



“...Your light must shine before men so that they may see the goodness in your acts...” Matthew 5:16

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OCTOBER 2005

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE DIACONATE COMMUNITY IN 2005 AND 2006

2005:

December 11—Archbishop’s Christmas Reception—2:00-4:00 p.m. The reception this year is at St. Catherine of Siena, 1618 Ben King, Rd., Kennesaw 30144.

2006:

June 17: Eucharistic Congress

September 23: Mass of Recommitment at the Cathedral of Christ the King at 9:00 a.m.

October 6-8: Annual Retreat for Deacons and Wives at Simpsonwood Retreat and Conference Center. Archbishop Gregory is the presenter.

Your presence is requested. Please do not schedule events that conflict with these dates and times.



**ANOTHER RETREAT OPPORTUNITY:**

If you were unable to make the Archdiocesan retreat for deacons and wives, there is another opportunity for you to satisfy your retreat requirement. The Men’s Club of Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Decatur is offering a retreat for men November 18-20. The cost of the retreat is approximately \$120.00. The retreat is being held at Carmel Retreat Center in Hoschton. Hoschton is about 50 miles north of Atlanta on I-85. For more information please contact Deacon Alfred Mitchell at 404-885-7407 or via e-mail at [amitchell@archatl.com](mailto:amitchell@archatl.com).

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

**The Second Annual Canonical Retreat for 12-Step Clergy** will be held at Ignatius House, Monday, May 1 through Friday, May 5, 2006. For more information contact Fr. Stewart Wilber at 770-712-1692 or via e-mail at [s.wilber@mindspring.com](mailto:s.wilber@mindspring.com).

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**PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Archbishop Gregory has indicated he will hold his first quarterly conferences for deacons on Saturday, October 29, 2005 at the St. Stephen Center, 2971 Butner Road, S. W., Atlanta, GA, from noon until 2:00 p.m. No appointment is required for these conferences and deacons will be seen on first-come, first –seen basis.

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**Archdiocesan Natural Family Planning Course Announcement**

There will be a two –course series of Natural Family Planning offered in October, 2005 (symptom-Thermal Method). To register, please contact the instructors listed below. For additional information about Natural Family Planning please call Lynn Crutchfield at the Family Office: 404-885-7450.

Instructors:	Daniel & Aline Sanchez	Don and Sara Boyle
Phone:	770-352-0488	770-410-9237
Location:	St. Thomas the Apostle Church 4300 Kings Spring Rd., S. E. Smyrna, GA	St. Andrew Church 675 Riverside Rd. Roswell, GA
Time:	3:30 – 6:00 p.m.	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Class Dates:	October 2 9 23 November 6 20	October 16 November 20 December 18 January 15

Basic Spanish Class  
Nursery provided

**COUNCIL OF DEACONS**  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA**  
**Archbishop Wilton Daniel Gregory**  
**Msgr. Paul Reynolds-Episcopal Delegate**  
**Alfred Mitchell-Director of Deacon Personnel**  
**Loris Sinanian-Director of Formation**  
**Chairman: John McManus**  
**Vice Chairman: Whitney Robichaux**  
**Secretary: Bill Heinsch**

<u>YEAR REP.</u>	<u>REGIONAL REP.</u>	<u>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON</u>
1-5 Dennis Dornier	1. Ron Carr	Servant Ministry Ray Egan
5-12 Bob Rich	2. Bill Heinsch	Spiritual & Growth
12+ Whitney Robichaux	3. John McManus	Women's Activities
	4. Mike Jones	Social Activities Vacant
	5. Vic Huynh	Public Relations
	6. Dick Conti	and Archives Vacant
		Calling Post Gary Womack & Bruce Publicover
		Nominations Gary Womack
		Diaconate Works Ray Egan
		Outreach Bill Heinsch

**Council Meeting Minutes: August 29, 2005**

Chairman John McManus called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer: Vic Huynh opened the meeting with a prayer.

PRESENT: Deacons John McManus, Whitney Robichaux, Bill Heinsch, Dick Conti, Alfred Mitchell, Loris Sinanian, Vic Huynh, and Gary Womack.

**Web Site:** John McManus reported that the web site now has the ability to email all deacons and this gives it a more functional operation. John plans to talk about this further at the meeting after the Recommitment Mass.

**Faculties:** The faculties document had been sent to Monsignor Reynolds and we are still awaiting a response.

**Deacons' Foundation:** The Deacons' Foundation was submitted to Monsignor Reynolds and he is following up on it. He will address this further at the meeting after the Recommitment Mass.

**Educational Guidelines:** Deacons Whitney Robichaux, Loris Sinanian, Dennis Dornier, and Alfred Mitchell met and drafted the new proposal for the deacon educational guidelines and this proposal was circulated among the council members. A vote was taken and the council members approved the new educational guidelines proposal. This proposal will be submitted to Monsignor Reynolds for his review and then sent to the archbishop for his approval.

**New Business:**

**Region Restructure:** John McManus suggested that the Council consider restructuring regional boundaries again to allow more participation in regional meetings. It is clear from comments received by the chairman that many deacons are not attending meetings because of the great distance that is required to be traveled to make a meeting. John's proposal is to design smaller regions and have more regions. This would eliminate the huge geographic size of many of our regions. John will meet with Gary Womack and a proposal of new geographic regional alignments will be ready for the discussion at the October 3 meeting.

**Recommitment Mass:** A deacon meeting will follow the recommitment Mass. The Archbishop is expected to make remarks. John McManus and Whitney Robichaux will review this past year's accomplishments, then we plan to break out into region

meetings. It was also mentioned that nominations for elections for region reps for regions one, three and five need to occur at this time. Gary Womack will do a CallingPost message to remind everyone about the Recommitment Mass.

**Archdiocesan Policy for Officiating at a Communion Service:** A policy needs to be formulated and established to address the question "When should a lay person officiate at a communion service as opposed to a deacon?"

**Alfred Mitchell Retirement:** Alfred Mitchell plans to retire by the end of the year from his position as the Director of Deacon Personnel for the archdiocese. It is planned that the position will be advertised for deacons to apply, and that the position will be filled by November 1 so there is overlap until the end of the year.

**Upcoming Events:**

The Annual Deacon Retreat for 2005 will be the weekend of September 23-25 at Simpsonwood Conference Center.

The Archbishop's Annual Christmas Reception for Deacons is December 11 at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Kennesaw.

The Deacon Retreat for 2006 will be October 6-8 at Simpsonwood. Archbishop Wilton Daniel Gregory will be the retreat master.

**Reports of Regions:** Region reports were tabled until next meeting.

Bill Heinsch did the closing prayer and the August 29 meeting was adjourned.

**Note:** The next council meeting will be at the Cathedral on October 3, at 7:00 p.m.

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## **P R E C A N A 2006**

### **A One Day Workshop for Engaged Couples**

All Sessions are held at the Catholic Center.

Phone: 404-888-7819

Time: 9:00 a.m. -- 4:05 p.m.

Cost: **\$95.00 per couple (non refundable)**

January 7 and 28

February 11 and 25

March 11 and 25

April 1 and 29

May 6 and 20

June 3 and 10

July 15 and 29

August 12 and 26

September 23

October 7 and 21

November 4

December 9

## **REMARRIAGE WORKSHOP 2006**

### **A One-Day Workshop for Couples Forming a Marriage After the Death of a Spouse**

All Sessions are at the Catholic Center.

Phone: 404-888-7819

Time: 9:00 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m.

Cost \$95.00 per couple

January 21  
February 18  
March 18  
April 22  
May 13  
June 17

July 22  
August 19  
September 16  
October 14  
November 11

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The archdiocese is interested in knowing of any deacons who may have an interest in assisting with the ministry of pastoral needs of the Deaf Catholic Community here in Atlanta. These deacons should be fluent in American Sign Language and sensitive to deaf culture.

Archbishop Gregory and Fr. Frank McNamee have determined that the archdiocese would support the training of deacons in sign language and deaf culture. Following is information concerning preparation programs:

**Immersion:**

**St. Thomas University  
Institute for Patoral Ministries  
16400 NW 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33054  
[www. stuedu](http://www.stuedu)**

**Boston Deaf Ministry Sabbatical Program  
Rev. Michael Medas, M.S.W.  
Director, Office of the Apostolate for the Deaf  
2121 Commonwealth Avenue  
Brigham, MA 02135  
[www. frmi chael medas@deafcathol i c. org](mailto:www.frmi_chael_medas@deafcatholic.org)**

**Local:**

**Georgia Perimeter College  
555 North Indian Creek Drive  
Clarkston, GA 30021  
678-891-3200**

(The sign language program is based at the Clarkston campus, but a few courses are also offered at the Dunwoody campus.

If you are interested in any of these programs please contact Mr. Ed McCoy at the Catholic Center His telephone number is 404-888-7809. His e-mail address is emccoy@archatl.com.

August 19, 2005

Dear Deacon,

Greetings from the Family Life Office! I am writing to let you know that we will be offering a training session in the use of FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding, and Study) on Saturday, October 15, 2005 from 9am to 4pm. The FOCCUS Training will be held at the Cathedral of Christ the King. Deacon Whitney Robichaux will be the Presenter. The cost will be \$75 per person, inclusive of the complete manual, inventory sheets, and scoring packet. Those who attend this workshop will be certified as FOCCUS Facilitators at the end of the day. For those who wish to use this in a parish setting, pastor approval is required. The application forms for the FOCCUS Training Seminar are attached.

FOCCUS has been used in our Archdiocese since the early 1990's. It is used as the first step to an overall marriage preparation program. FOCCUS serves as a "pre-test" of a sort as it gives a clear picture of where the couple's challenges and strengths are as they begin their preparation. Many priests, deacons, and lay ministers have been certified as FOCCUS facilitators over the years. All seem to be very pleased with the results, and find the instrument helpful in working with the engaged. As a result, we have sent three FOCCUS facilitators to be certified by Dr. Barbara Markey (author of FOCCUS) as Trainers. Whitney is the first of the three to complete the certification process! In the near future, Lynn Crutchfield and Linda Sweeney will also be certified to train FOCCUS Facilitators. Our ultimate goal is to offer at least 3 FOCCUS Training Sessions annually. In addition, we will offer one Spanish FOCCUS training per year.

Thank you for your continued support. We are always grateful for your ideas and suggestions. Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions. I can be reached at 404-885-7441. God bless you!

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Hughes, LCSW  
Director  
Family Life Office

MEH/isv  
Attachment

# FOCCUS TRAINING

**(Presented by the Family Life Office)**

\*FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Communication, Understanding, and Study) is an inventory given to engaged couples. Each partner fills out the inventory separately. By scoring the inventory, the FOCCUS facilitator can empower the couple to discuss things together in an organized, helpful manner by using the FOCCUS scores and a counseling manual. Training is required. Persons attending this Seminar will be certified as FOCCUS facilitators by the end of the day.

**DATE:**                   **October 15, 2005, Saturday**

**TIME:**                   **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**PLACE:**               **Cathedral of Christ The King**  
**2699 Peachtree Road, NE**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30305**

**COST:**                 **\$75 per person (inclusive of manual and assessment tools)**

**PRESENTER:**       **Deacon Whitney Robichaux: Deacon Robichaux has extensive experience as a FOCCUS facilitator at the Cathedral of Christ the King. In addition, he has completed certification as a FOCCUS Trainer under Dr. Barbara Markey, ND (co-author of FOCCUS).**

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Deadline to register is: Friday, October 7, 2005  
To register, fill out the application form provided below and mail with check to: Family Life Office, 680 West Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30308. For further information, call Mary Ellen Hughes or Ivonne Vreeland at 404-888-7818. Thank you!

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE (day)** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE (evening)** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARISH: (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIAL NEEDS?** \_\_\_\_\_