

# M A Y 2 0 0 3

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SPECIAL EVENTS PRIORITY ONE.

Tuesday, June 17, 2003: Jubilee Celebration for Deacons George Angelich, Walt Bedard, Dick Narey and John Shoemaker at Holy Cross Church, 3175 Hathaway Court, N. E., Atlanta. The Mass will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please mark this important date on your calendar and come out as we honor these men who have served the Church so well for twenty-five years.

*The Georgia Bulletin* will profile each of these men.

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Saturday, June 21 2003: Seventh Annual Eucharistic Congress

October 3-5: Annual Archdiocesan Retreat for deacons and wives at Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center. The retreat presenter this year is Fr. Peter Jandaczek, M.S., parochial vicar at St. Oliver Plunkett, Snellville.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

May 25-28, 2003: International Death, Grief and Bereavement Conference at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. Title of the conference is "Honoring the Past – Living in the Present – Anticipating the Future." For more information telephone 608-785-6504 or on-line: [www.uwlax.edu/conted](http://www.uwlax.edu/conted)

**IMMERSION IN SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE** sponsored by the Southeastern Pastoral Institute, June 22-July 10. Cost of the three-week course is \$1310. This includes room and board. For more information call 305-279-2333.

**Priests, Deacons and Seminarians Conference  
June 9-13, 2003 at Franciscan University of Steubenville.**

*May Your Hope Overflow* is the theme for this year's conference at which Bishop Stanislaw Rylko of the Pontifical Council on the Laity will be joined by the Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, Rev. Michael Scanlon, T.O.R., Rev. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., Rev. Francis Martin, Rev. Timothy Graff and Deacon Loris Sinanian as speakers and conference leaders.

The Deacons' Track will consist of the following:

- Part 1 – Sacramental Life: Living Out Baptism in Marriage and Holy Orders.  
Rev. Benedict Groeschel and Deacon Loris Sinanian
- Part 2 – Scriptural Life: Living Out the Life Called for in Sacred Scripture.  
Rev. Francis Martin and Deacon Loris Sinanian
- Part 3 – Secular Life: Bringing Two Worlds Together.  
Deacon Loris Sinanian

For additional information, full conference schedule and arranging group travel to Steubenville, please contact Deacon Loris at [peglor@alltel.net](mailto:peglor@alltel.net).

**FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN DIVORCE MINISTRY:** The North American Conference on Separated and Divorced Catholics is holding its Leadership Seminars and International conference at the University of Notre Dame on June 23-29. For more information online visit [www.nacsdc.org](http://www.nacsdc.org); e-mail at [krista@nacsdc.org](mailto:krista@nacsdc.org) or telephone at 541-893-6089.

**ALL COME BEARING GIFTS: National Migration Conference 2003.** Sponsored by Migration and Refugee Services and Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. For more information or to register: Visit [www.usccb.org/mrs](http://www.usccb.org/mrs) or call 202-541-3352. The Conference is July 6-10 in Washington, D. C.

**NATIONAL DIACONATE INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION (NDICE)** is holding its annual conference at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend on July 27-30. This year's conference is entitled *Our Call as Wife, Deacon and Servant to Justice and Peace*; a fitting theme for these troubled times. Speakers include Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany and Deacon Bill Ditewig, Executive Director of the Bishops' Committee on the Diaconate.

*The Beacon: May 2003*

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**January 19-30, 2004: FIFTH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE/RETREAT TO CENTRAL AMERICA: FOR BISHOPS, PRIESTS, DEACONS AND BROTHERS:**

Visiting the Shrines of the Martyrs. Guided by Father William Donnelly, MM, Regional Superior of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers in Central America. Contact: Mary Ann Roper, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Post Office Box 302, Maryknoll NY 10545-0302. Telephone 941-7590, Ext. 2449. For more information please visit [www.maryknoll.org/society/mm\\_pilgrimage.htm](http://www.maryknoll.org/society/mm_pilgrimage.htm)

**July 1-4, 2004: The National Catholic Deacon Conference in Baltimore. Md.**

Plan this as a part of your summer vacation. The conference is being held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. There will be family events throughout the convention.

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**FORMATION MATTERS**

**October 7 7:30 p.m.:** Institution as Reader and Acolyte for the Class of 2006. Site to be announced.

**OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST**

**FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC** is sponsoring pilgrimages for permanent deacons to Jamaica and Haiti. There is no charge to the deacon. These are not vacation tours. Deacons who go on the pilgrimage are required to commit to share their experiences by preaching in their parishes about what they saw and heard. They are also strongly encouraged to sponsor a project in their parishes. For more information contact the office of the Diaconate. Reminder: Check first with your pastor about the preaching.

**The tour schedule is as follows:**

June 26-29	Haiti	September 26-28	Jamaica
July 8-11	Haiti	October 10-12	Jamaica
July 25-27	Jamaica	November 7-9	Haiti
September 5-7	Haiti	December 12-14	Haiti

If you are interested in any of these tours please contact Deacon Jack Pierce, Diaconate Coordinator at 954-427-2222, ext. 6130 or via e-mail at [jackp@foodforthe poor.com](mailto:jackp@foodforthe poor.com)

*"Preaching Difficult Texts"* by Dr. Max Bonilla, assistant professor of Sacred Scripture at University of St. Thomas School of Theology in Houston, TX. This article appears in the Spring issue of **Church Magazine**. Specifically the article deals with the passage from Ephesians 5: 22: *"Wives be subject to your husbands..."* In general, it lays out a method for dealing with difficult texts in your preaching. **Church's** website is [www.nplc.org](http://www.nplc.org).

### ASSIGNMENTS, TRANSFERS, RETIREMENTS

Deacon Tom McGrane has been given an assignment in the Diocese of Nashville at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Murfreesboro. Tom and Beth moved to Tennessee to be closer to their grandchildren.

(The following is reprinted with the permission of Reverend David P. Dowdle, Director of Spiritual Formation, Archdiocese of Chicago. The article is written for those in formation, but its principles apply to the ordained as well)

## The Art and Science of Spiritual Direction: *A Gift to Self,*

### A Journey with Another *A Promise from God*

#### **Why is Spiritual Direction important?**

Spiritual Direction is a relationship between two believers that live a radical belief in the divine gift of the Incarnation. We believe that God became human in Jesus Christ. From that belief flows consequences of faith and behavior. The first consequence is that we believe God is incarnated, enfleshed, human. Faith calls for, demands even, relationship. Our faith then must be entrusted, tested challenged, confirmed, corrected, shared, celebrated (and more) with another human being. In that sharing with another, the directee deepens membership in the community of believers. In that participation in community, the Church becomes manifest. Faith can never be so private, so personal, so emphasizing 'me and God' (the vertical) that it excludes the possibility of being shared with another (the horizontal) trusted believer. This is true for every believer, every one who desires to serve the Church in public ministry and particularly necessary for anyone seeking ordination. By freely participating in Spiritual Direction, I give myself the gift of full and active participation in the mission of the Church, the mission of Christ Himself.

#### **What is Spiritual Direction?**

Spiritual direction is a journey, a relationship between two believers; one of whom shares their faith and its manifestations in his or her life and the other who reflects that experience back through the prism of the resources, Tradition and wisdom of the Church. It is a journey directed by the Holy Spirit through the enfleshment of another.

Some images of spiritual director:

- a mirror
- an honored guest
- an astringent
- a well

- a 'marking'
  - a wisdom figure
  - a safety net
  - a respectful corrective
  - a relationship of spiritual intimacy
  - a fellow traveler or trusted companion "on the way"
- a place that can hold all of my story with reverence

### **What Spiritual Direction is not:**

**It is not counseling or therapy but may lead to that. It is not trying to look good or perfect in the eyes of another. It is not a parental relationship of unconditional love. It is not mutual. It is not social or superficial. It is not a relationship of a spouse, a peer or a sponsor while at the same time it may have elements of each. It is not a relationship of a superior to an inferior. It is not a punitive relationship or a co-dependent relationship. It is not an 'extra' that divides believers into first and second-class disciples.**

### **Why is Spiritual Direction so important that it must be required?**

**Spiritual Direction is a time-honored tradition in the Church because time and again it has revealed the promise of God: "God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1Cor.. 9) It is one part, a very important part, of an overall formation process. The goal of diaconal formation is an integrated faith in a ministerial identity. Other components that you will come to participate in (and are also required) are journaling (i.e., writing reflection papers), theological reflection, the art of discernment, and small group faith sharing.**

**Spiritual Direction aims at assisting growth toward maturity in faith and in the fullness of life Jesus promised. The spiritual director is primarily a listener and co-discerner. The goals for the directee include articulation, awareness, clarification and in this program, vocation discernment. It is a process and relationship that is entered into for the specific time of formation but with the hope that it will become such an important part of the deacon's life that he will want to voluntarily continue in spiritual direction after ordination. It is important for those who want to grow in prayer. It is an ongoing support in one's life in faith during a program that may challenge, through theological and scriptural in-put, long held religious ideas. The response to a vocational call to Holy Orders is so vitally important to the Church that she must walk through this path with the candidate. After all, the sacrament belongs to the Church and not to the individual.**

## ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA COUNCIL OF DEACONS

**Episcopal Delegate:** Msgr. Paul Reynolds  
**Director of Deacon Personnel:** Alfred Mitchell  
**Director of Formation:** Loris Sinanian

**Chairman:** Whitney Robichaux      **Vice-Chairman:** John McManus      **Secretary:** Lloyd Sutter

<b><u>YEAR REP.</u></b>	<b><u>REGION REP.</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON</u></b>	
1-5 Bill Speed	1. Lloyd Sutter	Servant Ministry	Ray Egan
5-12 Mike Mobley	2. Bruce Publicover	Spirituality & Growth	Sam Mure
12 + Whitney Robichaux	3. John McManus	Women's Activities	Dick&Penny Conti
	4. Bill Jindrich	Social Activities	Mike Balfour
	5. Vic Huynh	Public Rel.&Archives	Gary Womack & Lloyd Sutter
	6. Pat O'Connor	Calling	Gary Womack
		Nominating	Ray Egan
		Diaconate Works	Bill Heinsch
		Outreach	

MINUTES for Council Meeting of April 7, 2003, at Cathedral of Christ the King.

PRESENT: All, except Deacons Jindrich, O'Connor, Egan, Mure, and Heinsch.

Meeting was opened with a prayer by Deacon Mobley.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Deacon Sutter reported that Region 1 held a meeting at St. Andrew at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2003, with seven of 32 members present, including two newly ordained deacons. Several consensus decisions were made. (1) Hold approximately quarterly meetings, the summer one of which would be an evening social to which spouses and deacons-in-formation who have been admitted to candidacy would be invited. (2) Provide continuing education and spiritual topics for the three quarterly business meetings, using region's own internal resources. (3) Engage in service projects and bereavement activities on the district council level. The next four meeting dates/locations/times were set. Friday evening, June 13, at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew; Saturday morning, September 20, at 10 a.m. at All Saints; Saturday morning, November 1, at 10 a.m. at St. Monica; and Saturday morning, February 21, 2004, at 10 a.m. at a parish to be decided later.
- A question was raised about how the Clergy Newsletter was disseminated at various parishes and whether there was any way to assure that deacons received copies. Consensus was that the mail distribution problem could only be corrected at the parish level. Situation may improve once new Archdiocesan web site becomes fully operational and access can be had electronically, presumably with deacons being given access.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mike Balfour made a presentation on a Deacons' Council web site. He included in the package he left with Council members sample web sites for the USCCB and another diocese. He informed the Council that he would be responsible for content and appearance of any web site we developed, while Deacon Joe Eustace would assist the Chairman with technical aspects. Council members were asked by the Chairman and Mike for input on what information should be included in the web site and what of it should be password protected. Council members were asked to submit their comments to these two questions either before or at the next meeting. Before going operational, the Council web site will be linked to the Archdiocese web site.
- Deacon Sinanian told the Council that information on diaconate formation could be obtained from his web site (which ultimately will be linked with the Archdiocesan web site). The address for it is <http://archatl-diaconal-formation.org>.
- The Chairman discussed his presentation to the Priests' Council. The Chairman's draft report to the Council on that meeting is attached.
- After discussion, consensus was reached that revised guidelines should be drafted with respect to pastor's recommendations for admission to the diaconate formation program. Deacon Sinanian agreed to develop the initial draft of such guidelines for Council discussion and amendment.
- Deacon Womack discussed his Deacons-by-Age spreadsheet analysis. He will collate the results, along with information provided by Deacon Sinanian on deacons-in-formation for class of 2004, by Deacons' Council regions by next meeting so a decision can be made whether to redraw region boundaries to "balance" equitably the number of members-by-region.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, May 5, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., at the Cathedral in Conference Room 2.

Motion to Adjourn having been made and seconded, the Chairman concluded the meeting after Deacon Womack offered the closing prayer.

## REPORT ON PRESENTATION TO THE PRIEST COUNCIL

Whitney F. Robichaux

March 19, 2003

The following is a report to the Council of Deacons of my recent presentation to the Council of Priests as discussed at our last meeting.

The presentation began with a brief overview of the formation of the Deacon's Council. Included was a description of the formation, identifying the members of the Council and a listing showing which parishes were in each region. The fact we will occasionally rearrange our regions to maintain a balance of deacons in each region was mentioned.

Following this, the plans for this year were presented: A summary follows:

- 1) We anticipate more active regional meetings which, from reports from other dioceses, should develop into the strength of the Council. Some regions are working on ways to include priests in their activities.
- 2) A general shift to include continuing education within each region is anticipated.
- 3) Efforts are underway to develop work/service projects to build community and to support the identity; of service as deacons.

Next on the presentation, as requested by the Council, was the issue of relationship between deacons and priests. The priests were requested to consider wording memos and correspondence to reflect on the use of "priest" and "clergy". We understand the need to specify "priests" on many occasions, however, it would be appreciate (sic) any consideration of using "clergy" to show when deacons are included.

The priests were requested to consider the following four items and contact me with any suggestions:

- 1) Any suggestions on how deacons would better assist priests?
- 2) Would it be worth the effort to develop a "pool" of deacons willing (with their pastor's concurrence) to assist neighboring parishes when needed?
- 3) What could be done to help priests/deacons get to know each other?
- 4) Would deanery (s) consider including a representative from the region at the deanery meeting?

Following the presentation, several questions were posed. A general discussion addressed an issue raised of some parishes having a lot of candidates for the diaconate and no anticipated need. It is understood there is a need for deacons, however, the need may not be in adjacent parishes where the candidates live. Another item addressed the

logistical problem of training candidates in remote areas and in languages where candidates do not speak English

One topic addressed is a feeling by some that some deacons recently want to focus their “service” on liturgical functions. I assured them that from my training, we are ordained to serve. (As a note, I did not preach for the first 6 or 7 years) We understood having the FACULTY to preach, baptize, etc, does not imply we have the necessary; “gifts” nor does it imply we have the permission of the pastor to use the faculties granted. We need to remember we are to use the gifts we do have to empower the lay people, to enable them to take leadership roles, then “step back” and let them function in these roles. We then move forward into new areas which can best support the pastor and bishop.

I thanked the Priests’ Council for the opportunity to bring these topics to their attention and for their support in our efforts.