be ordained as a deacon. They will be promoting the diaconate, each narrating their own personal experience of service in the Church and with the needy. Then they will invite all men interested to a brief meeting. They will talk about the diaconate in more detail and outline the necessary steps to apply and to be considered for admission to become a permanent deacon. The ODF will be recruiting and following up with all of those men who responded to the invitation.

To have good results when promoting vocations with this initiative, the ODF provided the permanent deacons with the latest information on the diaconate which they will use during this promotion at mass. After this appeal, the ODF will offer discernment sessions by region throughout the Archdiocese. These sessions will help everyone who responded to the invitation to deepen their call and awareness of the requirements necessary to enter to the formation program and become a permanent deacon.

Thank you to all Hispanic deacons who are offering their time, effort and experiences to make this possible. Also thank you to the Intercultural Ministry Office-Hispanic Ministry for their *Hispanic Pastoral Plan* that promotes vocations, including vocation to the permanent diaconate.

### **Los diáconos hispanos promueven el diaconado entre los latinos:**

En este mes de enero un grupo de Diáconos hispanos comenzó a promover la vocación al diaconado permanente en la Arquidiócesis de Milwaukee. Esta iniciativa es una respuesta al Plan Pastoral Hispana de la oficina de Ministerios Interculturales-Ministerio Hispano. Esta oficina, en colaboración con la Oficina de Formación al Diaconado (ODF) trabajaron en un plan que promueve esta vocación en todas las parroquias que sirven a la Comunidad Hispana. Los diáconos permanentes estarán asistiendo y sirviendo durante las misas en español y luego darán un mensaje de motivación y un llamamiento a todos los hombres con el deseo de formar parte de la Orden de los Diáconos. Ellos promoverán el diaconado narrando sus propias experiencias en el servicio de la Iglesia y los necesitados. Luego se invitará a todos los hombres interesados a una breve reunión en la que hablarán sobre el diaconado y cuáles son los pasos a seguir para ser diácono permanente. La ODF estará el reclutando y le dará seguimiento a todos aquellos que respondieron a la invitación.

Para tener buenos resultados con esta iniciativa para promover las vocaciones, la ODF preparó a los diáconos permanentes, en el equipo, con la información más reciente sobre el diaconado que se utilizará durante estas promociones en las Misas. Después de reunión la ODF ofrecerá sesiones de discernimiento por región. Estas sesiones ayudarán a todos los que respondieron a la invitación a profundizar en su llamado y los requisitos necesarios para ingresar al programa de formación y convertirse así en un diácono permanente.

Gracias a todos los diáconos hispanos que ofrecen su tiempo, esfuerzos y experiencias para hacer esto posible.

## Inquiry for Discernment Program / Programa de Discernimiento

The ***Inquiry for Discernment Program*** is a series of six required sessions conducted for men, single or married, who wish to explore a vocational calling to the ministry of the diaconate. If married, you need to be married in the Church for more than 4 years and your spouse must also attend these sessions.

Next sessions: Spring 2013, Fall 2013. Schedule and locations will be announced.



El ***Programa de Discernimiento*** son una serie de seis sesiones requeridas para hombres entre las edades de 32 a 60 años, soltero o casado que desee explorar el llamado al ministerio del diaconado. Si esta casado, necesita estar casado bajo la Iglesia Católica por lo menos 4 años y su esposa debe participar de estas sesiones. Importante que cumplan con los criterios de los Obispos de Estados Unidos y de nuestro Arzobispo de Milwaukee. Mas información en el sitio web abajo.

Próximas sesiones: Primavera 2013 y Otoño 2013

Our web address is:  
<http://www.archmil.org/offices/Diaconate.htm>

