

DIAKONOS

*Newsletter for deacons and spouses
Diocese of Bridgeport*

*Volume 1 Issue 4
July 19, 2016*

Greetings from Bishop Caggiano

“Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you now are.”

As we enter into the heart of summer, my hope is that you and your families will be able to spend time in rest and relaxation after the end of another busy pastoral year. As always, I am deeply grateful for your generous and faithful service to God’s people, especially during this Jubilee of Mercy. In your ministry, you encounter firsthand the depth of pain and suffering that many people face in their lives, often quietly and alone. Your loving service allows them to feel on a deep level the love that God has for them. In many ways, your diaconal ordination made you a living icon of God’s merciful love- a love that many in distress need now more than ever!

At the end of June, I had the privilege of celebrating two ordination ceremonies. While my mind is filled with beautiful memories of both, there are two sentences from the ordination rite of deacons that always haunt me for many weeks after the ceremony is

over. They are spoken by the bishop at the presentation of the Gospel book to the newly ordained deacon:

“Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach.”

These words are haunting because I believe that they are the key to ministerial integrity and realizing the work of the New Evangelization.

As you know, much has been written since the pontificate of Blessed Paul VI about the nature, mission and goals of evangelization. Saint John Paul II helped the Church to realize that even though the mission to preach the Gospel has endured unchanged since the apostles, the modern world has created new challenges and new avenues by which we much preach effectively Christ’s message of love. In addition, Pope Emeritus Benedict and Pope Francis have challenged us to evangelize not simply by utilizing new electronic methods of communication but by living lives

of mercy and reconciliation. Their teachings remind us that actions speak louder than words.

It is the power of actions to speak that forms the heart of the admonition that accompanies the Gospel presentation. In the final analysis, social media has created a world that is filled with more words than ever before. My sense is that people are tired of hearing only words. They have heard too many promises that have gone unfulfilled. They have heard too many lofty addresses from leaders who expect their listeners to live what they say but not themselves. People are looking for more and when they find it, they will listen. They are seeking actions that speak louder than words.

For you and me, the Gospel is not to be proclaimed in word alone. It is meant to be lived in integrity of actions that speak clearly of God's mercy, forgiveness and love. It is only with lives of integrity that you and I can effectively do the work of the New Evangelization. May the words that accompanied the Gospel book presented to you and me on the day of our ordination lead each of us to greater ministerial effectiveness and one day, everlasting life.

*Witnessing
the Word in
his own life,
the deacon
leads people to
their practice*

of charity and justice.

From the Director's Desk

I pray that this summer will be enjoyable and relaxing. I will be on vacation during the month of August. Should you need to contact me about an emergency or death, please feel free to leave a message at my home (203) 632-8302. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Often times, newsletters can be journals of facts and dates of upcoming events. I felt it important to share with you passages that will hopefully assist you on your spiritual journey to the Father.

Set yourself aside from the humdrum business of life's pressures. Reflect for a moment on God's love, on His presence in this pristine part of our country, and on the many graces He has bestowed on us as deacons. To assist you with this reflection, I will quote from a spiritual manual entitled, **My Daily Bread**. My Daily Bread is a

meditation manual designed to take the reader through the various stages of spiritual growth. The passage that follows is an excerpt from this manual. Christ is speaking to us in each one of them.

The Daily Path to Holiness.

Christ says, "My child, live your daily life in My presence to be constantly aware of My nearness to you. The more you strive to develop this virtue, the more I will help you to acquire it. With this grace, you will grow in love and kindness toward others. Your faults will become smaller and less frequent, and your goodness will shine before the world.

Do not be afraid of work, inconvenience, or suffering. My way to Heaven was the way of prayer, work and suffering. My love is symbolized by the cross and My pierced heart. Let your love for Me use the same symbols. Live a life of prayer, work, and suffering. As I chose to make personal sacrifices for you in My daily life, so too should you seek daily opportunities to make personal sacrifices for Me.

Reflection:

To earn Heaven I must become Christ-like in my daily life. As I reflect on my daily activities, I come to recognize a lively consciousness of God's presence in my life and

come to see God's Will in every event that comes along.

Daily Prayer

My God and Father, you have called me friend. I pray daily that I can please you by my daily life. I thank you for being my closest companion in my daily journey toward Heaven. Amen.

DIACONATE FORMATION

8 Aspirants

Joseph Cann

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys,
Brookfield

Stephen Hodson

St. Theresa, Trumbull

George Kain

St. Mary, Ridgefield

Eric Keener

St. Mary, Bethel

Joseph Kilmaszewski

St. Lawrence, Shelton

Timothy Lavelle

St. Mary, Bethel

Richard Lawlor

St. Mary, Bethel

Michael Ronan

St. Rose of Lima, Newtown

6 Candidates

Joseph Bukowski

St. Peter, Danbury

Vidal Castrillon

St. Charles, Bridgeport

Joseph Huong

Cathedral Parish, Bridgeport

William Keneally

St. Aloysius, New Canaan

Joseph Kolestar

St. Mark, Stratford

David Rivera

St. Charles, Bridgeport

**Diaconate Formation Reflection
Candidate Joseph Koletar**

As my brothers and I have finished our third full year of Formation, we have been blessed and enriched by a faculty who has provided us with a quality education and who has challenged to our best. I do want to take this opportunity to acknowledge our mentor, Diaconate Director, Deacon Anthony Cassaneto, and our wondrous facilitator, Father Norman Guilbert. They have guided us, most especially, in our liturgical ability to function as an Acolyte and to assist in the sacristy by preparing the Roman Missal and Lectionary for Mass. A skill that we found most challenging is the proper use of the thurible. Obviously, the more we practice, the better we are able to handle it. The class has benefited from the time spent in the chapel reviewing the rubrics for Mass and the opportunity to practice with the thurible. Secondly, we were given the opportunity to take part in a spiritually uplifting introductory class into Pastoral Care Ministry. This was under the tutelage of

Deacon Tim Bolton, Coordinator of Pastoral Care at St. Vincent's Hospital. We had ten weeks of valuable class time at St. Vincent's Medical Center. We spent two hours each Tuesday evening from February to May learning how to minister in a hospital setting. Several classes covered the following topics:

1. What is Pastoral Care?
2. Emergent Care
3. US Bishops Ethical Religious Directives
4. Bereavement & Grief Support
5. Pastoral Care for Long Term Illness (Palliative & Hospice Care)

We were fortunate to have guest speakers who guided us through the different levels of specific areas of medical treatment. The goal of the program is to train us so that we can become volunteers over the course of the summer. We are currently going through the background and vetting process. My brothers and I hope to contribute to work undertaken by so many dedicated and committed medical personnel that we had the privilege to have as teachers. The key component is being able to listen intently to whomever we come in contact with.

This year has also been an enriching pastoral year. We have ministered to people in such venues as the Emmaus programs, Lord's

Kitchen, Merton House, RCIA, and Children's Ministry. These pastoral experiences provided us with the opportunity to serve wholeheartedly our brothers and sisters in need. As we advance in our formation, we hope to build on these experiences.

We also celebrated Deacon Anthony's 30th anniversary of Ordination. We are very proud of our new brothers in Formation as well. They all finished their first semester at Dunwoodie. All reports were glowing. We were fortunate to be together with our lovely spouses once again at our annual retreat. The Franciscan hospitality at Mt. Alvernia, Wappingers Falls, N.Y., draws us back each year. The annual retreat this year was a spiritually moving experience in a picturesque setting. The term papers were submitted and the final exams were taken. We now look forward to a summer of spiritual growth, continued discernment, much prayer, thankfulness, and some much needed rest. As they say, "*Tempus Fugit*" and so we now preparing ourselves for the beginning of a new Fall Term.

ONGOING FORMATION

You are most warmly invited to join the Aspirants and Candidates as they prepare themselves for diaconal ministry. Do not be

deceived by titles. The courses offered today are taught with a new theological and ministerial perspective. However, the dogmas are the same, but enriched by the sciences so that we have a better understanding and appreciation of these teachings. Renew and update yourself theologically, liturgically, and pastorally. Come and join the men and women in formation each month.

All courses are held at the Queen of Saints Retreat Center on the grounds of the Catholic Center Bridgeport, CT.

The following formation weekends are scheduled for 2016-2017:

2016

Sept. 16,17,18

Oct. 14,15,16

Nov. 18,19,20

Dec. 16,17,18

2017

Jan. 20,21,22

Feb. 17,18,19

Mar. 17,18,19

Apr. 21,22,23

May 19,20,21

June 9, 10,11

Courses Offered:

FRIDAY EVENINGS

Marriage Preparation

7pm to 9:30pm

Kimberly Quatela and Team

Liturgical Practicum (Baptism and Marriage)

7pm to 9pm

Dcn. Anthony Cassaneto

There is a new manual for the Celebration of Marriage

SATURDAYS

Christology

8:30-10:30AM

Fr. F. John Ringley

Catechetics: Methods and Approaches

8:30-10:30AM

Mrs. Pam Arsenault

Catechetics: Adult Faith Formation

10:40-12:40pm

Mrs. Pam Arsenault

Communication/Homiletics 1

10:40-12:40PM

Dcn. John DiTaranto

Homiletics 2

1:30-4:00pm

Msgr. Andy Varga and Dcn. Don Ross

Social Justice

1:30-3:30PM

Dr. Joan Kelly

SATURDAYS

American Church History

4:15 – 6PM

Dr. Joan Kelly
Christian Anthropology
4:00-6:00PM
TBA

SUNDAYS

The Gospel of John and his letters
9AM to 12NOON
Fr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, SJ

"JESUS,

In my heart I believe

In your Tender Love

For Me.

I love you." MOTHER TERESA

UPDATE ON DEACONS' ID CARDS

As you know, Bishop Caggiano has given us permission to issue new deacons' identification cards with a picture. This card will expire in 5 years (2016-2021). **We hope to have the ID card ready for distribution in August. Please make sure that your background check and VIRTUS training are current.** If you are not sure of your status, give me a call at the office (203) 416-1451.

PLACE ON YOUR CALENDAR

ANNUAL RETREATS

**BRIDGEPORT DIACONATE
COMMUNITY**

**MOUNT ALVERNIA
WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY**

AUGUST 11,12,13, 2017

**APRIL 6, 7, 8, 2018
[Mercy Sunday]**

In Memoriam

May

23 Hans J. Gram /2010

June

13 Anthony LaBua /1988

July

10 Stephen Sebestyen /2010

29 Ian Black /2006

August

10 William Rowe / 2013

14 Gerardo Ramos /2007

29 Ramon Isidro / 2006

September

04 Matthew Skurat / 2013

23 Paul Tupper / 2013

29 Thomas W. Coyne / 2002

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Reference: ORDO 2016



***Please remember in your prayers
•The deacons and wives who are
in need of healing and strength
from our merciful Lord.***

•The men and women who protect us here at home: police officers, fire fighters, medical personnel, etc.

•The homeless, those who seek work, those who suffer persecution for the sake of the gospel, and all who are lost, marginalized, or alienated from the community of faith.

Let remember in our prayers these and all others during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

**DEACON KENNETH E. STROUD, 95
RIP: June 3, 2016**

Kenneth was a gifted musician and scholar, winning many school prizes and playing the church organ when his feet could barely reach the pedals.

He was a prisoner of war for over 3 years in Java. The account of his ordeal was published in a book entitled, "Prisoner of War Number 2378." His son, Adrian, collaborated with his father on the publication of the book.

He was baptized an Anglican and converted to Catholicism after marrying his wife, Pat. This began a life-long devotion to the Church.

Ken was ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Newark. He moved to CT and served in St. Rose of Lima Parish until his retirement. He was a gift to the diocese and will be greatly missed.

DEACON HAROLD LYNCH, 79

RIP: April 13, 2016

Deacon Lynch was assigned to the Parish of Notre Dame, Easton, CT. He served the People of God in this faith community for 27 yrs as a deacon.

He enjoyed a long and successful career as a sales and marketing executive of primary metals for Anaconda, AMAX, and ASARCO.

Deacon Lynch was an enthusiastic reader, a diehard Giants fan, and avid golfer and, most importantly, the number one cheerleader and supporter of his granddaughters at all their sporting and musical events.

He was a gift to the diocese and will be greatly missed.

**Prayer for Those Serving
in the Military**



O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings and all those within, from harm and peril. Protect our land and its peoples from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women

everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will toward all. Amen

Queen of the Holy Rosary, we implore you to bless our military forces at home and abroad. Guide their steps into the way of peace. Amen.



PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PADRE PIO, Barto, PA, on SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

The feast of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) will be celebrated on September 23rd, 2016.

PILGRIMAGE TO BARTO, PA

Padre Pio was a Capuchin priest who often said, "I only want to be a poor friar who prays." He devoted his life to the Eucharist and prayer. He spent 50 years at the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo where he was much sought after as a spiritual advisor, confessor, and intercessor.

I invite you to join devotees of Padre Pio to a day of prayer and spiritual enrichment at the National Centre on **September 24, 2016.**

The goal of the Centre is to lead souls to God through the example of Padre Pio, the first priest to bear the stigmata—the wounds of Christ. Through the Centre, devotees are educated in the teachings and spirituality of Padre Pio.

If interested, please email me at dncassaneto@diobpt.org by **August 15th**. In your email, list the name(s) of those who will join us. The cost of the pilgrimage is your bus fare. Please feel free to invite parishioners to join us. The trip is approximately 3 hrs each way. Conferences, Holy Mass, and Confession are available.

We will gather at St. Lawrence Parish in Shelton for 8am Mass. We will have coffee plus before boarding the bus. We will return to St. Lawrence at the end of the trip. Seats are limited.

The cost of the trip is \$36 per person. Please make your check payable to the Diocese of Bridgeport. Send your check to Deacon Anthony Cassaneto 238

Jewett Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06606. Payment is due **by September 15th**. An itinerary for the day will be emailed to those attending.

- 26 Robert Henrey
- July**
- 11 Brad Smythe
- 12 Jeff Kingsley
- 13 Michael Saranich
- 15 Richard Kovacs
- 18 Jose Viola
- 21 Anthony Conti
- 22 Jorge Casiano
- 22 Ray Chervenak
- 23 Paul Jennings
- 26 Emmet Murray
- 30 James Brown

Happy Birthday!



We wish to all a healthy and happy New Year. May the good Lord abundantly bless you and your ministry during the upcoming year.

April

- 02 Joe DeBiase
- 07 John DiTaranto
- 12 William Timmel
- 14 Rafael Regus
- 15 Tony Detje
- 16 Gerald Sabol
- 22 Joe Melita
- 30 Patrick Toole

May

- 01 Dean Finch
- 10 John Piatak
- 12 Bill Santulli
- 23 Don Naiman
- 23 Kevin Moore
- 30 Salvatore Clarizio

June

- 09 Ricardo Martinez
- 10 Rudy Trankovich
- 15 Vince Heidenreich
- 15 Steve Pond
- 15 Bill Miranda
- 16 Kenneth Ruge
- 20 John Linsenmeyer

Happy Birthday!



July

- 31 Dan O'Connor

August

- 06 Renato Berzolla
- 15 Don Foust
- 21 Russ Rigg
- 25 Dan Ianniello

Happy Anniversary!

The following deacons are marking a milestone in their diaconal ordination during 2016. We congratulate them for their faithful years of service.

35th (1981)

- Deacon Frank J. Chiappetta
- Deacon Kevin Moore
- Deacon William Murphy
- Deacon William K. Rowe
- Deacon Richard Saymon

30th (1986)

- Deacon Don Brunetto
- Deacon Gary Carpenter
- Deacon Anthony Cassaneto

25th (1991)

- Deacon John J. Moranski

20th (1996)

Deacon James R. Hammock
Deacon Donald J. Naiman
Deacon Gabriel A. Pereira
Deacon Norman J. Roos

10th (2006)

Deacon Timothy J. Bolton
Deacon John D. Buchholz
Deacon Anthony M. Conti
Deacon John W. DeRoin
Deacon Hans J. Gram
Deacon Reginald Norman

Ad multos annos!!!!

DEACON WIVES' PASTORAL OUTREACH

May 20, 2016 was a bright day in many ways. The weather, of course, was perfect – clear and sunny, which matched the mood and faces of 42 third grade students from Cathedral Cluster at St. Raphael's School. An exciting adventure, new to each of them, was about to unfold with many surprises in store. This all happened because Ilene offered the suggestion, and we all believed, that the Deacons' wives could take these children into New York to see a live Broadway play. The Ianniello's have a friend in the cast of *The Lion King*. Ilene called him and set the wheels in motion. (A Christmas visit to the school children had been so well received, as were the gifts each received from two "elves", each gift with the child's name on the wrapped package, that we all wanted to continue the relationship with the school.)

What a day!! It all began with them getting on the bus. There were Ooh's and Ah's. We had lunch at Planet Hollywood and the friend who plays Tamon came over to meet the kids. Their reaction was priceless. One child we thought for sure was hyper ventilating!! Then on to the show. We

had center stage seats in the balcony. Perfect!! They were so excited, it was priceless. When Tamon came on they were cheering!! After the play we went downstairs and had a Q & A with the actors. All the actors were asked how they felt when they went on stage. When it came to Tamon he addressed our kids directly and told them how he came from Bridgeport and was just their age when he knew he wanted to do this, and they should never give up on their dreams. He was in tears. It was so moving. After all the other children left the theater, 3 of the actors came over and talked with just our kids. Our bus was right outside when we were ready to leave. No traffic until we got to Stamford! The bus driver said he could not believe it, "God must have been watching over us"!!

Needless to say, we believed we had all been part of Jesus' mission. It was truly a gift to give to these kids, they were so appreciative of all who helped to make this possible."

That last part is interesting. Who DID this make this possible? Well, many people were involved and God was certainly blessing the plans. Parishes were invited to sponsor a child, and many did. Other organizations, commercial establishments, and individual donors did the same. There was transportation (a luxury coach) to arrange and food (lunch and dinner), and chaperones, and many other details. Planet Hollywood was a great surprise. The play was amazing, especially since Jim Ferris (Tamon) had appeared in the restaurant before the show to meet the children, their teachers, and aides. "When you see me next I'll be all green" he told us all as he waved goodbye, and he was. Jim is a permanent

understudy for several parts but he wasn't scheduled to be in that performance. Someone offered to pray that one of the regulars would get sick – only half kidding and that is exactly what happened. Remember Who said “Ask and you shall receive?”

All our Guardian angels were busy as we guided the children through the streets of New York during the busy lunch hour, without a single negative incident. Before they left the theater, Jim presented the group with three Lion King posters for the school, each signed by every member of the cast.. Sandwiches and juice boxes were provided for the students on the bus as we returned to Connecticut, and special Lion King toys as they left us back at St. Raphael's. This was truly an example of a transforming event in the lives of these children. When told of the trip, shortly before the big day, one of the Mothers said to her child: “See, there are other people who love you.” Yes. We do

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DIACONTE DIRECTORS -REGION 1

THE REGION 1 ASSEMBLY OF DEACONS AND WIVES WILL TAKE PLACE IN NEWPORT, RI AT THE HYATT REGENCY ON GOAT ISLAND.

THE GATHERING BEGINS AT 7AM ON NOVEMBER 5TH AND CONTINUES UNTIL HOLY MASS AT 4PM.

THE CONFERENCE THEME IS: “ON THE LOVE OF THE FAMILY”

TWO KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:
John Grabowski, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Moral Theology/Ethics at the Catholic University of America

Joan Rosenhauer, Executive Director , US Operations, Catholic Relief Services.

Registration information and hotel reservations will be received in July.

A married deacon, with his wife and family, gives witness to the sanctity of marriage. The more they grow in mutual love, the more they give to the Christian community a model of Christ-like love, compassion, and self sacrifice.

*They bring a
unique presence
and
understanding of
the domestic
family.*