

THE BEACON

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

NOVEMBER 2007

My Dear Brother Deacons,

Just one week until Thanksgiving. For me, this is always a special day. It is a holiday when we really celebrate family in a special way. There is something incredibly comforting about gathering with my parents, siblings, their families and most especially our own growing crew. On this day, we all seem to put aside any problems that are in our lives and for a few hours simply laugh, eat, and enjoy one another's company. It is a wonderful time to reflect on our many blessings and give thanks to our Father for the gift of family and our lives.

There are many other blessings that I am thankful for this year. I am very grateful for the gift of my ministry and the opportunity I have to serve each of you. Working with the many talented and generous people who make up the Catholic Center staff is a great joy. In particular, Phillis Curry and Mardessa Smith make it a pleasure coming to the office.

During the past month work has begun on the creation of a new Directory for the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese. There is a self study committee reviewing the current program in the light of the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States* which was published in late 2004 by the USCCB. A group of deacons is also working on drafting the new document using the *Directory* and the comments and suggestions from the self study group. In February, a visiting committee will be coming to Atlanta to offer their assessment of our program. All of this is in an effort to create a blueprint for the Permanent Diaconate here in this Archdiocese. This document, mandated by the Bishops of the United States, will help in the selection, formation and ministry of the deacons who will serve God's people for many years to come. We are most grateful for the contributions of all of those participating in the project.

Please know that I am here to serve you. You can reach me by phone at 404-885-7407 or by e-mail at ddorner@archatl.com I continue to ask for your prayers and please know that you all are always in my prayers. Please keep praying for rain!

In His Service,
Deacon Dennis Dorner
Chancellor
Director of Deacon Personnel

Deacon Community News

The following dates have been arranged for the Deacon Conferences with Archbishop Gregory:

12/20/07 12:00 – 2:00 PM (Catholic Center)

These conferences are on a first come first serve basis, no appointment is required.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE DIACONATE COMMUNITY IN 2007 and 2008

**ARCHBISHOP GREGORY'S CHRISTMAS RECEPTION
FOR DEACONS AND THEIR WIVES
DECEMBER 9, 2007
3:30 – 5:30 PM
ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE**



**EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS
June 21, 2008
Georgia International Convention Center**



**Deacon's Convocation and Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the
Renewal of the Permanent Diaconate
June 26, 2008
More details to follow!**

MINISTRY REQUESTS

- *Many of our Archdiocesan parishes have only one priest and no deacons. We have been asked if there is a deacon who would be able to assist in a parish one weekend out of the month. If you have any such interest, please contact the Office of the Permanent Diaconate.*

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Deacon Dennis Dorner ddorner@archatl.com or 404-885-7407.

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Is God Calling You to Prison Ministry

As I sat in prayer telling the Lord if you lead me I will follow. I heard a small voice say go behind the walls and love those whom society has forgotten. The walls the small voice spoke of are at Hays State prison in Trion Georgia. The ones society has forgotten are those incarcerated. That was four years ago that I heard that small voice and I entered into a prison ministry called Kairos. This is an ecumenical Christian ministry design for use in men's and women's correctional institutions. The purpose of Kairos is to help build and nurture strong Christian communities among the residents of correctional institutions. The Kairos experience for residents starts with a 3-day short course in Christianity. After their Kairos weekend, residents continue to participate in small prayer and share groups.

The four years that I have been involved in Kairos I have experienced fellowship and love beyond my greatest expectations. I now share God's love with a young man who is serving two life sentences. Through God I am able to give him hope and he in return is teaching the greatest lesson that we should learn **unconditional love**.

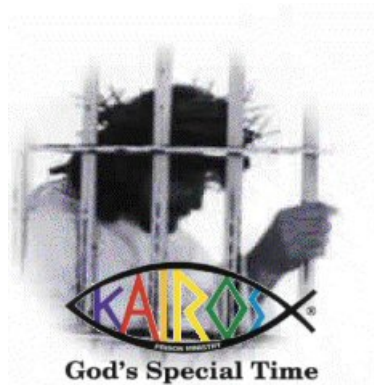
So I ask you? Have you recently heard this small voice calling you to go behind the walls. If you have, please feel free to call me at the contact information provided. If you have not heard the voice, I would ask that you pray fully and consider this cause. I will leave you with this scripture Mathew 25: 35-36. " For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, a stranger and you welcomed Me, naked and you clothed Me, ill and you cared for Me, in prison and you visited Me."

Your brother in Christ

John Timme

Contact: Home 770-516-6934
Cell 770-354-7624

John and his family are parishioners of St. Michael the Archangel in Woodstock and the son of Deacon Bill Timme who passed away in 2002.



CRS global FELLOWS

A Parish Homily Program

Few in our country have had the opportunity to probe the wounds of Christ that are present in the impoverished corners of the world today. And yet, we cannot allow our distance from tragedy to numb us, to excuse us from having to believe that ... humanity is truly wounded and that its wounds affect us. ~ Seamus Griesbach, 2005 Global Fellow

As Catholics, we are called to reach out to our brothers and sisters overseas, just as we reach out to our neighbors here in the United States. We are called to stand together, as one human family, with people of different nations and cultures who suffer from poverty, injustice and violence. We are called to act, and, equally as important, we are called to learn.

GLOBAL FELLOWS: A PARISH HOMILY PROGRAM

Catholic Relief Services' Global Fellows: A Parish Homily program is designed to help parishes like yours develop a connection with people living in developing nations around the world. Priests and deacons who have trained as CRS Global Fellows travel to U.S. parishes to spread the word on what life can be like for the 2 billion men, women and children who live in poverty throughout our world. Many of our Global Fellows have visited CRS' programs in Africa, Asia or Latin America, and all of them have a passion for proclaiming Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor.

GLOBAL FELLOWS AND YOUR PARISH

The Global Fellows: A Parish Homily Program gives parishes the chance to participate in the Gospel call to social ministry. The Global Fellows celebrate or assist in masses, giving homilies that highlight messages of social justice and apply them to our relationship with our neighbors overseas. Through stories and scripture, the Global Fellows help parishioners understand how Jesus is alive in people we will never meet in countries we may never visit. They also help parishioners learn about the hope that exists for transformation and renewal.

This is your opportunity to witness Christ in our brothers and sisters overseas and to learn how, through acts of love and compassion, you are able to heal the wounds of the least of His people.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If your parish is interested in inviting a Global Fellow to your community call Deacon Bill Hampton at 770-964-5804 (deaconbill@saintmatthew.us) Paul Maguire at 732.571.7205 (pmaguire@crs.org) or Mikaele Sansone at 410.951.7336 (msansone@crs.org)



Fr. H. Paul feeds a child at a Safety Net Project in Madagascar.

CRS Photo by Mikaele Sansone

Giving Hope to a World of Need

CONTINUING FORMATION

Visit the Emory University, Aquinas Center for Continuing Education web site for the most recent information on available workshops, classes, etc. Many of these opportunities are free and count toward Continuing Education requirements. <http://aquinas.emory.edu/cal.htm>



Distance Learning for the Diaconate Program

Course Descriptions

BI 944 DE The Book of Revelation – Worship and Justice

A major facet of a deacon's ministry is his role as minister of the Word. Love of the Word involves becoming ever more deeply informed about its origin, meaning, and application. A careful study of the Book of Revelation is necessary not only for being equipped to preach on this text, but also for understanding the very nature of Sacred Scripture and how we approach it as a Church. A study of Revelation will require careful thought about the pastoral problems caused by popular fundamentalist interpretations of the book. But more importantly, you will see in studying this book that it has profoundly influenced Christian thinking about worship, justice, witness, and the linkages that must exist among them.

PA 931 DE Hospital Ministry for the Diaconate

Rationale: This course is designed to introduce participants to the role of the hospital chaplain. The job of the hospital chaplain is discussed in relation to the six major roles performed by the hospital chaplain. Basic responsibilities and day-to-day tasks are discussed in detail.

Course Focus: This course is designed to focus on the pastoral aspects of ministry with the ill and frail from a diaconal perspective.

Much attention will be given to the people who receive this ministry and their settings.

Participants will be required to visit a hospital, work with a chaplain, complete assigned tasks relating to clinical visits, read assignments, and complete reflection papers.

A vision for pastoral care of the ill and frail will be developed by focusing on

- Church teaching,
- The dignity of human life,
- The power of prayer, and
- The need for preparation.

SP 611 DE Spirituality of the Deacon

Rationale: In your role as a deacon, you have duties toward God, yourself and others. As you become more spiritually “in tune” you are able to serve all groups more fully and derive increased joy from your service.

Course Focus: With particular emphasis on the formation and ministry of permanent deacons in the United States, this course correlates the sources, principles and practices of sound spirituality with the fundamental truths of Catholic faith, with the reality of human nature as redeemed and graced, and with practical aspects of spirituality in diaconal ministry. It highlights development of sound spirituality in the context of the Church and emphasizes the need for, and spiritual benefits of, ongoing integration of spiritual reading, personal prayer, private devotion, liturgical worship, and pastoral practice throughout a deacon’s ministry to the faithful.

PA 868 DE Pastoral Counseling for the Diaconate

Rationale: Pastoral care is part of the daily life of the deacon. Pastoral counseling incorporates additional theories into the equation. Deacons will be able to feel more comfortable as they offer pastoral care to their parishioners when they have these additional theories at hand.

Course Focus: Pastoral counseling has been defined as a form of counseling that integrates religious recourses with behavioral sciences. It is a type of counseling that uses insights and principles derived from theology and psychology to work with groups, families, couples, and individuals achieving emotional well being.

While professional pastoral counseling is performed by ordained ministers, rabbis, and priests or those with degrees in Pastoral Counseling, the purpose of this course is to serve as an introduction to what pastoral counseling is, the deacon’s role is pastoral counseling, and how to counsel pastorally using specific case scenarios.

Professional pastoral counselors are licensed before entering into practice. This course does not lead to licensure, but serves as a basic primer for deacons to acquire basic skills and an appreciation of pastoral counseling.

HM 951 DE Hispanic Pastoral Ministry for Deacons

Rationale: Pope John Paul II has said, “Immigrants from Latin America often bring with them a culture and religious heritage which is rich in Christian elements.” And The Church believes that “immigrants offer a hope that their culture will permeate American society.”

This course presents background information and an opportunity for you to study changes in your own parish to identify how the gifts of immigrants can be incorporated.

Course Focus: This course is designed to focus on the pastoral aspects of ministry with the diverse Hispanic community.

Much attention has been given to the history and cultures that have informed the “Hispanic mindset.”

MO 841 DE Medical and Health Care Morality for the Diaconate

Rationale: As a deacon, you will be asked to help parishioners grapple with emotionally charged medical issues. This course will present fundamental Church principles relating to ethics and medical ethics that will assist you in these discussions.

Course Focus: This course studies the theology of the human body, personhood, and human dignity in protecting life from beginning to end and in treating illness.

This course will be of particular interest to deacons involved in hospital, nursing home, ministry to the aging, or other similar settings.

PA 883 DE Pastoral Care of Marriage and Family

Rationale: Based on the mandate given by John Paul II in *Familiaris Consortio*, “No plan for organized pastoral work at any level must ever fail to take into consideration the pastoral area of the family” [70]

Since families should be the first communities of evangelization and there has been a crises encountered by families, Deacons must be sensitive to the need for a pastoral response.

Course Focus: This course is designed to focus on the pastoral aspects of ministry with families.

Much attention will be given to marriage preparation in the parish.

A vision for pastoral care of families will be developed by focusing on

- Church teaching,
- The dignity of marriage,
- The marital embrace, and
- The family

Since 1888, the Josephinum has continued the vision of its founder, Msgr. Joseph Jessing, by preparing clergy for the new evangelization and to serve the pastoral needs of the Church. In fidelity to that vision, the Josephinum now provides educational resources through distance-learning and other technology-based media, delivering continuing education programs to priests and deacons throughout North America.

For More Information:

Distance Learning Program for the Diaconate
The Pontifical College Josephinum
7625 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43235
1-877-9DEACON (toll free)
1-877-933-2266
deacons@pcj.edu



Several Deacons have asked for information on continuing education opportunities. In particular, we have had requests about programs for branching into new career paths. If any of you have specific information along these lines, please contact Deacon Dennis Dorner ddorner@archatl.com so that we can share them.

One of the programs that allows educators to get an advanced degree while continuing to teach is offered by Notre Dame. The link for more information on this program is <https://ace.nd.edu/>

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If you don't currently subscribe to this free on line news service from Rome, check out this link.

<http://www.zenit.org/english/subscribe.html>

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RETREAT INFORMATION

Any of the retreats offered at Ignatius House and the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers will satisfy our Canonical retreat requirements.

If you did not attend the annual Deacon's Retreat in September please be sure to contact the Office of the Permanent Diaconate with whatever retreat you have attended this year. In this way we can update your records.

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Liturgical Norms

For the most up to date information on Archdiocese of *Atlanta Local Pastoral Notes and Liturgical Norms* go to the Archdiocesan web site

www.archatl.com and follow the link to the Office of Divine Worship or you can go directly with the following link: <http://www.archatl.com/liturgy/norms.html>

In particular, there is a very comprehensive compilation of all of the norms that were promulgated from 2001 through 2006 in one document.



JUST a bit

Your friends in the Parish and Social Justice Ministries Department at Catholic Charities would like to share *JUST a bit* of information with you regarding justice and advocacy issues, opportunities and/or events that might be of interest. Please feel free to send any feedback to the attention of Colleen Smith, Communications Associate of Parish and Social Justice Ministries, Catholic Charities Inc. at csmith@archatl.com. Thank you.

Faith & Public Policy: Saturday, November 17 from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Atlanta. “In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation.”– United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Learn how to be engaged and to engage others in public advocacy. Visit <http://www.archatl.com/events/fppw.php> to download the flyer.

Archdiocesan Prayer Journey for a World Living with AIDS – November 25 through December 2, 2007. The prayer journey will be held throughout the week at various parishes in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. To access the calendar of events visit <http://www.archatl.com/events/apj.htm>. For more information about the Office of HIV and AIDS Ministry visit www.atlantaaidsmintistry.org or call (404) 885.7487.

Catholic Charities Fair Trade Sale – November 28 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Catholic Center (680 W. Peachtree St. NW Atlanta, GA 30308). Find quality hand crafted items from all over the world, organic and fair trade certified coffees as well as gourmet chocolates all at a fair price. Begin, or finish, your Christmas shopping with ease while living in solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas. For more information about the sale contact Colleen Smith at csmith@archatl.com or 404.885.7472. For more information about fair trade visit www.crsfairtrade.org.

Save the Date: Viewing of *The Invisible Chapel* – January 15, 2008 from 7 – 9 p.m. at Agnes Scott College in Letitia Pate Evans Hall – Terrace level. Join the director of the film, John Carlos Frey, for Q&A after the screening followed by a panel of leaders on the issue of immigration reform. Reception to follow program. For more information please contact Shelley Rose at srose@adl.org.

Support Important Farm Bill Provisions – Take Action NOW! Visit the [CRS Action Center](#) or call the Capitol switchboard (202-224-3121) to urge your

Senator(s) to support important provisions of the Farm Bill. Click here to **Take Action NOW!** For more information, contact: Roxana Barillas at USCCB (202) 541-3445, rbarillas@usccb.org.

For comprehensive federal legislative updates and action alerts, please visit the following website: <http://capwiz.com/catholiccharitiesusa/home/>

Peace in Christ,

Colleen M. Smith

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"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." - Matthew 25:40



**COUNCIL OF DEACONS
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA**
Archbishop Wilton Daniel Gregory
Father Luis Zarama-Episcopal Delegate
Dennis Dorner-Director of Deacon Personnel
Loris Sinanian-Director of Formation

Chairman: Mike Byrne
Vice Chairman: Bob Riddett
Secretary: Levi Jelks

YEAR REP.

CHAIRPERSON

1-5 Mike Byrne
5-12 Open
12+ Joe Anzalone

REGIONAL REP.

1. Bob Riddett
2. Bill Keeling
3. John McManus
4. Mike Jones
5. Mike Landaiche
6. Levi Jelks

COMMITTEE

Servant Ministry	Ray Egan
Spiritual & Growth	Vacant
Women's Activities	Vacant
Social Activities	Vacant
Public Relations	Vacant
Archives	Vacant
Calling Post	Gary Womack and Bruce Publicover
Nominations	Gary Womack
Diaconate Works	Ray Egan
Outreach	Vacant

Next Meeting

December 6, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Catholic Center, Atlanta

**All Council of Deacon Meetings are Open to
All Deacons of the Archdiocese of Atlanta**