

THE BEACON

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

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My Dear Brothers,

About every three or four months I get a reminder from Deacon Mark Sholander that he is planning on putting the next issue of the Beacon together and needs my input. I feel like these messages come very frequently but decided this morning that it's more an issue of life just moving at a very rapid pace and time just seems to fly. And while I mention Mark, let me just publicly say thank you to him for his dedication to sharing the messages of our community so beautifully as he edits the Beacon!

Since June, when we did the last issue, so much has been going on. Of course we are in the interesting time of the Holy Father naming our new Archbishop. We are very blessed to have Bishop Konzen serving as Diocesan Administrator. His even temper and wise decision making skills are helping to keep all of us on track and able to focus on the daily tasks at hand.

All of Sacred Scripture reminds us that our time here on earth is temporary. We are simply in a state of preparation for the life to come. For some of us, myself included, patience is not our best quality! It's comforting to recognize the grace that the Holy Spirit is guiding us in the many things addressing this very active Church in North Georgia.

Recently we have been reminded of the shortness of our time here with the passing of three of our deacons. David Briselden, Bill Payne, and Frank Coughlin. These three deacons served the Church here in the Archdiocese of Atlanta for many years. And Deacon David served in Arkansas before coming here in 2011. As I attend the funerals of our deacons I am always touched by the amazing outpouring of love and support from the parishes they have served. Ours is a ministry of generosity and it means so much to the family of the deceased deacon that this same generosity is now being bestowed on them. Please continue to pray for the souls of these good men and for their families.

It is actually possible that Fall will come to us at some point this year. The heat that we are still experiencing will break and nature will take on all of the riotous colors of the new season. I pray that each of you allow yourselves the gift of taking in these beautiful reminders of the ongoing seasonal change in all of our lives.

Know that I am here to serve you and that you are in my prayers. Please keep our entire community in prayer!

Sincerely in Christ,

Deacon Dennis

Mark 6:31 *"Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.""*



Men in Diaconate Formation gathered at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Alabama from September 5 through 8th for their annual Retreat.

Formation is a very busy time for those in Diaconate Formation. We follow the advice Jesus gives in Mark's Gospel to 'come away and get some rest.

Well, actually many work hours were donated to help the Brothers at the Abbey to clean the Grotto and weed and clean the cemetery on Thursday. It was a great opportunity to form community and help the Brothers.

Penny Simmons

Co-Director of Diaconate Formation



On Friday morning, a group gathered to play golf – Lauderdale Rules, of course. The Aspirants' foursome won.

While the workday, Bar-B-Q and golf were helping us to "Come away" from our daily routine, the real work of 'retreat' began on Friday evening with Evening Prayer and our first conference and moved through Saturday, to the closing Mass on Sunday.

The theme of the retreat this year was 'Leaders'. Not the CEO type of Leader, but those who lead in ministry. We took some quiet time in reflection to 'Know myself', a lifelong journey. We took some time to reflect on leaders in Scripture: Adam, Joseph, Peter, and the woman who washed the feet of Jesus.

The need to “retreat” for those who allow their lives to be filled with ministry to the people of God is necessary. We sometimes refrain from ‘resting a while’ because after all, we are needed and we are.

However, we cannot pour from an empty cup. Retreat helps us to allow God to refresh us, to renew our enthusiasm to serve, to place us on the right path, get our priorities in order, and move on to where our God is calling us to serve. Time spent in Retreat invigorates, slows us down, and helps us to realize we have been running too fast and maybe in the wrong direction.

Once ordained a Deacon, an annual Retreat is required. Priorities may shift as service to the people of God demands time. Still we need time to know that “Me and God”, my family, my job, and my ministry are in right order.



We ask for your continued prayers for the men and their wives who are in Diaconate Formation.

We recently held the first of two Information and Inquiry Sessions. Twenty-four men and wives attended the first session. A real blessing. The next of the two all day sessions will be held in October. Please hold these folks in prayer also as they discern applying to Aspirancy for the Permanent Diaconate.

Peace,

Penny Simmons

Co-Director of Diaconate Formation

**EXERT OF POPE FRANCIS'
MEETING WITH BISHOPS OF MADAGASCAR**



“...And please, make sure you do not clericalize the laity. Lay faithful are lay faithful. I heard, in my previous Diocese, proposals like this: “My Lord Bishop, I have a wonderful lay person in the parish: he works hard, he organizes everything ... should we ordain him a deacon?”. Leave him there, don’t ruin his life, let him remain a lay person. And speaking of deacons, deacons often have the temptation of clericalism; they see themselves as presbyters or pseudo-bishops ... No! The deacon is the custodian of service in the Church. Please do not keep deacons at the altar: let them do their work outside, in service. If they have to go on a mission to baptize, let them baptize: it’s ok. But in service, let them not be pseudo-priests.”

*Cathedral of Andohalo (Antananarivo)
Saturday, 7 September 2019*

FYI, Change is coming.....

Once the Secretariat of Divine Worship completes its standard review process, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, USCCB President, will promulgate a decree of publication establishing the implementation date.

“The new Order of Baptism of Children” may be used starting February 2, 2020 and is obligatory as of April 12, 2020, Easter Sunday”.

PLEASE PRAY FOR US

FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED

Deacon Michael Tisma, September 13

Ray Donadio, Father-in-Law of Deacon Dom Saulino, September 10

Deacon Frank Coughlin, September 3

Perry "Mike" Taylor, brother of Deacon Victor Taylor, September 2

Deacon Bill Payne, August 9

Deacon David Briselden, July 29

Patricia Tormey, Mother of Kath Owens, July 13

Kathleen Bishop, Wife of Deacon Ken Bishop, June 30

Suzanne Weiss , wife of deceased Deacon Jim Weiss, June 27

FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

Deacon Scott Parker

Deacon Ray Egan

Betty-Lee Egan, wife of Deacon Ray Egan

Linda Duda, Sister-in-Law of Deacon Ed Krise

Crissy Benítez, Sister-in-Law of Deacon José G. Campos

Deacon Bill Jindrich

James Martin, Father of Deacon John Martin

Jodi Pecore, daughter of Deacon Greg Pecore

Deacon John McManus

Everett Johnson, Grandson of Deacon Bill Hampton

From the Publisher:

If you have any suggestions or would like to submit an article, please send your suggestions to:

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