



DEACON'S BEACON

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

January 2017

Deacon's On-going Formation Weekend Schedule:

February 3-5, 2017 Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center; Charleston

May 5-7, 2017 Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center; Charleston

St. Ephrem Dinner TBA

August 4-6, 2017 Priest Field Pastoral Center; Kerneysville WV

October 13-15, 2017 Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center (Annual Retreat)

OUR RETREAT PRESENTER . . .

Dr. Patrick Cooper will be the presenter. His e-mail address is: pcooper@saintmeinrad.edu The topic will be Amoris Laetitia. He asks that all of us try to bring a copy to the conference.

You can download a copy from:

https://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia_en.pdf

OUR DEACON COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE . . .

Louis Belldina, Doug Breiding, Doug Deem, Raymond Godwin, Tony Maciorowski, Dennis Nesser, Joe Prentiss, Ray Shaw, Thomas Soper, Rue Thompson, John Windett, John Yaquinta and Jay Ziolkowski. The Council would like to extend a warm welcome to its newest members Thomas Soper and John Yaquinta.



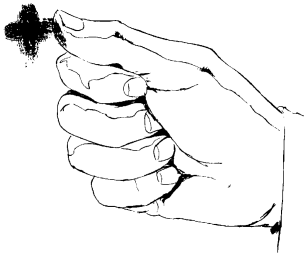
Picture taken from:
<http://www.saintmeinrad.edu/permanent-deacons/contact-us/>

OUR SMALL DEACON WEBSITE . . .

http://myplace.frontier.com/~dougbreiding/dwc_deacons/index.html

Did you know . . .

As Deacons of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we are to all be using a “@dwc.org” e-mail address for all things Church. Call Karen Kovacs at 1-888-434-6237 and ask her to set up your account. It is free.

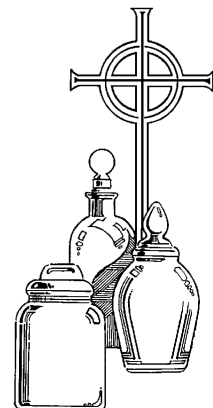


From the Office of Worship and Sacraments. . .

Before you know it, the season of Lent will be upon us. This year, Ash Wednesday is March 1 which marks the beginning of a forty-day journey that the Church invites us on, to walk with our Lord through the desert. Lent provides us with the opportunity to take some time out from our busy lives and reflect on our human condition and rid ourselves of the sins that prevent us from experiencing God's love.

As Deacons of the Church, there are many ways that you can help guide the people you serve along this Lenten journey. Leading the Stations of the Cross is a great opportunity to include in your Lenten activities. The Stations are a powerful devotion that allows us to meditate on the suffering that Jesus endured out of his love for humanity and our call to respond to that love. Lent is also a time to make available the Sacrament of Reconciliation. While you cannot personally celebrate the Sacrament, you can work with your pastor to plan and promote communal reconciliation services. Also, don't forget about the Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimages among your community. We have added an additional pilgrimages so that there will be one in each region of the Diocese. The dates are March 15 – St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; March 22 – Co-Cathedral, Charleston; March 29 – Cathedral, Wheeling and April 5 – St. Leo, Inwood. Encourage groups from your parish to travel together in order to make it a "true" pilgrimage. In addition to opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and participating in inspiring Eucharistic Liturgies, these pilgrimages allows for people across the Diocese to get to know one another as fellow pilgrims on the journey. There will be more information to come.

Let's not let Lent 2017 slip away without taking advantage of the Church's invitation to walk with the Lord Jesus through the desert, cleanse our hearts from the sins that weigh us down, and be ready to embrace the joy of the Resurrection we will celebrate on Easter Sunday.



ABOUT US DEACONS . . .

Deacon Lou Belldina . . .

Barbara and I have been married 45 years and have four “children;” Juda, Jeremy, Jennifer, and Jessica. We have 9 grandchildren. I serve as Pastoral Associate at Holy Spirit Parish in Monongah, and St. Anthony in Parish in Fairmont. I also serve as Program Associate to Msgr. Cincinnati for the Ongoing Formation of Permanent Deacons.

Parish: Assist at (4) weekend masses and (2) weekday masses, Visit homebound, hospitals, and nursing homes, Preach homilies (monthly), Vigils, Funerals, and Committals, Pastoral and Finance Councils, Assist RCIA and Adult Education, Baptisms at pastor’s request

Diocesan: Ongoing Formation Program - Coordination with Vicar for Clergy and Director of Diaconate Formation at St. Meinrad. Coordinating sites, dates, registrations, and services with pastoral centers for all diaconate formation and retreat weekends Ex. Off. Member and Exec. Secretary - Deacon Council

Deacon Doug Breiding . . .

I live in Wheeling with my wife Becky and was ordained October 2, 2004. We have three children, Jessica, Joshua and Edward. We have three grandchildren. I am assigned to Corpus Christi Parish in Warwood. I am the Director of Catholic Cemeteries for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The Ministries I have been involved with have been RCIA, Funeral Vigils and Committals, Baptism, Marriage, Homilies, Benedictions, First Fridays, Communion Services, workshops on how to pray the Liturgy of the Hours and how to make Rosaries, Chaplets and Chotkis.

Deacon John Ceslovnik . . .

I live in Summersville with my wife Debbie. We have 2 grown sons and a daughter-in-law who also live in Summersville. Although I have Primary Progressive MS and am basically bed-ridden, I am still able to deliver the homily at Mass one weekend a month at St. John the Evangelist. With Debbie’s help, and the help of our children, I still am able to get out regularly and attend Mass every weekend. Debbie and I welcome visits as often as I can get them!

Father Flood/Webb



Deacon Brian Crim . . .

I live in Bunker Hill, West Virginia with my wife Marie, and was ordained in May of this year. Yes, I am a "newbie". We have three children, Kenneth, Kathryn, and Karen, and we are expecting our first grandchild in February. I am currently assigned to St. Leo parish in Inwood, where I am involved in RCIA, Legion of Mary, baptisms, funerals, and have assisted in funerals and marriages. I am also diocesan liaison to the Charismatic Renewal.

Deacon Rod Fagert . . .

I still live in Paden City with my wife Gail. I have 4 children(3boys 1 girl) 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. I am assigned as Deacon for Mater Dolorosa Parish in Paden City as well as Holy Rosary Parish In Sistersville. I am involved With RCIA in both parishes. I visit the sick and home bound. I do marriage prep. And weddings. I have funeral vigils. I do infant baptisms. I preach at both churches every third Sunday.(I just celebrated my 83rd birthday 8-24., and still going). I do have Protestant funerals when asked.

Deacon Ray Godwin . . .

I worked in the ski industry, in food and beverage, and in real estate, for most of my early adult years. When I was in my early 40's, there came an invitation to apply for the new Deacon Formation Program starting up in the year 2000. I applied, interviewed, and was accepted into the program.

Formation, and my years as a Permanent Deacon, have given me the most meaningful experiences of my life. I have discovered much about my self, as well as been able to serve others in ways I could only have imagined in earlier years. God has blessed me in abundance these past years.

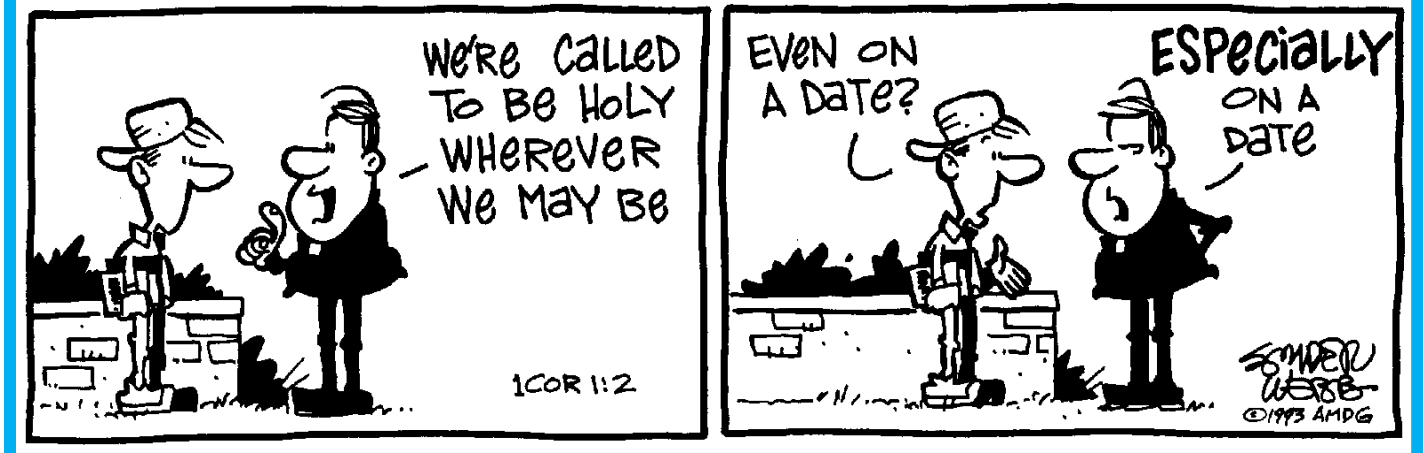
I was initially assigned to St. Bernard Chapel, at Snowshoe, to tie in with my work and life experiences there. In 2008, my assignment was changed to serve the parishes of St. Brendan, in Elkins, along with St. Patrick, in Coalton. Since 2009, I have served the parishes in a variety of ways, including as Director of Religious Education, Adult Faith Formation, Parish Ministry of Care, among other duties. I also take care of the books for St. Patrick Parish. In 2014, an opportunity arose to serve as Pastoral Associate for St. Anne Parish in Webster Springs. I now spend half of the week there, doing ministry to the homebound and those in nursing homes, along with parish office duties. I continue to spend the remainder of the work week at St. Brendan and St. Patrick. I serve Mass in all these parishes, rotating each weekend, to try to be fair for all my parishes. I am serving as an RCIA team member at St. Anne Parish this coming year.

In addition, I worked for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as a Pastoral Services Liaison, and Faith Formation Consultant, from 2004 through 2008. I also teach a fitness class at the local YMCA. I find time to enjoy reading, gardening, playing piano, exercising, and have a wonderful cat, Miss Kitty, that keeps me company.

Deacon Peter Minogue . . .

I live at Cornerstone Farm, on the side of Peter's Mountain in Monroe County. I was ordained May 7, 2016 and I am assigned to Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral in Charleston with administrative duties,pastoral visits and liturgical responsibilities.I am a member of Our Lady of the Mountains, OCDS. I am also doing marriage counselling.

Father Flood/Webb



Deacon Larry Hammel . . .

Larry Hammel was ordained for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY in 1984.

Larry and Marianne are celebrating their 57th Wedding Anniversary on September 26. Three of their 4 children live in metropolitan Washington and the fourth in Georgia. Each of their children have two children.

In 2000 Larry and Marianne moved from Long Island to Virginia, and he has faculties there. In 2002, they found a small get-away place in Romney, WV where Larry is assigned to Our Lady of Grace. He has done prison ministry there at the Potomac Highlands Regional Jail for over a decade.

In Virginia, Larry is assigned to the parish in Purcellville with normal parish duties. He is the Catholic Charities Coordinator of Prison Ministry at the 400-inmate Loudoun County Adult Detention Center and oversees a team of 30 who lead Scripture Services each Sunday morning in the various cellblocks of the facility. He also has a team of 10 volunteers at the Loudoun County Juvenile Detention Center who visit Juveniles who have no parental visitors each Sunday evening. Larry also coordinates the volunteer chaplains at INOVA Loudoun Hospital as well leading the Spirituality Group in the Mental Health Unit of the Hospital.

Deacon Tony Maciorowski . . .

Native Detroiters, Tony and Donna have been married for 46 years and resided in WV for 25 years. Donna is a licensed professional counselor in Charles Town. Tony was ordained October 2, 2004. He retired from Federal Service in 2011, and is a part time on-line graduate and undergraduate instructor in the Environmental Science and Policy Program at the American Public University System. He is assigned to St. Ages Parish in Shepherdstown where he has been involved in RCIA, baptismal and marriage preparation, preaching, communion services, and preaching. He holds a Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Washington Theological University. Tony is a retreat leader for the Matt Talbot Retreat Movement and has led men's weekend retreats for recovering alcoholic and addicts in MD, VA, NC, and WV. He coordinates volunteers who take Catholic services into the Eastern Regional Jail.

Deacon Helgi Nelson . . .

Karen and I have three children, Helgi Jr, Kahli Michele and Olafur Ivan. Now we have four grandsons, Olafur Jr., Thorfinn Eric, Helgi III (HP III) and Fitzroy Archimedes. Waiting on a grand-daughter. I am still working for the Dept. of Justice in Martinsburg. Hopefully only two more years until I retire and work deacon stuff full time. I assist Father Leonard Smith with Mass and visiting the sick and homebound. I baptized my first baby last month. My God-daughters baby boy in Towson, Md. I am the liturgy committee chairman for the parish and assist with the other programs as needed. I marvel at my recently ordained brothers and how well they are working in their parishes.

Deacon Dennis Nesser . . .

I was ordained in 2004 and sent to Catholic University of America in Washington, DC to study canon law. I returned to the diocese in August, 2006 with my JCL (License in Canon Law) where I was assigned to Christ the King in Dunbar and to the Tribunal. Over time, the bishop saw fit to name me as Ecumenical Officer for the diocese, in which role I sat on the board of the West Virginia Council of Churches and served as secretary of that group. He also named me as liaison to the Charismatic Community in the diocese. Due to workload, I have had to relinquish those last two appointments, but still cover the state for the Tribunal as Auditor, Defender of the Bond and Judge. In the parish I sit on the finance committee, preach monthly in the tri-parish and coordinate RCIA for the three parishes – Dunbar, Nitro and Bancroft.

On the State level, I will be presenting at the PACE Conference November 10. My talk is titled “It Ain’t Easy to Marry, But It’s Hard to Leave.” We will discuss what makes marriage, how divorce and a decree of nullity are different, and the steps to petition for a decree of nullity.

Deacon Stephen Wharton . . .

I live in Parkersburg with my wife Catherine and daughter Maria and was ordained on May 7, 2016. We have five daughters: Eileen, Maggie, Kelley, Kimberly and Maria. We have eight grandchildren. I'm assigned to St Margaret Mary Parish in my home town. I'm employed by the US Treasury Department at the Bureau of the Fiscal Service as the disability employment program manager. In my brief time as a Deacon, I have had the privilege of baptizing an infant, assisting at a Wedding and a Funeral. I have also got to assist my brother, Fr. Paul Wharton at Mass. I look forward to working with my pastor, Fr. Steve Vallelonga in serving the needs of the parish.

Deacon John Yaquina . . .

I live in Bridgeport, WV with my wife Carla and was ordained May 7, 2016. We have two adult children, Tony and Gina. I am assigned to St. Francis De Sales Parish in Morgantown where I am involved with the following ministries: RCIA, Men's Club, Marriage Prep, Homilies, Baptisms, Marriages, Funeral Vigils, Committals, Benediction, and assisting at Liturgies. I also am teaching 8th grade religion (Church History) on Wednesday afternoons at St. Francis Central Catholic School in Morgantown. My full time job is at the FBI facility in Clarksburg, where I am a Software Engineer for a company called Dorrean. Carla and I celebrated our 35 wedding anniversary on Sept. 26.

Deacon Council Meeting
August 25, 2016
St. Francis De Sales, Morgantown WV

Present:

Director: Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati S.T.D., V.E. for Clergy

Deacons: Joe Prentiss, Ray Shaw, Jay Ziolkowski, Dennis Nesser, Raymond Godwin, Doug Breiding, Louis Belldina (Exec. Sec.)

Prayer: Msgr. Cincinnati opened the meeting with prayer.

Director's Report:

Pastoral: The 13 new deacons appear to be doing quite well, but Msgr. asked that we offer help and guidance if the need arises. Participation in ongoing formation is being stressed with the new deacons. The challenge of covering priestly assignments remains a major concern. The bishop appears to be open to another program for candidate's in the future. A start time has not yet been developed. Time is needed to assess diocesan needs and to then plan accordingly. Joint sessions with the deacons and the priests will continue (see below).

Standing Issues:

Ongoing Formation: The next gathering will be for deacons and wives at the Annual Retreat in Huttonsville. The retreat will take place at the Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center from Oct. 14-16 2016. Fr. Luke Waugh OSB will be the Presenter. Later in October (19th) there will be a joint session for deacons and priests presented by the office of Safe Environment. This will be held at St. Francis de Sales in Morgantown. Details to follow. Advantages of joint sessions are both strategic and social.

Themes for 2017 were discussed, with the following suggestions being offered:

1. Models of Service Ministries (examples - local and global)
2. Ecumenism (Lutheran 500th)
3. Approaches to Pastoral Planning (shortage of priests)
4. Recent Documents related to Marriage and Family
5. Catholic Committee on Appalachia (Pastoral Letter)

Composition of the Council: New deacons will be contacted to see who may be willing to serve on the council. Names will be forwarded to Msgr. for follow up as positions need to be filled. Based on the original number, additional members are needed. Exec. Sec. will provide info on expectations and understandings when contacting the new deacons.

Current Issues:

Annual Reports:

Interest was expressed in providing a report to Bishop and Vicar for Clergy on at least an annual basis regarding observations/suggestions/concerns from the deacons which might serve the good of the Order. Priority will be given to issues affecting the overall quality and effectiveness of diaconal life and ministry. A process or mechanism for this was proposed:

1. Announce/discuss reporting process at the Annual Retreat.
2. Feedback Requested in the Deacon's Beacon prior to February Formation Weekend.
3. Issues discussed and prioritized at the February Formation Weekend.
4. Content put into executive summary, and forwarded to Msgr. and Bishop

Deacon's Beacon: Dcn. Doug made a plea for more responses to his request for articles for the Deacon's Beacon. Deacons are asked to please use the Beacon to let others know about things that are happening in their ministry, any special requests for prayer, items or events that may be of interest to brother deacons, or other social content.

Transportation: Deacons who know of a brother who needs transportation to diaconal events, are asked to please offer help if possible, or to let others know, who may be able to help.

Council dates:

February 3, 2017 - St. John XXIII Pastoral Center. Noon lunch with Conf. call at 2:00p. August 24, 2017 - St. Francis De Sales in Morgantown. 11:00a.

Respectfully Submitted:
Dcn. Lou Belldina
Exec. Secretary

Father Flood/Webb



~ ~ ~ IN MEMORIAM ~ ~ ~

(For the months of January, February and March)

Rev. Mr. Anthony Santilli

Died: January 26, 2005

~ ~ ~

Rev. Mr. Ron J. Wojcicki

Died: February 9, 2014

~ ~ ~

Rev. Mr. Henry F. Higgs

Died: February 16, 2005

†††

Theresa Mankowski

(wife of Deacon Richard Mankowski)

Died: February 27, 2016

Rita Anne Shultz

(wife of Deacon John Shultz)

Died: February 28, 2007

