

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.**

Dr. Steve Colecchi "A Reflection on Peace Building"

On October 16, 2010, Dr. Stephen Colecchi, Director of the Office of International Justice and Peace for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) conducted a continuing education day entitled, "Building Peace Locally and Globally". Dr. Colecchi is the Bishops' main point person on Mideast Peace and has traveled many times to Israel and the Occupied Territories. Sixty-eight deacons and spouses attended the day program hosted by St. John the Evangelist Parish in Carmichael.

Dr. Colecchi explored the importance of peace building as integral to living out the call of the Gospel. Dr. Colecchi drew heavily from three important documents, "Pacem In Terris", "Gaudium et Spes", and the U.S. Bishops' "Challenge of Peace". In light of those documents, he examined the two great moral traditions of "Active Nonviolence" and "Just War" and focused on the common elements of both traditions. Both emphasize reduction of violence and hold a presumption against war as well as a preference for peace rather than merely an absence of war and violence. Tensions between the traditions continue because of the changes in the world in which we live. While one can intellectualize that perhaps war in certain circumstances may be necessary, nevertheless the conditions necessary for the classic Just War may be practically almost impossible to meet in the milieu of modern warfare.

Dr. Colecchi's presentation was lively and interactive with time for discussion and questions. He explained the USCCB's Campaign for Peace in the Holy Land and outlined the concerns of each major religious tradition – Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Perhaps more importantly, he provided some insightful tips about how to involve parishes in a discussion about the issues. These included:

Focus on faith and principles, not ideology; Acknowledge that prudential judgment is involved in applying faith; Create a safe space for exploring issues of peace in the Holy Land;

Give issues of war and peace a human face; "If you want peace, work for justice."; Infuse concerns for peace in parish life. Do not relegate it to the margins; Insert peace into prayer & liturgy; Integrate peace into preaching and teaching; Provide opportunities for direct action; and Encourage public policy advocacy.

Dr. Colecchi noted the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in the Occupied Territories and referenced all of the wonderful education resources available online from both the USCCB and CRS. He encouraged everyone to become advocates for peace by enrolling in the joint USCCB and CRS sponsored "Catholics Confront Global Poverty" alert and action system at <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty>

Some attendees were so engaged in the program, that they approached Deacon Joe Symkowitz who works for CRS about a possible trip to the Holy Land. Joe checked with the Jerusalem, West Bank & Gaza office of CRS and they would be willing to assist in a pilgrimage in the fall of 2011. If any in the deacon community have an interest, they should contact Deacon Walt Little.

By Deacon Joe Symkowitz



Deacons/Spouses Continuing Education Day Don't Miss Out!

On February 26, 2011, "The Life & Ministry of Permanent Deacons, Spirituality of the Deacons" will be presented by Fr. Denis Robinson, at St. Peter/Paul in Rocklin. The all day event will conclude with mass celebrated by Bishop Soto and followed by dinner. Many of you attended last year's presentation by Fr. Robinson on "The Ministry of the Priest and of the Permanent Deacon".

Flyers will be sent out soon with more information.

Deacon Formation Class 2014

The Class of 2014 began its Aspirancy in 2009 and began their classes for the first year of Formation on September 4-5, 2010. Following is a list of the class dates and subjects for the remainder of this class year. All deacons are welcome to stop by at the Christ the King anytime to meet the presenters and the students.

January 8-9, 2011

Spirituality-Prayer-Spiritual Direction
by Ms. Colleen Gregg from Mercy Center

February 19-20, 2011

"Introduction to Moral Theology:
Basic Principles of Catholic Morality"
By Fr. Richard Benson, CM

March 19-20, 2011

"Christology: Overview of the Jesus of
History and the Incarnate Word"
by Rev. John Morris, OP

April 16-17, 2011

"Theology of the Sacraments:
Development/Interpretation since Vat. II"
by Rev. Stephen Coffey, OSB

May 28-29, 2011

"Ministry Skills: Pastoral Understanding of
Charity, Word and Sacrament"
by Dr. David Fontes, Psy.D



December 17, 2010
Jesuit Scholar, Physicist
at Sacramento Catholic Forum

Congratulations!
Deacon David Lehman
Chair of Deacon Council

Good Reading!
“Essence of Prayer”

Jesuit Father Robert Spitzer, president of the Magis Center of Reason and Faith and the Spitzer Center for Ethical Leadership, will speak at the Sacramento Catholic Forum luncheon on **Friday, Dec. 17** at the Sacramento Radisson Hotel, located at 500 Leisure Lane.

Father Spitzer’s talk will discuss his new book, “New Proofs for the Existence of God,” and explore what he calls “the strongest rational foundation for faith that has come to light in human history.”

Father Spitzer served as president of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., from 1998 to 2009. The Magis Center is dedicated to showing the close connection between faith and reason in contemporary astrophysics, philosophy and historical study of the New Testament. The Spitzer Center is dedicated to personal and cultural transformation that supports principle-based ethics and leads to noble and enduring success.

Check in begins at 11:30 a.m. with the luncheon following at noon. The cost is \$25 if pre-paid online and \$30 at the door. For more information and to pay online, visit the Sacramento Catholic Forum website at:

<http://www.sacatholicforum.org>

Recently Deacon Larry Niekamp stepped down as Chair of the Deacon Council and we thank him for his service and dedication to the Council.

After consultation with all the deacons, the Community voted Deacon David Lehman as the new Chair of the Council. We congratulate and welcome Deacon Lehman..

Deacon Lu DelGaudio suggests, the book, “Essence of Prayer” by Sister Ruth Burrows, OCD. He felt it “was a wonderful departure to what many generations of Catholics were taught, explicitly or implicitly about the life of prayer”. The book is published by Hidden Spring Press and is 210 pages in paperback. Great reading during the Advent and Christmas season!

IMPORTANT “REVISED” DATES FOR DEACONS CONTINUING EDUCATION

Please update your calendars with these NEW REVISED DATES!

FEB. 26, 2011 ~ Continuing Education/Mass/Dinner with Bishop - All Deacons

⇒ *“The Life & Ministry of Permanent Deacons, Spirituality of the Deacons” by Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB*

St. Peter & Paul, Rocklin, 4450 Granite Drive, Rocklin

March 5, 2011 ~ Continuing Education – All Deacons

⇒ *“Celebrating 3rd Edition of Roman Missal” by Sandy Holland, Office of Worship*

Mercy Center, 535 Sacramento St., Auburn, 95603, 9 -1pm

June 24-26, 2011 ~ Retreat

July 29-31, 2011 ~ Retreat **NEW DATE!!**

October 22, 2011 ~ Continuing Education – All Deacons

December 3, 2011 ~ Continuing Formation for recently ordained

January 7, 2012 ~ Continuing Education/Mass/Dinner with Bishop

- All Deacons

June 22-24, 2012 ~ Retreat

August 3-5, 2012 ~ Retreat

October 13, 2012 ~ Continuing Education – All Deacons

Thank You!

