

Deacon News

Diocese of Davenport Summer 2010

Volume 2

Issue 2

“Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised.”

Luke 24: 5-6

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This and That

Deacon Bob McCoy

How fast summer has gone by this year! Fall is upon us along with increased ministry activities in the parish and the diocese. Father Marty Goetz will lead a day of spiritual reflection for deacons and spouses, **Saturday, October 23** at Riverside. Our day together will begin at 9:00 A.M. and conclude at 2:00 P.M.

Bishop Amos strongly encourages all deacons and spouses to attend. Check your e-mail for further details and registration information. This event is sponsored by the Diaconate office and the Deacon Council.

The Diocese of Davenport will launch a major diocesan planning process at seven regional meetings that are scheduled between September 19 and October 3 for parish leadership.

Active deacons **must attend** one of the sessions. Contact your parish before Sept. 10 as the parish must send in an RSVP of attendees.

New Roman Missal training for deacons will be held next summer, June 25, 2011. This training is mandatory for any active or retired deacon who assists at Mass.

Our **Deacon/Spouse Retreat 2011** will be held October 14-16, 2011 at *The Lodge*, Bettendorf. Our retreat director will be Deacon Joseph Michalak, Director of Deacon Formation for the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis.

Deacon Marcel Mosse, Davenport is recovering at home from recent cardiac surgery. Deacon Jerome Miller is now back living in Iowa City. Deacon Juan Cadena has moved to Texas.

Mrs. Florence Hammer, widow of Deacon Richard Hammer was married to Mr. Wayne Heiniger on June 26 in Forest City, Iowa. They are living in Fairview, Kansas. Contact me for their address and phone number if you wish to send best wishes.

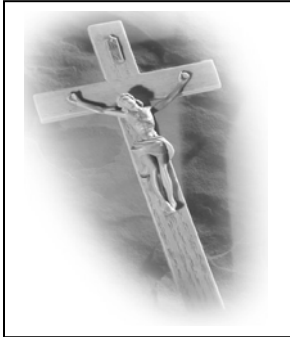
New Address for All Diocesan Correspondence

**Diocese of Davenport
780 West Central Park Ave.
Davenport, IA 52804-1901**

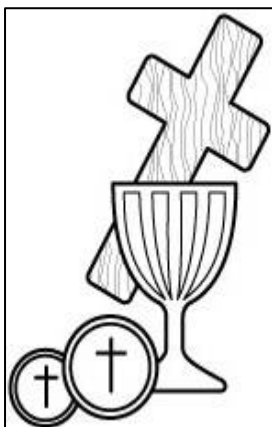
Our location is the same, only the address has changed.

Deacon Formation: On to Candidacy II...

Deacon Frank Agnoli



Plan to attend one of the diocesan planning meetings held at locations throughout the diocese September 19th – October 3rd.



Fourteen candidates and their wives have completed the first year of Candidacy in our new deacon formation program. After a retreat focusing on marriage and ministry in June, the candidates also attended a one-day introduction to homiletics—in preparation for preaching at the Liturgy of the Hours this coming year.

Coursework this year will continue to focus on Scripture (Old Testament II – The Writings; New Testament Letters) and theology (Ecclesiology and Vatican II, Church History) while at the same time begin to explore how we move from theory into practice (Catechesis, Pastoral Care, Liturgy & Spiritual Theology). Of course, field education, mentoring, and spiritual direction remain part of the program; this year, they will be asked to minister as altar servers in their parishes.

It has been a wonderful experience watching as our candidates waded into unfamiliar ministerial waters, whether in the parish or, more frequently, outside of it. Whether in ministry to the imprisoned, the homeless, or the homebound—or in liturgical and catechetical ministries at church—our candidates have explored a wide variety of ways that deacons can be of service to the parish, diocese, and wider community. Let's see what this next year holds!

Important Dates

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Day of spiritual reflection lead by Father Marty Goetz.
Riverside 9:00 A.M – 2:00 P.M.

Saturday, June 25, 2011

New Roman Missal training for deacons.

October 14 - 16, 2011

Deacon / Spouse Retreat
The Lodge, Bettendorf

Preaching: Introduction

Deacon Frank Agnoli

Have you ever tried to describe what preaching is like to someone? What we do to prepare? I remember my homiletics class at St. John's (Collegeville). One night, after returning home, I tried to explain to my wife what we were doing in class... the weaving together of scripture, liturgy, social context, and our own insights and personalities... and she turned to me, and said: "Oh. It's like you're dancing with the Word." Wow. That was it exactly! As preachers, we are privileged to dance with the Word. How else might you describe preaching? How would you explain the preaching ministry to someone? What is it that we are doing when we preach? In more academic terms: What is your theology of preaching? E-mail me and

send me your favorite metaphor for preaching ("Preaching is like..."); I'll include them in the next article of the series (agnoli@davenportdiocese.org).

In the next series of columns, I plan on unpacking that question and reviewing who our varied dance partners are in this ministry—not only the scriptures (text), but the contexts in which we find ourselves—and why in our dancing we need to keep all these partners in mind. As I go through these topics, I will also share with you resources that I have found particularly helpful. If there are specific questions or concerns that you want me to address along the way, let me know!

Please pray for all those discerning a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, or religious life.

From the Communication Department

Deacon David Montgomery

Work continues on the new diocesan website. The recent focus has been creating an audio library of presentations from Clergy Days and June Institutes. With hundreds of hours of editing still to complete, this will be a long-term process. Information about accessing the digital library will be available when the new website is completed.

The results are in from the informal survey offered in last month's newsletter about starting a Facebook group for the diaconate community in the diocese; no one responded. If interest renews in the future, it can be offered at that time.

The Department of Communication has explored options for audio

conferencing for small and medium – sized groups in order to reduce the cost of time and travel for meetings.

As a result, the chancery has purchased a one year subscription to GoToMeeting. The program can be used for 15 people per meeting and includes computer screen sharing. Access to meetings can be made via phone or a computer with a high speed Internet connection.

Information about using this program can be found at www.gotomeeting.com.

Recommended Websites

International Diaconate Center

<http://idz.drs.de/english/index.html>

A list of links is available on the diocesan website:

www.davenportdiocese.org

Deacon Profile: Paul Hittner



Spouse: Mary

Children: Nicholas married to Jill, children Jonathon, Rebecca and Allison.

Frances Pugh married to John, children Hannah, Lauren, and Spencer.

Claire Shafer married to Scott, children Madi, Matthew, Nicole, Nathan and Katherine.

Gwendolyn Huke married to Tony, children Paisley and Maxwell.

Laura Lavallee

Steven Christopher (Kristin)

Ordained: December 13, 1980

Why did you become a deacon?

Having spent 10 years in the seminary, I felt that those years could be utilized in some way in diaconal service within the Church. So I applied with the idea that others could determine whether what I discerned should actually be the case. The diaconate is a blessing for me. I hope it has been a blessing for God's people too.

What do you like about being a deacon?

That I can be helpful to others in a variety of circumstances. Of course all of us can do that. It is just that as a deacon, people feel free to ask your help that they might not ask of others. While still in Texas this recent March, I was returning the Eucharist to the tabernacle in the Eucharistic chapel. A woman alone in the chapel came up even as I was closing the tabernacle door and asked that I pray for her daughter who was on drugs. The next day after Mass, she asked me again to pray because she and her daughter were going to a drug rehab center in Chicago. So, yes, I prayed, and I abstained from alcohol to align my life with her daughter in kicking the drug habit. Hopefully the daughter will do that, but I will probably never know. Meanwhile, I have been there for someone simply because I was known to be a deacon.

What are your challenges?

With my illnesses of the past three years, my challenges have been for endurance and survival. Actually, I find that God takes pretty good care of us, and if I let my challenges rest in him, then the challenges are doable, suffering and all.

Do you have outside ministries?

In Texas, I work in Holy Spirit parish in McAllen, but my physical condition has precluded extensive ministry in recent years.

What is your favorite scriptural passage?

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." (I Cor. 2:2) Understanding Christ and him crucified is crucial to our lives as Christians. It involves not only knowing Christ but also understanding how through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and the extension of this through the ages in the Mass, our salvation is accomplished. It also involves being Christ for one another. Needless to say, it is a lifelong endeavor.

Do you have any hobbies?

My main hobby is golf. It is a good hobby. Playing golf actually prepared me physically and helped make me capable of enduring and recuperating relatively quickly from the open heart and back surgeries of the past few years. Beyond that I love to read "with expression." As a result I read rather slowly, but very intensely. My hobby of choice is trying to fully understand the Mass, which has always intrigued me. I find in it ever new insights that sometimes are overwhelming, but also the constant permanence of Christ's salvific ways. As with so much of our contact with God, it is humbling but also uplifting.