

THE SACRAMENTO DEACON

The deacon proclaims the Gospel, is a voice for the powerless and marginal, a witness to the Good News in the marketplace, a leader of public prayer and sacrament of the Lord Jesus Christ who came not to be served to serve.
The deacon, in the image of Jesus, is called to wash the feet of his sisters and brothers.

“Together in Service” The Ministry of the Priest and the Permanent Deacon”

On January 16, 2010, at St. Clare’s in Roseville, a Continuing Education Day was held, with Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, as the Speaker. Priests were invited to join their deacons in this day of study and reflection. Fr. Robinson is the President-Rector of St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana, with a doctorate in philosophy and theology. It was especially appropriate to have Fr. Robinson in our diocese at this time, as we celebrate the Year of the Priest.

Father delivered an exceptional presentation reflecting on the stereotypes that apply to permanent deacons versus priests, the tension between ministerial identity and ministerial labors. He addressed the Three-Office of Christ: Prophetic Office-Bishop; Priestly Office-Priest; and Kingly Office-Deacon. He spoke on the historical origins of the deacon, the Renewal of the Diaconate in Vatican II and the role of the deacon as noted in the National Directory. Theology and challenges of the Priesthood and Diaconate were covered in addition to including the issue of the realities of the Catholic Church in the United States today. Father communicated the theological insight of Pope Benedict XVI and an integrated vision of ministry with Five Missions, Five Virtues, Five Disciplines and Five Practices. The Five Missions included Bishop-Teaching Office, Priest-Sanctifying Office, Deacon-Governing Office, Laity-Integrative Office and Faithful-Spiritual Reality. He went over the Five Virtues and the Five Disciplines, concluding with the Five Practices. He spoke on twelve personal and professional dynamics and communication and personality types. He ended the program with priestly and diaconal unity with prayer; identity with the clergy; avoidance of triangulation in their ministerial practice; greater personal engagement; allow for discussion, willingness to accept the

preferences of others; involvement in decision making; common projects with equal challenges and larger presbyteral and diaconal engagement.

Evaluations from deacons, their wives and priests that were submitted conveyed an appreciation for the excellent presentation by Fr. Robinson, including ideas and thoughts of ways to reevaluate themselves with respect to collaborating with priests, working on communication skills and inter-personal relationships to enhance their ministry

A mass was concelebrated by Bishop Jaime Soto, later in the evening, followed by a delicious dinner served by the Knights of Columbus of St. Clare’s Parish.

Class of 2014 Aspirants Study Days

The Class of Aspirants to the Permanent Diaconate with 23 couples has started their propedeutic phase of formation. On November 21, 2009, the group met at the Mercy Center in Auburn starting with hospitality and a panel of Deacons and wives sharing on Formation, Family Life and Spirituality of their Diaconal Experience. These were:

Deacon Ed & Francine Pogue; Deacon James & Mary Hopp; Deacon John & Carol King;

Presentation by Deacon David and Michelle Lehman on “The Couple and the Family in Church Ministry”.

Presentation by Deacon Mark Holt on “The Ministry of Deacons”, and Sr. Maura Power, speaking “Christian Spirituality”.

On January 9, 2010, the Class of 2014 had a second study day at Holy Family Parish in Citrus Heights. The day was very eventful with the following topics and presenters:

“The People of God Sacramentalize and Continue the Mission and Ministry of Jesus” by Sr. Maura Power

“Structure of the Diocese”, by Deacon Larry Niekamp

“Searching Together as a Couple”, by Mr & Mrs Kevin Staszkw

“Stages of Faith I: Dynamics of Conversion”, by Fr. Steve Coffey.

On March 20, 2010, returning to Holy Family Parish in Citrus Heights, students enjoyed the following topics and presenters:

“The Call to the Service of God in Sacred Scripture”, by Sr. Maura Power

“Ministries of Service in the Diocese”, by Beth White, Assoc. Dir. Social Service Ministry

“Searching Together as a Couple”, Tools for ongoing growth and understanding of each other”, by Ms. Lori Pearring, Clinical Psychologist

“Stages of Faith II: Dynamics of Conversion”, by Fr. Steve Coffey

On April 17, 2010, again enjoying the hospitality of Holy Family Parish, the students benefited from the following topics and presenters:

“The mutual discernment of one’s vocation by the person and by the Church” by Fr. Brian Atienza.

“Spousal Communication: Showing empathy for emotional intimacy and trust”, by Dr. David Fontes, PSY.D

“Outreach to the Poor”, by Dr. Tom Stanko, Pres. St. Vincent DePaul, Roseville.

“Stages of Faith III”: Life of the Virtues”, by Fr. Steve Coffey



BOOK REVIEW
by Deacon Lou Del Gaudio
“Amish Grace---How Forgiveness
Transcends Tragedy”

Authors: Donald B. Kraybill; Steven M. Nolt;
David L. Weaver-Zercher- Publisher: Jossey-Bass
2007

The Amish always seem to capture the interest of “the English” which is the term used by the Amish for non-Amish people. Whether it is the long beards or the simple black broad rimmed hats and loosely fitting clothes of the men or the long dresses and bonnets of the women, they capture our imagination. Of course, the most fascinating thing seems to be their very simple rural lifestyles, eschewing most technical inventions from the last two centuries and the fact that they keep to themselves and are very religious. These descendants of the original Anabaptists, however, are not without controversy and are certainly not perfect. They have all the imperfections that befall other North American families. They have sexual abuse among their population; their adolescent children get into trouble with alcohol (while not as often as non-Amish); and many of these same children have a built in part of their culture that allows them to leave the community and test to see if they want to “to live in the English world” or remain with their own.

To put it politely, some members of the mainline religions would call the Amish theology not very sophisticated or scholarly. The Amish faith communities (there is no one Amish religion with a singular code, creed or cult), whose congregants have one of the lowest number of high school and college graduates of any sub-population in North America, demonstrate a deep love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

They are deeply committed to following the teachings of Christ in ways of being respectful and kind. Their lifestyle is the lifestyle, they believe, that our God Himself would have us lead with no equivocation of that for them.

On October 2, 2006 the world was horrified to hear the news that five Amish girls were gunned down and killed and five were seriously injured in their quaint school house in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

A non-Amish man did the killing whose name is Charles Carl Roberts IV.

The Amish long ago had experienced they could not hope to completely isolate themselves from the world of “the English” but with a gut wrenching dose of reality they re-experienced it this day.

The man, who killed and wounded these girls, as with the rest of the civilized world, came to also hear within hours how the members of the girls’ families and the Amish community at large would respond to this horrible event and the taking of innocent life. They responded the way they always respond to violence perpetrated on them, with complete forgiveness. Not only forgiveness, but also offers of assistance and help to the perpetrator’s family.

The authors are all university professors, with specialties in sociology and one with academic credentials in the study of the Holocaust. They give a very non-academic account of the event, but more importantly, of the aftermath and the Amish forgiving response. They interview both the Amish who were involved, the victims’ families and the perpetrator’s family and go deep into what it means to be non-violent, especially as the Amish live it out.

The authors spend a good deal of the book connecting the Amish life with Amish grace. They seek answers to what it is in their culture that produces this forgiving response to those who offend them, in small and especially horrific ways. This book reads easily and as a story, but it provokes one to imagine a world in which our response as individuals, or as a nation, could conceivably live this way or possibly imagine a world as lived in this way. Given the nature of the world today, “Amish Grace” asks thought and spiritual provoking questions for us all.

**TV Mass
Now Being Telecast
on Sundays**

A TV Mass, distributed by Santa Fe Communications in Milwaukee, Wis., is being televised each **Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on KSPX-TV**, a Sacramento ION cable affiliate. This addition to the local TV, Cable and Dish offerings aids those who are ill or homebound and unable to attend Mass.

The Mass is televised on Channel 29 (over the air), Comcast Cable Channel 11 and Dish Satellite Channel 29.

The following link can provide an information flyer to share with those in need.

<http://www.diocese-sacramento.org/PDFs/CatholicSundayTVMass.pdf>

**Catholic Lobby Day
set for April 27**



Several hundred Catholics from across California are expected to attend Catholic Lobby Day **April 27** at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in downtown Sacramento, sponsored by the California Catholic Conference for the 12th consecutive year. The event, with the theme, “Restoring Hope,” runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“We welcome all those who are interested in meeting with elected officials to speak on behalf of those who are poor, vulnerable or voiceless,” said Linda Wanner, associate director for governmental relations at the California Catholic Conference, the public policy office of the state’s Catholic bishops.

The day event includes a Mass in the cathedral, information sessions, an overview of current Catholic Conference public policy efforts, a march and noon-time rally at the state Capitol, and visits with legislators. **Bishop Jaime Soto** of Sacramento will be the main celebrant for the Mass at 10:15 a.m., joined by several other California bishops.



“Inspirational Retreat”

A Don't Miss!

On June 25, 26, 27, 2010, the Diaconate community will present “**A Wellness Retreat: Body, Mind, Spirit Health**”, with presenter **Richard Groves**. This retreat will focus on the “Healing Ministries and the Wellness of the Minister”.

Professor Richard Groves is an internationally respected teacher of the sacred art of living and dying. His very interactive method, his knowledge and experience in the field and the abundant display of materials he brings is worth benefiting from.

Richard Groves, a chaplain for more than twenty-five years, speaks nine languages and has earned graduate degrees in theology, ethics, world religions and law.

Richard and his wife, Mary, are the founders of the Sacred Art of Living Center in Bend, Oregon.

Richard is co-author of “*The American Book of Living and Dying: Lessons in Healing Spiritual Pain*”.

The Diaconate community had the privilege of having Richard as the presenter of the June 2008 retreat, and many deacons indicated disappointment in having missed his retreat.

This is your chance to experience an inspirational and spiritual retreat like no other. Please be sure to RSVP for this retreat as soon as possible by completing the tear-off section of the brochure that was sent to all deacons.

Stewardship Conference planned for June 1



A day of inspiration, practical advice and idea-sharing is planned for **June 1, 2010**, at a special Stewardship Conference. The conference is intended to help people better understand stewardship as a way of living.

"When you hear the word stewardship, you often think of money instead of time, talent and treasure. We're hoping to broaden people's understanding and awareness of the full nature of stewardship," said Mike Halloran, Executive Director of The Catholic Foundation.

Guest speakers include Most Reverend Sylvester Ryan, Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Monterey; Reverend Daniel J. Mahan, Director of the Marian University Center for Catholic Stewardship; and Leisa Anslinger, author and speaker with significant stewardship experience in Catholic parishes and schools.

You can register on-line at: <https://www.formspring.com/forms/catholic-stewardship>

If you have questions regarding the Diocesan Stewardship Conference, please contact Mike Halloran: Phone: (916) 733-0269. Email: mhalloran@diocese-sacramento.org

Catholic Relief Services Provides Aid to Haiti

On January 12, 2010, the world watched in horror as Haiti suffered a calamitous earthquake. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of supporters across the United States, Catholic Relief Services was able to respond immediately to save lives. Catholic Relief Services is committed to assisting the people of Haiti as they begin their long journey toward a better future.

Class 2008 Post-Ordination Continuing Education

On March 6, 2010, the Class of 2008, met at St. Anthony's Parish, in Sacramento for their post-ordination continuing education.

The *Unitas* team from St. Anthony's Parish, presented an excellent overview of the “*Unitas-Preparing for Sacramento Marriage*” program.

Segments included the following topics and presenters:

- *Unitas* overview
Deacon Jim & Joan Healy
- *Pastors view of Unitas*
Msgr. O'Sullivan
- *Walking the Journey of Preparation Together*—Christine Ledesma, Aldo Soriano, Louie & Linda DiNinni
- *The Unitas Team*
Bob & Pam Anderson
- *The Four Liturgical Celebrations*
Bob & Kathy Reynolds
- *Reflections of Marriage*—Kate Ellis & Carla Goughnour
- *Developing a Spirituality of Marriage*
Mike & Debbie Virga
- *Communication Skills*
Ron & Sharon Schommer

Spanish Diaconate Applications Being Accepted

Inquiries for the next Spanish Class for the Permanent Diaconate are now being accepted. Inquirers must confer first with their pastor and then go through the process as outlined by the Permanent Diaconate Director. There will not be another Spanish-speaking class starting until 2015.

Interesados en la próxima clase de Diaconado Permanente en Español, actualmente están siendo considerados para el proceso de admisión. Los interesados primero deberán consultarlo con su párroco. Después de esta clase, la próxima clase en Español no comenzará hasta el año 2015.

Diocesan Strategic Planning Listening Sessions

The Diocese of Sacramento is beginning a strategic planning process to identify pastoral priorities and financial resources for its parishes, schools, and ministries.

You are invited to any of the listening sessions. Please refer to the enclosed page which includes the schedule of dates and locations.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR DEACONS

- June 25-27, 2010 ~**
DON'T MISS !!!!
Retreat (English) Title: “A Wellness Retreat: Healing Healers”
Presenter: Richard Groves (An internationally respected author, retreat director, and teacher, with graduate degree in theology, pastoral counseling, and canon law. He leads the Center for Spirituality “The Sacred Art of Living”, Bend Oregon)

- July 28, 2010 ~ Deacons Meeting with Bishop Soto. Feast of Apostle (Deacon) Parmenas.**
~ St. Peter/Paul Parish, Rocklin

- Aug. 27-29, 2010 ~ Retreat (English) Presenter: Bro. Bill Short (Professor of Spirituality, scholar in Christian history & the Franciscan tradition)**

- October 16, 2010 ~ Continuing Education – All Deacons by Deacons**

- December 4, 2010 ~ Continuing Formation for recently ordained Class 2008,**
(also open to deacons interested, RSVP)

- Jan. 14-15, 2011 ~ Deacon Convocation and Dinner with the Bishop - All Deacons**

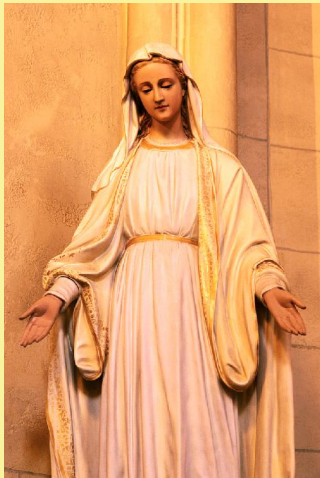
- March 5, 2011 ~ Continuing Formation for recently ordained Class 2008,**
(also open to deacons interested, RSVP)

- June 24-26, 2011 ~ Retreat (English)**

- Sept. 24-25, 2011 ~ Retreat (English/Spanish)**

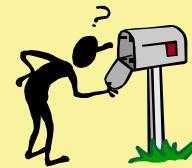
- October 22, 2011 ~ Continuing Education – All Deacons**

- December 3, 2011 ~ Continuing Formation for recently ordained Class 2008,**
(also open to deacons interested, RSVP)



The sweetest sounds to
 mortals given are heard in
 Mother, Home, and
 Heaven.

- Wm. Goldsmith



Have you moved?
 Changed your phone number?
 New e-mail?

If you have any questions or comments
 please contact:
Judy Allen, Administrative Assistant
 (916) 733-0244
jallen@diocese-sacramento.org

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**Get updates by visiting:**  
[http://www.diocese-sacramento.org/vocations/permanent\\_diaconate/permanent\\_diaconate.html](http://www.diocese-sacramento.org/vocations/permanent_diaconate/permanent_diaconate.html)

For all your collaboration

