



# DEACON'S BEACON

A Newsletter for the Permanent Deacons of the  
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Fall 2019

## Deacon's On-going Formation Weekend Schedule:

February 7-9, 2020 Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center; Charleston, WV

May 15-17, 2020 Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center; Charleston, WV

July 31 – Aug 2, 2020 Priest Field Pastoral Center; Kerneysville, WV

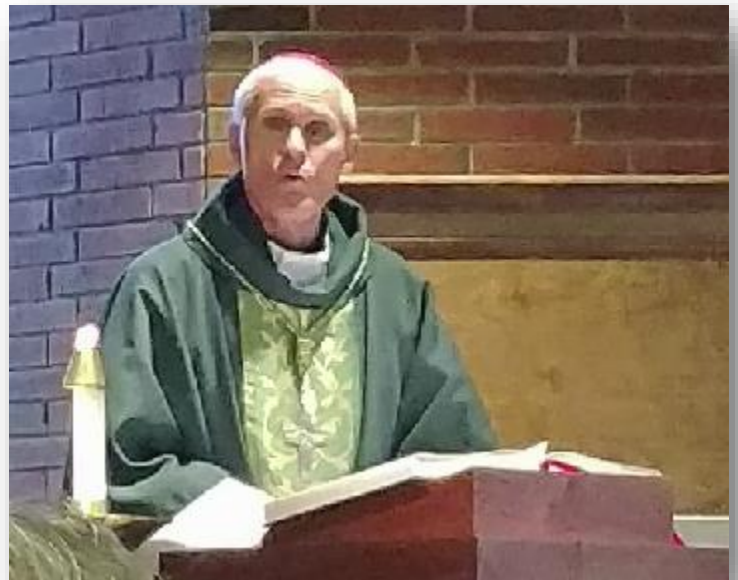
October 9-11, 2020 Mary Help of Christians; Huttonsville, WV

*Dear Deacons of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese,*

*It has been a pleasure to meet some of you during my visits to different parts of the Diocese and at the recent Deacon's and Wives' retreat at Mary, Help of Christians Pastoral Center. I greatly esteem the ministry that permanent deacons offer in the Church, supported almost always by wives endowed with a true apostolic spirit. My relationships with deacons and their families in my parishes were friendly and fruitful. There is so much work to do on the Lord's behalf! We priests and deacons truly need one another and the Church needs us both!*

*As I announced at the retreat, my intention is to have a formation program for new deacon candidates up and running by the fall of 2020. We will soon begin soliciting candidates, so if you know of good men who fit the criteria of permanent deacons, please encourage them to apply. With all due respect to my older deacons (I being a septuagenarian!), we really need some younger men – in their 30's and 40's – to fill out the ranks and be there to serve well into the future. We will also be setting up the formation program with input from deacons. I ask you to keep this effort in your prayers. I believe the Lord will help us uncover good candidates and show us how best to form them.*

*Thank you for the service you are offering to your brothers and sisters in the Lord and to me. May God bless you and your families. Let us pray for one another!*



*+Mark E. Brennan*



## **A word from our Vicar for Clergy . . .**

Perhaps many of you know by now that I am new to the position of Vicar for Clergy. I do thank you for your patience and your prayers that I might serve you well. It was a joy to be with many of you during the retreats at Priestfield and in Huttonsville. I do appreciate your welcome and hospitality and look forward to working with you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or insights that you may have: dschuelkens@dwc.org or at my office via the Diocesan switchboard: 304 233-0880. I pray that God continues to bless our ministries abundantly.

Very Rev. Dennis R. Schuelkens, Jr., V.E.  
Pastor, Sacred Heart of Mary Parish  
Pastor, St. Joseph the Worker  
Parish and School  
Designated Pastor, Madonna HS

## **“To wear a collar or to not wear a collar” by Deacon Tom Soper**

In some discussions over our retreat weekend I found some differences of opinion on whether we as deacons should wear a Roman Collar at all. In the early days of the reestablishment of the Diaconate it was not permitted for a deacon to wear clerics as it might confuse the general populace about a priestly life mistaking a deacon for a priest. Understandable in the early beginnings. However, we are now fifty years into the reestablishment of the permanent diaconate and I would venture to say, that most Catholics know what a deacon is and how they are to function. Well! I might be stretching it a bit here.

The point of the Roman Collar is to call someone out as different than the general populace. A bishop or priest is to be recognized as someone in authority within the Church. Someone that a person can go to with questions and when in need of counseling. Isn't a deacon charged with a similar responsibility?

One argument is made that when a deacon wears the collar there is a possibility or maybe even a tendency to clericalism. In other words, calling attention to himself for his own gratification. The answer maybe yes and in all cases for someone who wears a Roman Collar if they are wearing it for that specific purpose. But I will quote Scripture in saying that “nothing on the outside will defile one, but only what is on the inside”.

A close priest friend of mine suggested that when out in public we should wear our clerics. In this way it gives a person an opportunity to approach you with a question or particular need for advice or counseling. When with him I had seen this happen on occasions. It is a sign of office that can be abused but should not be.

Clericalism comes from the inside not the outside.

I have experienced opening of avenues, especially in hospitals and nursing care facilities, that might not have been open to me had I not worn my clerics. Again, the authority.

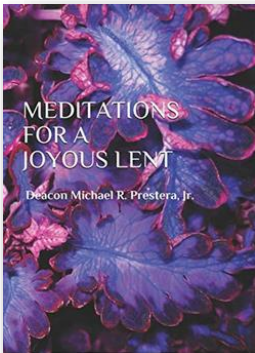
Now for deacons, there are very specific restrictions for wearing the collar. We are allowed and maybe encouraged to wear clerics at official functions and in official ministry. This would mean that we don't just get up in the morning and put on clerics for the day, as maybe a priest or bishop might do as a normal way to dress. A deacon who does this as a normal attire might be cautioned to review why he is dressing in this manner. What is the specific reason for wearing clerical attire?

Clericalism is an abuse of authority and power of office. We all need to be mindful of who we are and who we represent. If we are the image of Christ, it is because of how we witness to those who see us. If in clerics or not, that is our call.

*Deacon Tom Soper*

## Deacon Dennis and Val have moved . . .

Deacon Dennis and Val have moved. They now reside at 1108 Kanawha Blvd E., Unit 103, Charleston, WV 25301. Telephone numbers remain the same. While retired from full-time employment with the Diocese, Deacon Dennis is still consulting in marriage cases. His liturgical ministry remains at Christ the King in Dunbar for the present time. Questions about marriage cases can still be addressed to his diocesan email address. He does not check that email daily, but will respond.



Deacon Mike Prestera has published a book entitled, “*Meditations for a Joyous Lent.*”

*You can get a copy from Amazon!*

**CHRISTMAS FAMILY PRAYER** should be at the publisher next week. Contents include a short family prayer service, cycle A readings for Advent, Blessing of a Manger Scene and explanation of several symbols of the season.

~~~ Deacon Larry and Marianne celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 26, 2019. ~~~



# "Well done, my good and faithful servant"

Mathew 25:21:



## REV. MR. JOHN FRANK CESLOVNIK

John Frank Ceslovnik, 61, of Summersville, WV passed away on Monday, August 12, 2019 in the Summersville Regional Medical Center Extended Care Facility after a long battle with MS. Born September 10, 1957 at Johnstown, PA, he was a son of Agnes Standa Ceslovnik and the late Frank E. Ceslovnik.

He was a graduate of Southern Illinois University (Carbondale) in 1977, was ordained a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in 2004, and served St. John the Evangelist (Summersville) and Holy Family (Richwood) Catholic churches. John retired from Nalco Chemical and worked briefly as a people greeter at Walmart. John loved hunting, fishing, his family, his church and sharing his love of life with everyone he came into contact with.

Special thanks to the folks at SRMC Extended Care Facility for the excellent care and concern he received the last two years of his life.

Surviving besides his mother are his wife, Debbie (Manges) Ceslovnik; sons, Jason (Barbara) Ceslovnik and Jonathan (Nikki) Ceslovnik; grandchildren, Rease, Jaxon, and Stella; sister, Jonna Contacos-Sawyer (Mark) and his niece, Brooke Contacos.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 16, 2019 in the St. John's Catholic Church in Summersville with Father Rene' Gerona officiating. Interment will follow in the Catholic Cemetery in Summersville.

[http://whitefuneralhomewv.com/2019\\_obituaries/Ceslovnik\\_John\\_Frank.html](http://whitefuneralhomewv.com/2019_obituaries/Ceslovnik_John_Frank.html)



# "Well done, my good and faithful servant"

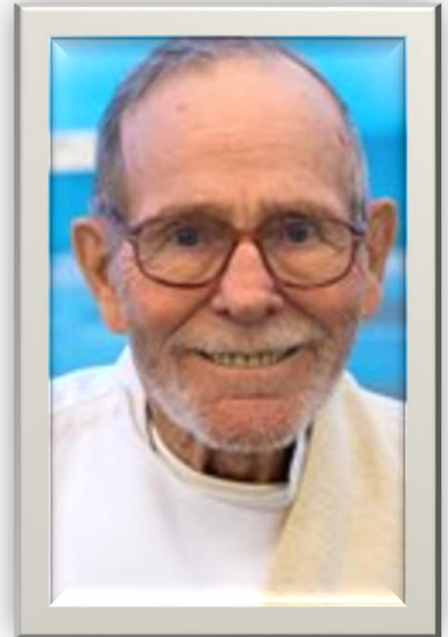
Mathew 25:21:

## REV. MR. JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH

On September 23, 2019, Rev. Mr. JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH, beloved husband of Linda Louellen Lynch, surrounded by love and prayer led by Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Lou Belldina and wife Linda, and grandson Jonathan, when he took the Lord's hand. He fought a courageous battle with illnesses in which he never lost his faith.

Born to John Francis Lynch Jr. and Vera Shafer Lynch on July 7, 1933, in Milburn, W.Va.; oldest brother to late Mark, Phillip (Linda), and Francis (Jack).

John married the love of his life, Linda, on December 24, 1954, at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Boomer, W.Va. As their love grew throughout the years, (December 2019 would have been 65 years), they were blessed with four beautiful children, Joe (Kitty), late David (Louise), Gail Louann, and Jonathan (Courtney); and grandchildren, Heather, Sarah (Neil), Amber (Ryan), Aaron (Carrie), Caroline (Dan), Michael, and Joshua; great-grandchildren, Johnny, Keagan, Kalli and David; soon to be his great - great - grandchild, who will be named John Joseph Lynch after his grandfather.



John was a printer by trade for 25 years. He later worked in the coal mining industry. In 1976, John and Linda were called to be house parents of Louis J. Wuchner Home for Boys, ran by the Diocese of Wheeling - Charleston, directed by Lou Belldina. During that time, the Pastoral Center in Huttonsville was being built, and after completion, John assumed the role as assistant director. When planning for a Pastoral Center in Charleston, Bishop Hodges asked John and Linda to come to Charleston for the planning, development, and management of John XXIII Pastoral Center. He was ordained Deacon on August 17, 1985, and attended Duquane University for Spirituality. John and Linda retired from John XXIII Pastoral Center in January 2006, after serving the Catholic Diocese Wheeling - Charleston for 30 years.

John devoted his entire life to family and his religious callings. He and Linda have lived their lives spreading love and Christianity through several ministries, such as Engaged Encounter, prison ministry, and Chaplain for local hospitals, and many functions related to the Deaconate program.

Celebration of life will begin at 10 a.m. Monday, September 30, for family and friends, followed by Mass and interment at 11 a.m. After which, there will be a luncheon provided by Blessed Sacrament Parish in South Charleston, where all services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Special thanks to Bishop Mark E. Brennan for his phone call and visit with John, Father Leon Alexander and Rev. Mr. John Hanna for all their special visits and support, Jonathan and Courtney for all the loving care and help provided during John's illness, and to all the many family and friends who have been there through it all.

# 2019 / 2020 Liturgical Calendar and Diocesan Events for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

|                    |                                    |                                                                     |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 1, 2019   | First Sunday of Advent (Year A)    |                                                                     |
| December 9, 2019   | Monday                             | Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** |
| December 24, 2019  | Tuesday – Christmas Eve            |                                                                     |
| December 25, 2019  | Wednesday – Christmas Day          | Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord*                              |
| January 1, 2020    | Wednesday                          | Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God*                               |
| January 12, 2020   | Sunday                             | Feast of the Baptism of the Lord;<br>Christmas season ends          |
| February 26, 2020  | Ash Wednesday                      | Lent begins                                                         |
| March 1, 2020      | First Sunday of Lent               | Rite of Election – Charles Town, 3 pm                               |
| March 7, 2020      | Saturday of the First Week of Lent | Rite of Election – Charleston, 12 noon                              |
| March 8, 2020      | Second Sunday of Lent              | Rite of Election – Wheeling, 3 pm                                   |
| March 19, 2020     | Thursday                           | Solemnity of Saint Joseph, patron saint of the diocese              |
| April 5, 2020      | Sunday                             | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord                              |
| April 6, 2020      | Monday of Holy Week                | Chrism Mass, Basilica/Co-Cathedral, Charleston, 4 pm                |
| April 7, 2020      | Tuesday of Holy Week               | Chrism Mass, Cathedral, Wheeling, 4 pm                              |
| April 9 – 12, 2020 | Thursday through Sunday,           | Holy Week Sacred Triduum                                            |
| April 11, 2020     | Saturday of Holy Week              | Easter Vigil must begin at 8 pm or later                            |
| April 12, 2020     | Easter Sunday                      | Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord                           |
| May 24, 2020       | Sunday                             | Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord***                           |
| June 6, 2020       | Saturday                           | Diaconate Ordination at Cathedral, 11 am                            |
| June 27, 2020      | Saturday                           | Priesthood Ordination at Cathedral, 11 am                           |
| August 15, 2020    | Saturday                           | Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**            |
| November 1, 2020   | Sunday                             | Solemnity of All Saints                                             |

Holy Day of Obligation

\*\*NOT a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

\*\*\*The bishops of the Province of Baltimore, to which the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston belongs, have moved the celebration of this solemnity to the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

## Deacon Doug is . . .

working on a Deacon Directory since we have a new Bishop and new Vicar for Clergy. If you have not had your picture taken recently, please use a white background and a picture of yourself and then one with your spouse. Please submit an email to [dbreiding@dwc.org](mailto:dbreiding@dwc.org) BY NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>.

If not, I will use what I have.  
No matter how early . . .



Doug (Becky) Breiding  
1685 National Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
Home: 304-277-4346  
[dbreiding@dwc.org](mailto:dbreiding@dwc.org)



Harry (Marcia) Evans  
209 Mankin Avenue  
Beckley, WV 25801  
304-252-0561  
[h\\_mevans@suddenlink.net](mailto:h_mevans@suddenlink.net)



**“Somebody” is really trying to look *holy* in this picture.**

(HINT: It’s the guy on the far right)

**And it ain’t working!**



OCTOBER'S WEEKEND . . . . .





# THIS PAST YEAR 2019 THE DEACONS WILL HAVE CELEBRATED . . .

**This past year 2019 the Deacons will have celebrated . . .**

## **45 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Ray Shaw III (October 18, 1974)

## **44 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. George Doerr (December 26, 1975)

## **40 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Gerald B. Goetemann (April 1, 1979)

Rev. Mr. James R. Kelly (April 1, 1979)

## **38 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Louis J. Belldina (May 24, 1981)

Rev. Mr. Truman A. Lipscomb (May 30, 1981)

Rev. Mr. George Showalter (May 24, 1981)

## **37 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Bill Strange (May 15, 1982)

## **36 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Robert B. Lilly (June 12, 1983)

Rev. Mr. John F. Maher (June 12, 1983)

Rev. Mr. Joseph J. Prentiss (June 12, 1983)

Rev. Mr. Paul J. Smith ( June 12, 1983)

## **35 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Larry Hammel (May 19, 1984)

## **34 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. John J. Hanna (August 17, 1985)

Rev. Mr. Albert L. Iafrate (August 24, 1985)

## **32 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. John Divita (December 11, 1987)

## **31 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Russell J. Grant (November 5, 1988)

Rev. Mr. David Wuletich (November 5, 1988)

Rev. Mr. John Ziolkowski (November 5, 1988)

## **24 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Thom Trunzo (August 27, 1995)

## **18 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. William Bronzi (Diocese of Rockford, IL 2001)

Rev. Mr. Doug Deem (October 10, 2001)

Rev. Mr. Rod Fagert (October 10, 2001)

## **17 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Robert (Bob) Bittner (May 11, 2002)

## **15 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Doug Breiding (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. Dave Galvin (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. Todd Garland (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. Raymond Godwin (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. Don Hammond (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. Tony Maciorowski (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. Dennis Nesser (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. Steve Olenchock (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. Mike Prestera (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. Chuck Quigley (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. John Sarraga (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. George Smoulder (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. Rue Thompson, Jr. (October 2, 2004)

Rev. Mr. John Windett (October 2, 2004)

## **14 years of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. David Lester (October 9, 2005)

## **3 year of Ordination:**

Rev. Mr. Brian Crim (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. Harry Evans (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. Robert Holliday (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. Peter Minogue (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. James Munuhe (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. Helgi Nelson (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. Vince Olenick (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. Luis Pagano (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. Marcus Pressl (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. Tom Soper (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. Steve Wharton (May 7, 2016)

Rev. Mr. John Yaquina (May 7, 2016)



***Deacons that have gone before us . . .***

**Rev. Mr. Paul H. Bischof, Jr.**

Born: April 24, 1930  
Ordained: November 7, 1986  
Died: December 27, 2003

**Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. Cerroni**

Born: Mar. 29, 1926  
Ordained:  
Died: May 31, 1983

**Rev. Mr. John F. Ceslovník**

Born: December 10, 1957  
Ordained: October 2, 2004  
Died: August 12, 2019

**Rev. Mr. Henry F. Higgs**

Born: February 19, 1922  
Ordained: April 11, 1979  
Died: February 16, 2005

**Rev. Mr. Gary Lane**

Born: March 10, 1952  
Ordained: October 2, 2004  
Died: November 6, 2013

**Rev. Mr. John J. Lynch**

Born: July 7, 1933  
Ordained: August 17, 2019  
Died: September 23, 2019

**Rev. Mr. Richard W. Mankowski**

Born: September 25, 1935  
Ordained: August 24, 1985  
Died: December 22, 2014

**Rev. Mr. John Moses**

Born: September 12, 1923  
Ordained: November 17, 1987  
Died: August 24, 2005

**Rev. Mr. Edwin T. Mullavey**

Born: November 25, 1930  
Ordained: May 24, 1981  
Died: September 20, 1999

**Rev. Mr. Anthony P. Santilli**

Born: November 16, 1932  
Ordained: June 12, 1983  
Died: January 26, 2005

**Rev. Dr. John A. Shultz**

Born: June 04, 1921  
Ordained: June 12, 1983  
Died: July 16, 2011

**Rev. Mr. Paul J. Smith**

Born: January 4, 1931  
Ordained: June 12, 1983  
Died: May 18, 2017

**Rev. Mr. Don Wise**

Born: February 20, 1928  
Ordained: November 5, 1988  
Died: April 19, 2019

**Rev. Mr. Ron J. Wojcicki**

Born: September 1, 1934  
Ordained: November 7, 1987  
Died: February 9, 2014

***Deacon Wives that have gone before us . . .***

**Marie Cerroni**

(wife of Deacon Doctor Lawrence J. Cerroni)  
Born: July 19, 1919  
Died: June 26, 2001

**Angela Divita**

(wife of Deacon John Divita)  
Born: February 2, 1933  
Died: February 11, 2014

**Mary Jane Kelly**

(wife of Deacon James Kelly)  
Born: December 31, 2037  
Died: November 29, 2018

**Theresa Mankowski**

(wife of Deacon Richard Mankowski)  
Born: November 27, 1935  
Died: February 27, 2016

**Anne Shaw**

(wife of Deacon Ray Shaw)  
Born:  
Died: April 5, 2001

**Rita Anne Shultz**

(wife of Deacon John Shultz)  
Born: August 6, 1923  
Died: February 28, 2007

**Amelia Rose Smith**

(wife of Deacon Paul Smith)  
Born: August 24, 1933  
Died: July 20, 2007

