



DEACON TALK

Council of Deacons Newsletter • Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Fall 2014

Director's Report:

The Class of 2014 finally made it through their formation! On Saturday, September 6, 2014 seven men were ordained to the Diaconate at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist by Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi, Archbishop of Milwaukee. Concelebrating was Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Sklba, a longtime supporter of the Diaconate in the Archdiocese. And what a celebration it was!

The music by the Archdiocesan Choir was amazing. The whole atmosphere was one filled with energy, excitement, reverence and the Holy Spirit. 40+ deacons vested and sat together as the Order of Deacons, praying for their new brothers and also there to welcome them into the Order of Diaconate. A large number of the ordained deacons' wives

were also present to join in the prayer and the welcoming of the newly ordained, their wives and families. A good number of priests were also there including the pastors of the newly ordained who had supported these men through their four years of formation. Family, friends, relatives, and others

were also in attendance, filling the Cathedral.

Archbishop ListECKi called the newly ordained "His lucky seven." He did so as there were seven men and one of the readings was from the Acts of the Apostles with the calling, naming and ordaining, "laying on of hands," of the first seven deacons. He also gave an inspiring homily.

*Thank
You!*

I would be negligent if I didn't mention a couple of individuals. I do say first by saying thanks to everyone who had anything to do with the ordination: Dean Daniels, Fr. Jim Lobacz, Barbara

Anne Cusack, Zabrina Decker, Sacristan Roger Truckey, the deacon classes of 2012 and 2016, and so many others.

However, I want to thank the two readers for the Mass: Manuel Maldonado-Villalobos, Associate Director of the Diaconate Formation Office, and Charmaine Pfeifer, the Administrative Assistant in the Diaconate program. Both brought the scripture to life.

Lastly, Deacon John Ebel, the Director of the Diaconate Formation Office. What a tremendous job he did, along with his staff, in forming these seven men. There is no doubt in my mind that based on his forming them, and even more so his caring for them, each will be a terrific deacon and representative of the Church in Southeastern Wisconsin.

I would now like to present these DEACONS and their WIVES:

Deacon Robert Derks (Jody) of St. Peter, Slinger. They have three children. Bob is the owner and president of the Investment Center of Wisconsin LLC, Pewaukee.

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Deacon John Fritsch (Joan) of St. Rita, West Allis. They have two children. John is the pastoral associate at St. Monica, Whitefish Bay.

Deacon Dr. David Grambow (Ann) of Lumen Christi, Mequon. They have four children. Dr. Grambow is a cardiologist at Columbia-St. Mary's Hospitals.

Deacon Patrick LaPointe (Catherine) of St. Veronica, Milwaukee. They have four children. Pat works in information technology and as a project manager. He became a field agent for the Knights of Columbus as he felt it would be more compatible with his diaconal ministry.

Deacon John Mezydlo (Rita) of St. Bruno, Dousmanm, and St. Paul, Genesee Depot. They

have one son. He is the general manager of the Lakeland Auto Group in Oconomowoc/Lake Mills.

Deacon Gary Nosacek (Dr. Cynthia Jones-Nosacek) of SS. Peter & Paul, Milwaukee. They have five children. Gary is a stay-at-home dad.

Deacon Charles Schneider (Cynthia) of St. Martin of Tours, Franklin. They have three children. He is a senior engineer at Walter USA LLC.

When you meet these new deacons and/or their wives be sure to congratulate them and welcome them!

Someone was recently overheard saying, "The Synod is over. What's next?" It is incumbent on the

deacon community to let people know the Synod is not over. Tell people in your gatherings with them. Tell them in your homilies. Tell them why it isn't over. To do so, read the Synodal Declaration titled *Filled With the Holy Spirit*. It can be found on the Archdiocesan website.

The Synod involved months of preparation. There were parish meetings and discussions. Then there were district meetings and discussions. Finally some 500 people came together at the Cousins Center for the 3 day Synod (June 6-8, 2014). All told some 15,000 people were involved in the process at some point or throughout. This is a fantastic amount of people, hours upon hours, ideas and input. It was a tremendous, observable reflection of the living Church in southeastern Wisconsin.

Recall the mantra of the Synod? "A New Pentecost." Throughout the process hundreds, thousands of people prayed for the Synod and its success. Truly the Holy Spirit was at work the whole time, just as he was at the original Pentecost. Unlike the Synod of 1987 which ended and was pretty much "put on the back shelf," the Synod of 2014 continues to be filled and guided by the Holy Spirit. The entire staff at the Cousins Center had a half day meeting on September 16th to look at the Synod, the Synodal Declaration, and most importantly how to keep the findings of the Synod alive and in motion. How could we as staff

and parishioners of our parishes keep the spark alive and work to see the recommended changes are implemented?

As deacons, don't think it is over. Don't fall behind the curve by moving on as if nothing happened at the Synod. The Synod was called for by the Holy Spirit long before it was announced by Archbishop Listecki. And if that is a fact, the Holy Spirit didn't intend it to be just a few moments in time. Rather, an ongoing, Church renewing and life giving entity begun by Jesus Christ, guided by the holy Spirit, and carried forward through the leadership of the

archbishop. Don't let 15,000 people's "sweat and blood" go unused. Don't let the Spirit's work be placed on a shelf.



Don't forget to make it a regular practice to attend your district meetings. Sharing prayer, ministry and life with your brothers is priceless. You will also learn what the latest news regarding the diaconate is.

Does a brother or sister Episcopal Deacon live in your area? Invite them to come and attend your district meetings. Those districts that have done so have been enriched by their shared prayers and input.



Deacon Claude Kennedy took over the administration/leadership of our own Archdiocesan Marian Shrine a couple of years ago. It was being cared for by a small group of very dedicated people. But it had lost its connection to

the Archdiocese. Claude was asked to take this on as his ministry. He willingly did so.

Claude has brought the small group together ending some infighting. He has enlarged the group of volunteers and programs. He has received some monies which he then used to redo the shrine bringing it back to its original beauty.

His latest endeavor has been to create a new website for the shrine: www.marianshrinemilwaukee.org. Take a minute and check out the new website. Better yet, have you ever been to the Marian shrine? Has it been years since you were there? Before the

snow flies, why not make a "pilgrimage" to see the shrine and spend some reflective time there. Or join others for Mass and/or the rosary. It is located at 141 N. 68th St., Milwaukee. (Just two blocks south of W. Bluemound Rd. on N. 68th St.)

Claude is assisted in leading some of the liturgical or devotional events by Deacon Frank Pemper.

Deacon David L. Zimprich

President's Report:

Greetings Brothers,

As October is upon us, we reflect on how the summer, once again flew by, and how we, now, need to prepare for the falling temperatures and dropping leaves (or is it the dropping temperatures and falling leaves) of autumn. In either case, despite the extra yard work, it is a beautiful time of the year. This fall is especially exciting because of all we have to appreciate, besides the beauty of creation.

On September 6th, many of us had the honor of being present for the ordination of seven men to our brotherhood of deacons. What a joy it was to join the new deacons, their spouses, and families in giving thanks and praise to God for this great gift we have all been given. Please be aware of the need our new deacon families have for our prayers and support.

On September 14th, the Archbishop issued the much anticipated Synodal Declaration. This document is instrumental in maintaining the momentum and enthusiasm for the vision the Synod created. I particularly liked the descriptors used by the Archbishop in the Synod newsletter, when he said that, "A flame has been **ignited**. There is a genuine desire for **renewal**. And, Catholics all over the archdiocese are **energized** to make things happen." I am confident that we, as deacons, will proudly be examples of exactly that kind of passion as the Synod initiatives are implemented in the weeks, months, and years to come.

In reminding us that the Synod of 2014, in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, would be for us a, "New Pentecost," the Archbishop also stated that, "We confidently entrust to the Lord the future fruits

of the Synod, yet we dare to dream and imagine the impact the Synod will have on the life of our beloved archdiocese.” So, let us all dream and imagine how we can best serve our diaconal mission, and emulate our “iconic” saints Stephen and Lawrence

My brothers, these are exciting and challenging times in our Archdiocese, let us be open to what our “upper room” experience will be as we all embark on a “New Pentecost.”

Coming up in November (Thurs the 6th through Sat the 9th), our annual deacon retreat will take place at the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc. This year’s presenter is Fr. Kubicki who will speak on the exercises of St. Ignacius. The retreat this year is being facilitated, planned, and overseen by Ralph Kornburger and Gene Kempka. Thanks to both of them for putting in the work to allow us to have another great retreat experience.

Please remember to put the Deacon Memorial Mass on your calendars. This year it is on Sunday October 26th, 2014 at 3:00PM at Holy Family parish in Fond du Lac. Fr. Pat Heppe will be our celebrant, thanks to districts 7, 8, and 9 for their work to prepare this very important liturgy to honor those deacons and wives who have gone before us.

Blessings,

Deacon Mark Jansen

Know Your Deacons:

Saint Papyrus was arrested with his Bishop, St. Carpus, and both were brought before the Roman governor of Pergamus (Turkey) where they were ordered to sacrifice to the Roman gods. When they refused, they were tortured and burned at the stake. Records are unclear whether this happened during

the persecution of Marcus Aurelius or Decian. He is remembered on October 11th.

E-Mail Updates:

Al Foeckler’s new e-mail address is:
deaconal@nativityofthelord.com

Prayer Requests:

Deacon Tom Monday ‘90

Deacon Tony Martino ‘84

Deacon Phil Klinkhammer ‘79

Deacon Edward Nowicki ‘77, and Shirley Ann, his wife

Deacon Mike Rooney ‘88, and Betty, his wife

Deacon Salvador Rosado ‘98, and Ramona, his wife

Mary Anderson, wife of deceased Deacon Dennis

Deacon Francisco Blas ‘98, and Florencia, his wife

Judy Francois, wife of Deacon Jim ‘83

Deacon Baleriano Gonzalez ‘84, and Emilia, his wife

Deacon Dick Govek ‘92, and Dorrie, his wife

Deacon Juan Molina ‘78

Deacon Tony Monfre ‘02

Eleanor Piontek, wife of Deacon Dick ‘86

Deacon Eugenio Ramirez-Murphy ‘02

Deacon Gene Van Garsse ‘83, and Kay, his wife

Deacon Bernie Wendt ‘94, and Renee, his wife

Deacon Jay Wittak ‘05



Emily Collins, daughter of Deacon Dean '84 and Karen

Lance Corporal Thomas Carlson, USMC, grandson of Deacon David '84 and Dody Zimprich-currently deployed.

Dates to Remember:

Our annual Memorial Mass will be held on Sunday, October 26, 2014 beginning at 3:00pm at Holy Family parish in Fond-du-Lac. Information, and the name and number to RSVP to, will be coming out shortly. There will be a dinner afterwards. A free will offering will of course be accepted for the dinner. Be sure to attend. This is a special celebration held annually to remember and pray for the deacons and their wives who have passed away since the first class was ordained here in the archdiocese in 1975.

The annual Wives' Day of Reflection is being held on November 8, 2014 beginning with coffee, juice and something to nibble on at 8:30am. It is being held at the School Sisters of St. Joseph Center, located at 1510 S. Layton Blvd. The "day" will end after the noon lunch. Jane Clare Ishiguro, Pastoral Associate at Good Shepherd, Menomonee Falls, will lead the day. Be sure to sign up. Here is a great idea: why not call one of the other wives of a deacon(s) that you know and invite them to come with you! The more the merrier!!

The annual Deacons' Retreat is being held on November 7-9, with an option evening and day of private prayer and reflection beginning on November 6. Once again the retreat is being held at the Redemptorist Retreat House located in Oconomowoc. The retreat will be directed by Fr. James Kubicki, SJ. Informational/registration information has been sent out. Get your reservation in early. Don't forget you **MUST** have your money in to Gene Kempka **BEFORE** you will be reserved a place.

Also, the Diocese of Madison has asked if their deacons could attend our retreat. They were advised

that they can but the spots go to our men first. Don't put off registering as **YOUR** spot may be gone.

The annual Holy Hour for Life will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 7:00pm. Don't forget to meet with your brothers to decide where yours will be held and who will be presiding if you collaborate on the Holy Hour for Life. Be sure to get a music person and a cantor. Maybe someone to do a reading. Book the church! Once your Holy Hour for Life is set (date, time, location) please send me an e-mail with the information and which/what deacon(s) will be presiding.



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Deacon David L. Zimprich, Director

