



DEACON'S BEACON

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

December 2020

Deacon's On-going Formation Weekend Schedule:

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

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

August 6 - 8, 2021 Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center; Charleston, WV

October 8 - 10, 2021; **Retreat** Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center; Charleston, WV

FROM OUR BISHOP . . .

Dear Brother Deacons,

We are told that St. Francis of Assisi was a deacon. His life certainly was one imbued with the spirit of *diaconia*, service to God and neighbor.

One of St. Francis' outstanding contributions to the life of the Church was his creation of the first Nativity scene on Christmas Eve in Greccio, Italy, in 1223, only three years before his death. While in the Holy Land, he had visited the cave in Bethlehem where Christ was born. He believed it would stimulate the faith of the Christian people if they could see the humility and poverty in which their Savior came into the world. So, he prepared a manger in a cave, strew hay around it with an ox and a donkey as witnesses, and called his fellow friars and the townspeople to come see the scene. Their eyes widened and their lips broke out in praise. Then Francis preached on the Incarnation, moving many to tears.

My brothers, what Francis did was out of love for God and love for His people. In a materialistic society (Italy was like that in the thirteenth century), he knew that people needed to grow in their faith and love God and one another more than their money, their power and their comforts. When you and I serve others, it must be with the same love for God and for our neighbor, in the hope of not only helping them materially but stimulating their faith and love.

In these strange COVID-19 times, can we be as creative as St. Francis was in finding ways to reach our brothers and sisters with the Gospel? How can we make real to our people the tremendous love God has for us, manifested so vividly in the Incarnation of His Son? We preach the message of salvation and bring Christ to people by our words but also by our actions. St. Francis' Nativity scene was a wordless sermon, an action that spoke to people and still does. May God inspire you and me to find creative ways to imitate Francis' zeal for souls!

† Mark E. Brennan

ON-GOING FORMATION WILL BE

FEBRUARY 5TH THROUGH 7TH, 2021

AT SAINT JOHN XXIII PASTORAL CENTER; CHARLESTON, WV . . .

It will be with Fr. Rick Ginther and the topic will be Ecumenism.

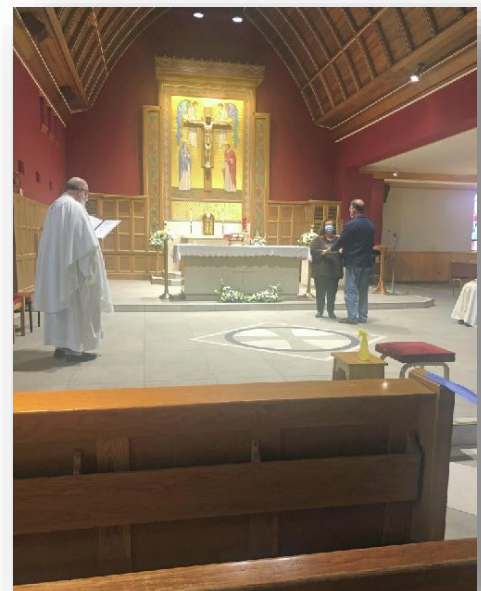
Born Aug. 25, 1950. Ordained May 21, 1983. Associate pastor, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis; 1985, associate pastor, St. Paul, Tell City; 1987, pastor, St. Mary, Richmond; 1992, graduate studies in the field of sacred liturgy, fall of 1992 acting director of the Office of Worship, while continuing as pastor, St. Mary, Richmond; 1993, pastor, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis, and associate director, Office of Worship; 1999, reappointed pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, while continuing as associate director, Office of Worship; 2000, granted permission to complete graduate studies at Notre Dame University, South Bend, while continuing as pastor, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, and associate director, Office of Worship; 2001, director of liturgy, Office of Worship, while continuing as pastor, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis; 2005, pastor, St. Patrick, Terre Haute, and St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute; 2010, priest moderator, St. Ann, Terre Haute, while continuing as pastor, St. Patrick, Terre Haute, and St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute; 2011, reappointed pastor, St. Patrick, Terre Haute, and St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute, while continuing as priest moderator, St. Ann, Terre Haute; 2011, (July), dean of the Terre Haute Deanery, while continuing as pastor, St. Patrick, Terre Haute, St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute, and priest moderator, St. Ann, Terre Haute; 2012, director, archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism, while continuing as, Dean of the Terre Haute Deanery, and pastor, St. Patrick, Terre Haute, St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute; 2014, reappointed dean, Terre Haute Deanery, while continuing as pastor, St. Patrick, Terre Haute, and St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute; 2016, pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis.

<https://www.archindy.org/staff/priests/ginther-richard.html>



DEACON HARRY EVANS WRITES

For celebrations of life, Marcia and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on 27 November. We renewed our vows at morning mass that day.



**From the Desk of Bernadette McMasters Kime, D. Min
Office of Worship and Sacraments**

As you probably heard, Pope Francis declared a Year of St. Joseph beginning on December 8, 2020 and concluding on December 8, 2021. How appropriate since the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is under his patronage!

Reflecting on the life of Saint Joseph, I can see a special connection with permanent deacons. Saint Joseph was a family man who had a wife and a child to care for. In his case, he had to endure hardships to keep his family safe (traveling with a very pregnant wife and finding no place to deliver the child, as well as fleeing from an enraged king to a foreign land.) I am sure that most of you can remember times when you had to make sacrifices to protect your family. Also, most of you labor, or have labored, during your lifetime. Saint Joseph was known around Nazareth as a hard-working carpenter. For you as permanent deacons, there are a lot of parallels between you and Saint Joseph.

Pope Francis found it fitting to dedicate this year to Saint Joseph because so many people are working hard in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic who never get recognized. Saint Joseph's role in the whole salvation story is "in the background". He never gets center stage in the Gospels, in fact, he never says anything. Just obediently does the will of God. For those near death, especially from the Coronavirus, Saint Joseph can be a comfort to them since he is the patron of a happy death.

So then, how can we celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph in our own lives and in our Diocesan Church? In many ways! In the coming months, the Diocese will be making available resources that you can use on your own, with your families, and in your parish communities. We are also hopeful that by March 19, the pandemic will have lessened and we can gather at the various Churches in West Virginia dedicated to Saint Joseph for a day of pilgrimage. The Holy See has also made plenary indulgences available for both able-bodied persons and those who are sick or vulnerable to illnesses.

Let me conclude with the prayer that Pope Francis used to open the Year of Saint Joseph.

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*



DEACON THOM TRUNZO WRITES . . .

Epiphany

We've heard the story of the Magi from somewhere in the Far East who follow a star to greet the arrival of a new born king. The nostalgic scenes are emblazoned in our memories. The birth of a new star in the heavens – three royal kings (or astrologers) making a perilous journey across rugged terrain following the star – the visit to King Herod who was jealous and secretly vowed to kill the baby – the presenting of the gifts of gold, Frankincense and myrrh in the stable with the baby there sporting a perfect glowing halo – then finally the three kings being warned and returning by a different route to avoid Herod.

But instead of retelling this nostalgic story and even attempting to give a brief scriptural course, I want to focus on a few more obscure parts of the story as they most specifically apply to us.

First, the word Epiphany means “manifestation.” Christ being made know to the whole world; not just the Jewish people. We use the word in our vernacular to mean a “sudden awareness or awakening to a truth – an ‘AHA’ moment.”

I think that the spiritual orientation and the journey of these magi deserve more attention than how we generally read the story. They were astronomers, and, like most people of that age, were both spiritual and religious as their cultures uniquely understood God or gods. This is important for us because they would have been scholars of the celestial skies, aware of the movements of the planets and stars and the awe of what they could ascertain of the galaxy. So God spoke to them in the language that they would understand – a star! Had they been farmers, God may have presented some phenomena related to the earth that would have been extraordinary or significant. Perhaps if they were men of the sea, there would have been some great, unusual event to catch their attention and imagination – like the birth of a whale or a tsunami or a capsized ship suddenly being set upright in the midst of a storm. One of the first truths that this story presents to us is that God speaks in the language that we understand!

Another thought is the phrase, “The gifts of the magi.” Sure we can point to Frankincense, Gold and Myrrh, the gifts that they presented. But those gifts would not have existed at all is not for a greater gift. The primary “gifts of the magi” were their spirituality, openness to searching for God in unfamiliar places, their dedication and perseverance to follow the path that God laid in front of them. What would our

lives be like if each one of us used those same gifts to walk our daily lives? Where would WE be led?

They were men walking with their spiritual arms and eyes wide open. When looking for a new king, they naturally would go to a royal house. But they somehow KNEW that the one they sought did not reside there. They did not present their gift, but rather left to continue the search.

And finally, I am intrigued by the end of the story. A simple phrase, “They returned to their countries a different way.” On the surface, we think of that as meaning by another route – and perhaps that is exactly what they did! But I think this speaks of a spiritual conversion more so than a different route. After being in the presence of the God-child, they were changed; not the same people who started the journey months or even years earlier. They returned to their homes changed – having experienced a conversion – “a different way.”

I love nostalgia! Often stories bring back fond memories and even goosebumps. But in breaking open scripture, trying to make it more relevant to us personally, they can become sources of new ways to meet God and new ways to live as God continues to call us.

This is my epiphany on the Epiphany! First, God will speak to us in our own language, reach out to us in our normal familiar experiences. For the magi, that familiarity was the stars, but, unless someone here is an astronomer, we will probably not encounter God there, but rather in whatever our routine happens to be.

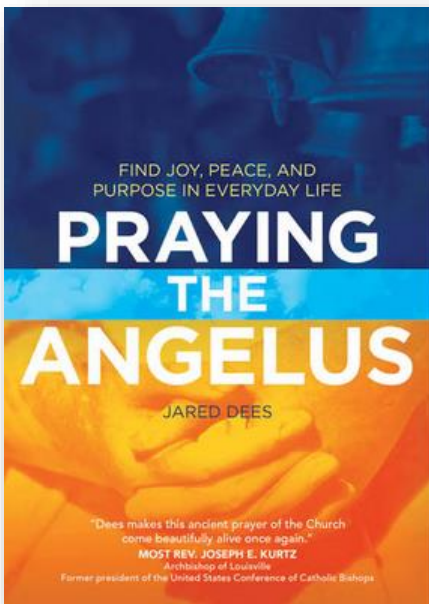
Second, this story challenges us to be open! God does not wear a Roman Collar! God is as deeply engaged in ALL religions and spiritual walks as God is engaged in Christianity. That invites me in, to be open to experience different prayer forms, learn different traditions, being empty enough to perhaps set aside prejudices and welcome other ideas. The magi taught us this when the baby king they sought was NOT in a palace as they had first thought. Rather, they recognized him in a stable.

Finally, when we venture out in the morning with a sincere and humble heart, and when we encounter God in whatever form that might be, we should expect to be changed –to have a spiritual conversion – to return home that evening ‘a different way.’ To live a different way than how we lived before.

Expect to encounter God in a new baby, a visit to hospital, holding the hand of someone dying, watching a breath-taking sunset, feeling the power of the wind, the smile of a stranger, buying a new house, losing a job, graduating... In ALL things and ways we can encounter God if we are looking, because God will speak in the language familiar to us.

My blessing for each of us in this community is that each one of us will be open to epiphanies – open to God being made manifest to us, and that we have the humility and courage to be changed – just like the magi.

I don't know how or why, but I receive daily the readings from Mass. I find them to be very rewarding!
- Deacon Jerry Showalter



Deacon Doug Breiding writes

As I was preparing my Homily for December 20th, I recalled a book I bought several years ago. I read it for my homily and found it to be an enjoyable and insightful read. The Angelus is such a wonderful devotion that has been awakened in me. The book is *Praying the Angelus; Find Joy, Peace, and Purpose in Everyday Life* by Jared Dees. ISBN: 9781594716737

Deacon Doug Breiding has been voted (11 votes) to be our Diocesan Pastoral Council Member. Second was Deacon Harry Evans (5 votes) and third Deacon Steve Wharton (4 votes).

Father Flood/Webb



YEAR 2020 THE DEACONS HAVE CELEBRATED . . .

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

Connie Quigley

(wife of Deacon Chuck Quigley)
Born: March 13, 1939
Died: March 6th, 2020

Anne Shaw

(wife of Deacon Ray Shaw)
Born: December 11, 1936
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

