



DEACON'S BEACON

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

July 2020

Deacon's On-going Formation Weekend Schedule:

October 16-18, 2020 Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center; Charleston, WV

February 5-7, 2021 Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center; Charleston, WV

May 14-16, 2021 Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center; Charleston, WV

"Well done, my good and faithful servant"

Mathew 25:21:

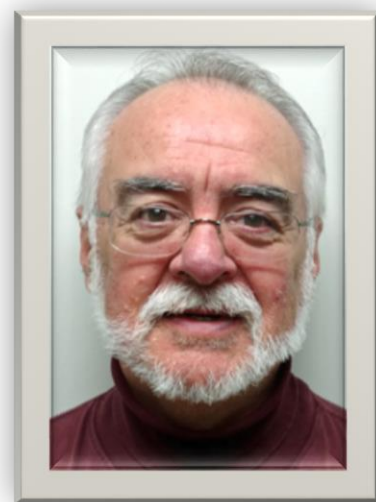
The Reverend Mr. Louis John Belldina of Monongah, WV, passed away on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at age 72. He was born on March 19, 1948 in Cleveland, OH, and raised in Grant Town, WV, a son of the late James Belldina and Helen Wolfe Belldina.

Lou is survived by his wife, Barbara Belldina; his children, Juda Belldina and wife Sarah of Cincinnati, OH, Jeremy Belldina and his wife Seashal of McMurray, PA, Jennifer Lancaster and her husband John of Barboursville, WV, and Jessica Belldina of Clarksburg, WV; grandchildren, Warie, Uzuri, Bearra, Caius, Ilya, Verena, Elizabeth, Elijah, Micah, Nathan, and Anna; sister, Shirley Smith; brother-in-law, David Bordas; and nieces, Jessica, Carrie, Jill, Tina, and Lisa.

Deacon Lou was lovingly devoted to his wife, family and the Church, serving as Deacon for 39 years. Ordained in 1981, Deacon Lou served as the Director of Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center, served as a Permanent Deacon for St. John Bosco Parish in Huttonsville, St. Brendan Parish in Elkins, and St. Patrick Parish in Coalton, and most recently served at St. Anthony Parish in Fairmont, and Holy Spirit Parish in Monongah.

The family will receive friends at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Fairmont on Sunday, July 19th from 3:00 pm – 8:00 p.m. with Vigil Rites at 7:00 pm celebrated by Fr. Vincent E. Joseph. A Catholic Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Monongah on Monday, July 20th at 11:00 am with Bishop Mark E. Brennan as Celebrant and Fr. Gary P. Naegele as homilist. Burial will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Monongah. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.domicofh.com. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

~ ~ ~ <https://www.domicofh.com/obituary/louis-belldina>



From Deacon John . . .

Permanent Deacon Steering Committee Report by Deacon John Yaquinta, Chairman. We are starting the year with 29 candidates!! I would like to thank all the committee members and all those who helped with the interview process throughout the Diocese. It definitely took a village to get the job done, and TOGETHER we did it!! Thank you Lord for allowing us to move through the storm of a pandemic, to bring together a group of men willing to serve the Church and its people.

I present to you the Permanent Deacon Aspirants for the Class of 2024 (by Vicariate):

| Candidate's Name | Parish | City | Vicariate |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Allen, William Richard | St. Francis de Sales | Beckley | Beckley |
| Brian Keiling | St. Francis de Sales | Beckley | Beckley |
| Emarjun Brucal | Sacred Heart | Williamson | Charleston |
| Michael Brumley | Holy Trinity | Nitro | Charleston |
| Michael Kawash | Sacred Heart - Co-Cathedral | Charleston | Charleston |
| Tony O,Leary | Blessed Sacrament | South Charleston | Charleston |
| Ron Piakowski | Our Lady of Fatima | Huntington | Charleston |
| Tommy Ross | Blessed Sacrament | South Charleston | Charleston |
| Tom Antulov | St. Patrick | Mannington | Clarksburg |
| Tom Hassen | St. Francis de Sales | Morgantown | Clarksburg |
| Jim McCullough | Our Lady of Perpetual Help | Stonewood | Clarksburg |
| Pat McFarland | Immaculate Conception | Fairmont | Clarksburg |
| Aaron Talbott | St. Brenden | Elkins | Clarksburg |
| Stephen Allard | St. James | Charles Town | Martinsburg |
| Darryl Feldman | St. Leo | Inwood | Martinsburg |
| Bill Klug | St. James | Charles Town | Martinsburg |
| Patrick Michel | St. James | Charles Town | Martinsburg |
| Bryce Timberlake | St. James the Greater | Charles Town | Martinsburg |
| David Torlone | St. Leo | Inwood | Martinsburg |
| Todd Burdette | St. Matthew | Ravenswood | Parkersburg |
| John Butler | St. Matthew | Ravenswood | Parkersburg |
| Victor Cwynar | St. Francis Xavier | Parkersburg | Parkersburg |
| John Basil | St. Joseph the Worker | Weirton | Wheeling |
| Chris Bayardi | St. Anthony | Follansbee | Wheeling |
| Christopher Forshey | Corpus Christi | Wheeling | Wheeling |
| Robert Krall | St. Michael | Wheeling | Wheeling |
| Jacob Manning | Cathedral of St. Joseph | Wheeling | Wheeling |
| Tom McFadden | St. Vincent de Paul | Wheeling | Wheeling |
| Jason Miller | St. Paul | Weirton | Wheeling |

The committee will continue to work throughout the year to resolve any issues or concerns that come up. The chairman will be attending the monthly gathering with the aspirants and acting as their formator. Classes are scheduled to start on Aug. 28 at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston.

Special thanks to all those who served on the Permanent Deacon Formation Steering Committee:

Deacon Doug Breiding, Deacon Lou and Barb Beldina, Deacon Harry Evans, Tina High, Bernadette Kime, Deacon Helgi Nelson, Deacon Dennis and Val Nesser, Deacon Marcus Pressl, Deacon Tom and Elaine Soper, Deacon Steve Wharton, Deacon John Yaquinta, chairman, and Father Dennis Schuelkens, Vicar for Clergy.

From Deacon Rue . . .

Brothers,

You are probably aware that August 2019 I had experienced a serious illness forcing me to undergo an emergency surgery for a ruptured colon. This required a great deal of time for recovery, there is a second surgery scheduled for March 2nd to reconnect the colon, putting me back together, so to speak. I truly appreciate all your thoughts and prayers for me and my family during this time. It is only by the grace of our merciful God and prayers I am still alive today.

This brings me to the matters I wish to share with you concerning the prison ministry to WV state facilities I am involved with, and the future of that ministry. Although I am beyond the retirement age, I have not made plans to retire. To be honest the thought had crossed my mind but decided I am just not ready now or in the immediate future, if the choice is mine to make.

However, we must be realistic. At some point it will need to happen. During the recovery from surgery, I began to think considerably more of the future of the prison ministry, and the need for a current or future deacon to be called upon to fill this Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston leadership role of prison ministry for WV state facilities and other roles we're involved with. There are many facets to the current Diocese state prison ministry office that I will try to give a brief description for each one.

First and foremost, the principle purpose of the office is to make sure the spiritual needs of the inmates in WV corrections facilities are provided for by Diocesan Clergy or Religious. This may include assisting those Clergy members in receiving the required security clearance for a facility. Including the Division of Corrections Adult Prisons. WV Regional Jails and WV Juvenile Centers. This requires working with the administration of each Agency to accomplish this task smoothly and with a timely manner.

I suppose the timing could not have been better for me to pass the leadership torch of prison ministry program for the WV Council of Churches. After several years leading that committee concerning correctional issues and state policies, I ask to be replaced in that role last summer and the new leader is doing a wonderful job. I will be continuing to assist, lending a hand as much as possible to all those programs. One in particular is an annual two day spiritual retreat I organize at John XXIII for all the Division of Corrects Chaplains.

Also, because of Grants provided by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, approximately four years ago the prison ministry program of the WV Council of Churches was able to open the first Re-entry Council in Charleston WV. The purpose of the re-entry council is to bring to the table all the social service providers of the area and through monthly meetings bring education to the community of the needs of ex-offenders that are returning to the community, and how each service agency may be of assistance making that persons transition smoother, becoming a productive part of society again. Currently, there are now approximately eight of the re-entry councils throughout the state I try to support.

Through the direct ministry within a prison, jails and juvenile facility, or the re-entry councils the real issues that affect an inmate's life on a daily basis come to light. Often, things that perhaps affect them negatively may be simply a policy or rule that can be negotiable from the state level, and the Council of Churches becoming aware of the issue can work to make the proper changes, or work at legislature to see the changes are made.

About ten years ago The WV Supreme Court of Appeals appointed a Commission to investigate an unsolved death of a juvenile in state custody at Salem Juvenile Center. Due to the ministry I was doing to a few juvenile centers and involvement with the WV Council of Churches, I became one of the Commissioners. As it turned out, I am the only one from the community at large, all others are judges, lawyers, or state employees representing different agencies. Since all individuals sentenced by the courts are considered to be in the custody of the court while in prison, this Commission expanded its role to monitor all the juvenile centers, making adjustments to policies for the better, or suggesting to legislature to change laws.

For this Diocesan ministry to continue to flourish and grow there will certainly be the need for a new leader at some point in the future. To be able to navigate the corrections system it is necessary for the individual to be clergy or religious in good standing within the Church. Perhaps within the new deacon class currently being organize, there is a candidate who would be interested in becoming involved in prison ministry. Therefore, I would encourage each of us to ask devout men to take this situation to prayer and consider the possibility they may be being called to this ministry.

Many Blessings
Rue

Rev Mr Rue Thompson , director state facilities
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Buckhannon WV 26201
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rthompson@dwc.org
ruethompson@hotmail.com

Deacon Brian Crim shares . . .

The announcement of the birth of our grandson, Leopold Manilla, born June 9, 2020.



Deacon Tony wanted to share this reflection . . .

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 5, 2020 – Cycle A
Zechariah 9:9-10 Romans 8:9,11-13 Matthew 11:25-30

He was a young man, down and out. Each night he showed up at church sponsored dinners for the homeless. He always carried a large cardboard box that he carefully placed right next to where he was sitting. He was usually quiet, and kept. But one evening after dinner, this quiet young man captured the attention of the volunteers who prepared and served the meals, as well as the homeless people who had just finished eating. The young man opened his box, and showed its contents to the small group that gathered around him. There was no food, clothing, or other personal effects. To the contrary, his box contained a church. More precisely, a skillfully crafted model church made of gleaming white cardboard. Along the model's outer walls, written in perfect calligraphy, were the words of Jesus and the prophets. Over the front door were the same words we heard proclaimed in today's gospel: "Come to me, all you who are weary from carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Beneath those words, the front doors were chained and a tiny padlock held them closed. The man told the group circled around him and his little white church that his name was Michael, and he was homeless and unemployed. He'd lost his job by standing up for an abused workmate. "Sometimes," he said, "when I show people my beautiful church they offer to look after it for me." Then with a small sad smile he added, "But they never seem to extend the same offer for me...only to my little white cardboard church!"¹

Michael is not rich, powerful, or wise. He's not someone we would typically meet in polite society. Except for his little white church, most of us don't want the things that rule Michael's existence; unemployment, homelessness and soup kitchens. Indeed, we might even write him off, assuming he's somehow responsible for his own troubles. After all, he could have just kept his mouth shut at work, and avoided getting fired. But there's a problem with thinking like that, because it's the first step toward turning a blind eye to people in need. Turn a blind eye, step away, take a few steps more, and Michael becomes truly invisible. And our consciences are clear, because out of sight, out of mind! However, ignoring the Michaels of the world doesn't mean they're not still here. It simply means that we choose not to see them. And that puts us at odds with the gospel.

Today's gospel finds Jesus exclaiming "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to the little ones. And Michael and people like him are the little ones, the simple people that Jesus loved. And that begs the question – Does Michael know things that we don't? Well, that's hard to say. He knows right from wrong, and how to speak truth to power. Not that we don't, but the learned and the wise will often go with the flow when their wellbeing is at stake. Upset the apple cart and there's bound to be retribution. Michael learned that the hard way. Beyond knowing about hard knocks, Michael knows scripture. That's evident by the writing on Michael's cardboard church, in perfect calligraphy. The saying that Michael chose to place right above the church door is from today's gospel - "Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest." So it's probably safe to say that Michael knows Jesus. He also knows that not all church people do. As he said after supper -- "Sometimes, when I show people my beautiful church they offer to look after it for me. But they don't make the same offer to me . . . only to my little white cardboard church! That sentiment is also reflected in Michael's cardboard creation. Not by words, but by a tiny, tiny padlock, barring entry to a gleaming, white cardboard church. Michael's message is pretty clear – "there's no room at the inn, at least not for me."

Perhaps that's our gospel challenge this 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Are there people so invisible to us, that they don't feel welcome in our beautiful white church? If history has taught us anything, it that all kinds of people, for all kinds of reasons, can be excluded from a church. But Jesus excludes no one. The gospel is for everyone. In the verses immediately before today's reading, Jesus rebukes the cities that rejected him. He goes on to praise God and thank his father "for the little ones," the Michaels of every place and time that have no status. Because it's the little ones who recognize Jesus as kind, full of compassion, slow to anger, and abounding in love. It's Jesus that offers rest to the weary and burdened. As we prepare for Eucharist, it's worth asking ourselves perhaps whether we are yoked to Christ? If so, our yoke is easy and our burden light! So regardless of where it leads you: open your eyes to the needs of the little ones; make a decision to act on the needs that you see. Struggle with the doubts and fears that chain and lock us to inaction. With Christ we are more than a white cardboard church. We are the people of God yoked together through Eucharist and acts of Mercy.

¹ Story adapted from: Verna Holyhead, 2007, Building on Rock: Welcoming the Word in Year A, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, p.130.

Deacon Dave Lester writes . . .

Mission Team Report: During the week of July 6th - July 10th the Ecumenical Mission Team in association with the Greater Fairmont Council of Churches worked in Marion County doing home repairs. Some like it hot! Well we survived, but this is the second year in a row when the temperatures remained in the 90's each day making our work a bit more challenging than usual.

The team worked on three separate projects this year including two in the city of Fairmont and one in Barrackville. Our first project was to replace the roofing on a portion of Gloria's home on Spruce Street. Our group had gone there last winter to patch it in anticipation of following up as we did. After removing all of the old roofing including the damaged wood, we installed new wood, metal roofing, flashing, and new gutters. Gloria and her son, William, were wonderful to work for and most appreciative. The second project that we completed was for Mary on Chicago Street. IT was the demolition and replacement of her porch stairs that were not safe. This turned out to be a one day job for the crew and we enjoyed meeting and visiting with Mary who has vision problems and really needed this upgrade for safety sake. The biggest and most complex project that we undertook in Barrackville was for Mary Ann and her family. She had sustained damage to her basement several months ago when the sewer backed up and she lost everything that was stored in it. The city later installed a new sewer tap so she needed to have all of the drain lines rerun. This was the work that we undertook. The good news for the crew was that it was not out in the sun, the bad news was the need to enter a tight crawl space to make connections, as well as, the need to cut concrete to connect the floor drain. In the end Mary Ann no longer has to worry about the sewer backing up and we marvel at her determination to endure the past several months that have had her on pins and needles wondering if the next rain might flood her basement again.

Those who participated in the mission work this year included: Jerry Walter of Immaculate Conception; Patrick Meinster, campus minister at the Newman Center at FSU; Rich Gavette who joined us from First Baptist; Kenny Barcroft, who is seeking the Lord's guidance and direction for his life as a Christian; Joe Petrucci, of St. Peter's in Farmington; Billy Tobin, a recent graduate of Fairmont Senior High School who is on his way to Washington and Lee University in the Fall. Billy and five others are members of St. Peter the Fisherman CC namely; Rick Garcia, Toby Wilfong, Mike Painter, Jack Frazier, and Deacon David Lester.

The mission team wants to thank all of those who contributed so generously to the team's efforts this year including: Paula Ciumedean who arranged and prepared lunches for the group; John & Carrie Menas at Colasessano's who provided pizza, and Nora Tobin who baked pepperoni rolls for lunches. We also received a number of donations of money which helped to fund the work. This was much needed as the team spent over \$1,800 on materials and supplies during the week. The team of 10 volunteers contributed 175 hours of labor to the home repairs. Finally we want to thank all of those who prayed for our safety in this time of COVID-19, as well as, the usual dangers that come with doing this type of work. Anyone who would like to learn more about this ministry can contact Deacon David Lester at 304-363-7434.



THIS YEAR 2020 THE DEACONS WILL CELEBRATE . . .

46 years of Ordination:

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

45 years of Ordination:

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

41 years of Ordination:

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

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

39 years of Ordination:

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

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

38 years of Ordination:

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

37 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)

36 years of Ordination:

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

35 years of Ordination:

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

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

33 years of Ordination:

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

32 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)

25 years of Ordination:

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

19 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)

18 years of Ordination:

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

16 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)

15 years of Ordination:

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

4 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 Yaquinta (May 7, 2016)



Deacons that have gone before us . . .

Rev. Mr. Louis Belldina

Born: March 19, 1948
Ordained: May 24, 1981
Died: July 16, 2020

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

