

Deacon News

Diocese of Davenport

Winter 2012

From the Diaconate Office

Deacon David Montgomery, Director of the Diaconate

“They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them.”

Acts 6:6

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What a season this has been; six more weeks of winter according to Punxsutawney Phil. Not so bad if this kind of weather continues.

A couple of updates: Deacon Patrick Lennon has joined the parish of St. Thomas the Apostle in Naperville, IL in the Diocese of Joliet. Deacon Mike Moetsch has been assigned by Bishop Amos to Our Lady of the River in LeClaire. He and his wife, Kathy, moved from the Archdiocese of Dubuque to LeClaire last fall.

At the fall retreat last year, deacons were asked to examine the latest ministry worksheet they filed with the office. I will be sending a copy of your worksheet to you if you didn't attend the retreat. If there are no changes in ministry, simply sign and date the bottom of the worksheet and mail it to the chancery. If there are changes in ministry or a change in pastors, then complete a new worksheet with your current pastor, sign the form with the pastor and mail it to the chancery. This is an important step in sending assignment letters from the bishop to where they are needed. See

www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/index.htm for the worksheet form.

The Executive Board of the Council met last month. They concurred with the proposal to attempt to schedule diaconate events on a regular basis to enable easier planning. If the regularly scheduled weekend is not available, then an adjacent weekend will be scheduled if possible.

Spring Study Day will be held on the 3rd weekend of April. The Deacon Council meeting will take place during the 2nd half hour of lunch.

Summer Study Day will be held on the 4th weekend of June.

Fall Retreat will be held on the 3rd weekend of October. The Deacon Council meeting will be held after Sunday lunch.

However; the ordination of Deacon Corey Close is set for Sat June 23rd so the Summer Study Day will be held on the prior weekend this year, Sat June 16th; location to be announced. The Fall Retreat for deacons and wives will be held Oct 26-28 in 2012 due to the availability of the retreat team from *Earthen Vessels*.

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Important Dates

Chrism Mass
March 26, 2012 – 5:30pm
Sacred Heart Cathedral

Spring Study Day
April 21, 2012 - 9am-3pm
St. Mary, Riverside

Deacon Ordination of
Jacob Greiner
April 28, 2012 – 10:00am
Sacred Heart Cathedral

June Clergy Institute
June 4-6, 2012
Clarion Inn/Highlander
Iowa City

Summer Study Day
June 16, 2012 – 9am – 3pm
Location to be announced

Priest Ordination
Deacon Corey Close
June 23, 2012 – 10:00am
Sacred Heart Cathedral

Deacons and Wives
Annual Fall Retreat
Earthen Vessels:
Marriage Retreat
October 26-28 2012
The Lodge, Bettendorf

From the Diaconate Office - continued from page 1

If you would like to attend the informal gathering of deacons and wives for dinner at the Golden Corral restaurant in Davenport after the Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Mon March 26th, please let me know by Fri March 23rd so I can try to reserve an area of tables. For more information about these events go to the diaconate pages of the website:

www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/index.htm.

The Executive Board will be meeting on the first Monday of the month. If you have suggestions for the Board, please let me know.

Finally, this newsletter will be published quarterly in January, April, July and October on or about the 15th of the month.

Stay warm – spring will soon be here.

Deacon Formation

Deacon Frank Agnoli

Class VI

Class VI is now in its fourth year of formation; in just over a year—God willing—we will add 13 men to our diaconal community. They continue to be busy not just with academics, but with practical ministry experiences within and outside of their parishes. Add to that time for prayer, spiritual direction, and meeting with mentors... not to mention jobs and families... and they have pretty full plates!

This summer, they will be admitted into the Ministry of Acolyte. The liturgy will be celebrated on Sunday, July 8, at Holy Family Parish (the SS. Mary & Joseph church) in Fort Madison, at 11:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

A week later we'll leave for our preaching intensive at St. Meinrad's! If you want to keep up with Class VI, check out our webpage:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/dcnclassvi.htm>

Class VII

We have completed the Inquiry Sessions for Class VII... 26 men took part in these presentations. So far, we have received five applications; and nine others are at various stages of completion. A number of these men are currently enrolled in the Ministry Formation Program as well. We have a general formation page (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/dcnformation.htm>) as well as a page specific for class VII

(<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/dcnclassvii.htm>) if you would like more information or know of someone who might be discerning a call to the Diaconate.

Preaching: What is your theology of preaching?

Deacon Frank Agnoli....

Whether explicit or implicit, we have our own “theology of preaching” – and it colors everything that we say and do in the pulpit. In our last issue, I encouraged you to explore the various influences that have made you into the preacher that you are now. Today, I invite you to delve more deeply into your theology of preaching. What is it that you think we are doing when we preach, and why do we do it? Theology is not just about understanding, but about reflecting on what we do and on who we are—on our relationship with God. In other words, theology ought to impact and be impacted by our spirituality. Is there a particular “spirituality” of preaching... or of preachers?

Preaching is a ministry of the Church, not an individual undertaking. As Roman Catholic preachers, therefore, I would suggest that we ought to start with what it is that the Church is asking us to do. To that end, I would recommend a (re)reading of *Fulfilled in Your Hearing*, first published by the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry in February of 1982—30 years ago. The text itself is available on-line (you can link to it from our Preaching Links webpage:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litpreach.htm>), and it has also been reprinted—along with commentary—in James Wallace’s *Preaching in the Sunday Assembly* (see below).

Resources: Theology (and Spirituality) of Preaching

DeLeers, Stephen Vincent. *Written Text Becomes Living Word: The Vision and Practice of Sunday Preaching*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2004.

Hilkert, Mary Catherine. *Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination*. New York: Continuum, 2002.

Janowiak, Paul. *The Holy Preaching: The Sacramentality of the Word in the Liturgical Assembly*. Collegeville, MN: A Pueblo Book, The Liturgical Press, 2000.

Monshau, Michael, ed. *Preaching at the Double Feast: Homiletics for Eucharistic Worship*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2006.

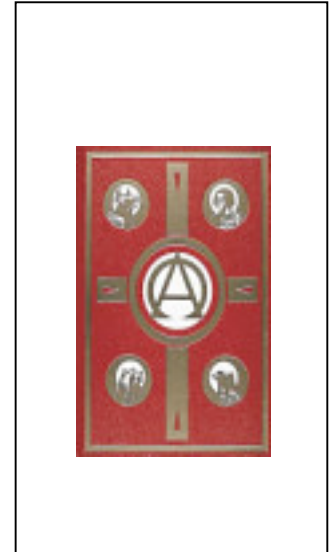
Resner, André. *Preacher and Cross: Person and Message in Theology and Rhetoric*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Boston: Cowley Publications, 1993.

Troeger, Thomas H. *The Parable of Ten Preachers*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

Wallace, James A., ed. *Preaching in the Sunday Assembly: A Pastoral Commentary on Fulfilled in Your Hearing. Commentary and Text*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2010.

Waznak, Robert P. *An Introduction to the Homily*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1998.



Deacon Profile: Dan Goetz



After long period of discernment with the guidance of many people and the Spirit, I believe I answered God’s call to serve His people as a Permanent Deacon. When I reflect on that call and answer I am humbled.

Do you have outside ministries?

I facilitate the “Catholics Returning Home” program at Sacred Heart in Newton and make hospital and nursing home visits. I connect with many folks in the workplace and the community looking for the needs of people outside the walls of the parish.

What do you like the most about being a deacon?

I have the opportunity to get to know so many people in a deep spiritual way. As deacons we engage in other lives during the best of times and the toughest.

What is your favorite scripture passage?

One of many is from 2 Corinthians 12: 9

We prepare couples for marriage and visit those facing death in hospice. We are allowed into people’s lives at special times and in a holy way.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness”

What are your challenges?

Balancing time and priorities.

Spouse:

Lydia- married August 21,1982

Children:

Christin, married to Kelly residing in Naperville, IL.
Julia, a student at Dominican University in River Forest, IL engaged to Tim.

Ordained:

October 20, 2001
Diocese of Rockford

Why did you become a deacon?

I get asked that question often. It was a gradual process.



***Study Day – April 21, 2012
St. Mary - Riverside, IA – in the new Parish Hall***

Deacon Frank Agnoli will be presenting on the deacon at Mass. The sessions will be similar to the study day held in the spring of 2007 with new information offered in light of the New Roman Missal.

You may find the book, Guide for Deacons that was sent to you at Christmas to be useful for the study day. If you did not receive a book, please contact Deacon David Montgomery.

Schedule:

8:30 – 9:00 Doors open – Gathering

9:00 - 9:30 Morning Prayer

9:30 – noon Session 1

Noon – 1:00 Lunch

(Deacon Council meeting from 12:30 – 1pm)

1:00 – 3:00 Session 2

Lunch will be provided.

FYI– Mass at St. Mary Riverside is offered at 5:30pm