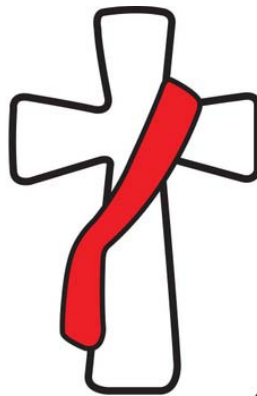


Diaconus

Vol. 1, Issue 1 August 2018

To build up and nurture the diaconal community in the Diocese of Rochester

The Deacon



**Word.
Sacrament.
Service.**

INAUGURAL ISSUE

From the Editor:

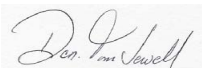
Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Diaconus*, (*The Deacon*). Brought into existence through the combined hopes and efforts of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate and the St. Stephen's Diaconal Community Association (SSDCA), this publication hopes to serve not only as a source of information, but as a place to highlight the stories of word, sacrament and service happening within the diaconal community in the Diocese of Rochester.

It is our hope that all deacons will share their experiences, ponderings and prayers in the form of regular submissions: send us your input for our prayer page (birthdays and anniversaries of deacons and wives; prayers for those who are sick or have gone to their eternal rest in Christ). Feel like writing? Share with us the ins and outs of your ministry. Send us an essay or article about a particular theological, liturgical or pastoral issue. Can't think of a topic? Then feel free to respond by the affiliated deadline to content requests you will find next to this article. ➡

We have such a rich wealth within our community and we hope you will share your expertise and experiences for the benefit all of us. *Diaconus* is OUR publication and it will be what WE together make it!

Bishop Salvatore Matano has extended his blessing and support to our mission of building up and nurturing the diaconal community in the Diocese of Rochester through the ministry of printed word in *Diaconus*.

With my prayers for every grace and blessing to be yours,



Deacon Tom Jewell
Editor

Diaconus

September 2018 Issue

If you would like to write an article on any of the following topics or columns, or a topic of your own choosing, please communicate your intent to write to tom.jewell@dor.org at your earliest convenience.

- Articles:

- **Assignment: Deacon**
Tell us about your ministry...in the jail, on the campus, at the parish, with the elderly, etc.
- **Deacons Abroad**
Share what special trips, visits and ministry you have accomplished this Summer.
- **Ordinary Season: The backbone of the Liturgical Year**
Expound on the stories and spiritual importance of a season that is anything but Ordinary.

- Please send us your requests for prayer:

- September birthdays and anniversaries (*deacons and their wives only please*)
- For those who are sick or have died
- For special intentions

Photos always welcome!!!

**September ISSUE Submission Deadline
By Wednesday, August 22**

- *Diaconus* will be sent as a pdf to all deacons via their DOR email -

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Publication Information

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Submission Policy

Clergy and deacon wives are welcome to make their own written contributions to *Diaconus*. It is purely the choice of the editor and publisher on whether or not these submissions will be used. All submissions must follow the deadlines and procedures set forth by the publisher.

In order to submit works for publications, it is the policy of *Diaconus* that all submissions must be of expected professional standards and deemed appropriate to the mission of the publication. The editorial staff reserves the right to limit or edit any and all submissions according to available space.

Make all submissions to: tom.jewell@dor.org

From the Director:

Those of us who are a bit long in the tooth may recall that our community used to have a newsletter that was published from time to time to keep us updated on what was happening around the Diocese of Rochester concerning diaconal ministry.



In the ongoing effort to build and strengthen our sense of community the St. Stephen's Diaconal Community Association (SSDCA) has looked to bring back a newsletter in which to share not only stories of ministry but also opportunities for ongoing formation, spiritual enrichment, or fellowship. Deacon Tom Jewell has graciously volunteered to serve as editor, and we'll see how the venture fares as we get under way with this new issue. It is our hope that we can share with this newsletter valuable information about the work being done in and by the diaconal community.

My own vision of this would be a chance for deacons and their wives to write about their work in parishes, institutions, schools and other ministries that don't typically get the attention that parish-based ministry does. Wonderful works of charity and service are being done in our jails and prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, and in the streets of the cities, towns, and villages that make up our beloved Diocese of Rochester. We should share that good work with each other! From a more parochial perspective I'm hoping that the exposure to different ministries will spark interest where it might not have been and to "build a bench" of possible successors as vacancies in the ministries occur. We heard Bishop Matano encourage us at the Convocation to leave the comfort of the sanctuary and to serve the sick, the imprisoned, the hungry and the homeless. The Holy Father regularly points us toward the peripheries, and aren't the peripheries the places that we most need to bring diaconal service?

I intend to continue to send out the Community Updates that I already distribute, and we're hoping that the newsletter will also be informative, inspiring, and helpful as we all work to serve the People of God. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with Tom.

Thank you for your continuing prayerful, humble, and generous service!

Ed

Deacon Ed Giblin is the Director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate.

*Lord, your love is forever!
Pray for all victims of violence*

SSDCA ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

Come Early, come late but please come!

Bring your family!



Date: August 19, 2018

Time: Prayer at 2 PM, Picnic to follow

Location: 6599 Day Road, Bristol, NY
Use second entrance on the right
before the water tank.
Just 4 miles north of Bristol
Mountain Ski Area

RSVP: By August 12, 2018
To Deacon Michael
& Catherine McGuire



Michael.McGuire@dor.org
Michael: 585-229-5359
Catherine: 585-474-1495

**SSDCA will provide meat,
beverages and a fruit dessert.**

Please bring a dish to pass.



Father Jeffrey Kirby

Father Jeff Kirby is the parish priest of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Indian Land, South Carolina. He holds a doctorate in moral theology from the Holy Cross University in Rome and a Master of Arts in Philosophy from the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Father Kirby serves as an Adjunct Professor of Theology at Belmont Abbey College and Pontifex University. He has authored several books, including *Lord, Teach Us to Pray* and *Kingdom of Happiness: Living the Beatitudes in Everyday Life*.

In 2016, Father Kirby was recognized for his service to local communities and young adults throughout South Carolina by then-Governor Nikki Haley with the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor.

Working with St. Benedict Press and Catholic Scripture Study International, Father Kirby was the Host of the award-winning program *Doors of Mercy* and was one of the co-instructors of the programs, *Luke: The Gospel of Mercy* and *Jesus Revealed*. He is the Host of the program *Kingdom of Happiness*, which helped launch the #BeBlessedChallenge throughout the English-speaking areas of the Church.

Father Kirby is the weekly spirituality Contributor for the news site *Crux: Taking the Catholic Pulse*, as well as the author of a bi-monthly Question-and-Answer column carried by *The Catholic Miscellany*, the diocesan newspaper in South Carolina.

Father Kirby grew up in a military family in West Germany, once hiked across Europe and North Africa for ten weeks, attended seminary at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, served in the Army National Guard, has run two marathons, and crossed the Atlantic Ocean twice by ship.

For more information on Father Kirby, please visit frkirby.com, or follow him on Twitter @fatherkirby.

2018 Annual Diaconal Retreat September 7-9 Notre Dame Retreat Center Canandaigua, NY



The Eucharist - Source of Diaconal Service

"... the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: 'Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.' ... Catechism of the Catholic Church



**Fr.
Jeffrey
Kirby**

**Priest,
Speaker
and
Author**

To register call or email Notre Dame - Nancy Lynch 585-394-5700
ndlynch@rochester.rr.com

Deadline for registration is August 22, 2018. Questions? Contact: Dcn Michael McGuire mcmcguire@reagan.com 585-229-5359 or Dcn Dennis Lohouse dennis.lohouse@dor.org 585-350-9568

STAY		Commute		Sat only	
Couple	Single	Couple	Single	Couple	Single
\$ 250.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 45.00

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - Always the Right Time

by Deacon John Payne

On the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord last year, the Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano wrote a pastoral letter declaring a year of the Eucharist for our diocese. In it, along with the preeminent devotion to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, he challenged us to renew our profession of faith in the Eucharistic Christ constantly dwelling in the tabernacles of our churches.

Effectively, he asked us to deepen our personal devotion to Our Lord in the Eucharist.

Pope Paul VI, in his encyclical, *Mysterium Fidei*, wrote the following: *"No one can fail to understand that the Divine Eucharist bestows upon the Christian people an incomparable dignity. Not only when the sacrament is offered and when the sacrament is received, but as long as the Eucharist is kept in our churches and oratories, Christ is truly the Emmanuel, that is 'God with us.' Day and night, He is in our midst, He dwells with us, full of grace and truth. He restores morality, nourishes virtues, consoles the afflicted, strengthens the weak."*

While this "Year of the Eucharist" has formally ended, the time is always right as this teaching of the adoration of the Eucharist is an essential part of our Christian life and mission. It embraces us personally and universally. The worship of the Eucharist outside the Sacrifice of the Mass is a tribute of inestimable value in the life of the Church. Such worship is closely linked to the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

In a way to truly understand the Eucharist is in understanding the various dimensions of how Christ is present to us in his Church. Vatican II taught that Christ is present in the very assembly of the faithful as it gathers in his name. He is also present in his Word, which exists in the Scripture readings, in particular the Gospel, and homilies. He is also present in the Priest. And finally, He is present in the bread and wine which become entirely and fully his body, blood; soul and divinity. This presence of Christ in the Eucharistic elements *"is called real, not to exclude the other kinds of presence as though they were not real, but because it is real par excellence."*

What needs to be understood is that in each of these modes of Christ's presence, his presence is real. Through the word, Christ speaks to us and we listen. He is present to us through the person of the Priest, who gathers, welcomes, and invites us into prayer. As a gathered assembly of people, we become his body, and he enters into our life. And as Eucharistic food, he nourishes us and unites us in meal. *"Only the Spirit can open our eyes to the Lord in our midst."*

As members of the body of Christ, the faithful have a right to visit the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist frequently for adoration, and to take part in adoration before the Most Holy Eucharist exposed at least at some time in the course of any given year. The faithful *"should not omit making visits during the day to the Most Holy Sacrament, as a proof of gratitude, as a pledge of love, and as a debt of the adoration due to Christ the Lord who is present in it"*. For the contemplation of Jesus present in the Most Holy Sacrament, as a communion of desire, powerfully joins the faithful to Christ, as is splendidly evident in the example of so many Saints.

In the past, we have had a ritual called "Forty Hours Devotion." During this time, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed in a monstrance for a continuous period of forty hours, day and night. This is no easy feat and the preparation for a successful adoration must be planned.

First, a location must be decided upon. Logically this would be the Church or Chapel. One must remember though that during exposition, Mass cannot take place without the Eucharist being reposed. Additionally, consideration should be made for the security and convenience of those who are attending, especially at night ... like egress into the Church space/bathrooms... heating, cooling, and lighting... emergency procedures and phone numbers... what happens if the next person signed-up doesn't show... and notifying the local law enforcement authority is not out of the question.

Next, we must remember that the Most Holy Sacrament must never be left unattended, even for the briefest amount of time, *meaning that someone must always be present*. In preparation, there needs to be a sign-up list created, maybe allowing for 30-minute visits. It should be emphasized that even if a person doesn't sign up ahead of time, they are welcome to participate at any time. Additionally, reading materials, including Bibles, rosaries (and instructions how to pray the rosary), and the option of music (CD's and player) should be provided for those who desire.

Finally, an instruction to the faithful of what Eucharistic Adoration is and the Real Presence in all of its forms needs to take place. This could be in written format as in the Parish Bulletin or website, or in the homilies, or in witness presentations at Mass, and in contact with the various ministry groups in the parish. It is especially helpful that these ministry groups select a time that they could come together as a group to pray together. So maybe the choir could come and sing together, or the youth group could come and invite others who aren't part of their group. The USCCB website has formats for a Holy Hour that can be used by these groups, including Holy Hours on Healing





St. Stephen's Diaconal Community Organization SSDCA

- Deacon Dick Lombard

Not "What" but "Who"

How many times have you been asked, "what can a deacon do?" And, while answering that, thinking that the question should be "who is a deacon, not what?" Recently I have been asked several times, "What does the Saint Stephen's Diaconal Community Association do?" I will answer that question now but I will also answer the far better question of *who* the SSDCA is.

So, first the SSDCA provides a breakfast at the Cathedral before diaconal ordinations and a welcome gift to each ordinand. We sponsor an annual picnic, we underwrite the cost of stoles for the 25th anniversary class. We tithe each year to the St. Stephen's Fund, we have on occasion helped with expenses at the annual retreat and we sponsor the presentation of the Deacon Stan Zawacki Award at the convocation. On occasion we fund specific projects at the request of the community. All of this, of course, funded by voluntary dues from the community at large. This is what we do but this does not define us. We do these things because of who we are.

The SSDCA was formed in 1982 by the first diaconate class because they saw a need to continue the fellowship and community that had grown up during their formation. Deacons Stan Zawacki, Dan Kinsky, Bill Maune and Tony Mercadel were the first officers. The Deacon Personnel Board, annual picnics and the forerunner of the annual convocation soon followed, all of these developing naturally as succeeding classes stepped up to take the helm of the growing association.

Today there are almost 200 of us in the diaconal community, those in formation, the ordained and our spouses. The difficulties of size and distance have increased as our numbers have increased. The importance of the SSDCA as a platform for community has increased proportionately. But, some things have not changed. We still share a unique bond of charity, service and witness within the Church and in obedience to our bishop. We continue to be joined together by our discernment to service and strengthened by Sacrament to serve our diocese and each other. We will always be brothers and sisters in Christ. We are the SSDCA.

Dcn. Dick Lombard, is current President of the SSDCA and has attained senior status having been ordained in 1987. Active and unassigned, he helps out at St. Charles in Greece as he is able..

--EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION continued

and Reparation, Life, Peace, Life and Marriage, and Vocations.

Whatever you do, the response of the faithful is profound and will have an enormous effect on your parish and its ministries. Saint John Paul II continues the teaching on the Eucharist by saying, *"The Church and the world have a great need of Eucharistic worship. Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease."*

"Then Jesus said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer... When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Mt 26: 38-39a,40-41

Dcn. John Payne was ordained in 1999 and is presently assigned at St. Patrick's in Victor. John has his B.S. in History and M.A. in Theology from St. Bernard's; is a retired CPA and is a certified EMT currently serving in the Pittsford Fire Department. He is married 44 years to Susan.

DOR Diaconal Calendar

August

19th

Deacon Summer Picnic
6599 Day Road, Bristol, NY (see pg. 3)

September

7th-9th

Deacon Retreat with Bishop Matano
Friday - Sunday, Notre Dame Retreat House
Fr. Jeffrey Kirby, Speaker (see pg. 4)

15th

Gathering of Remunerated Deacons
8 AM, St. Anne Church (see pg. 8)



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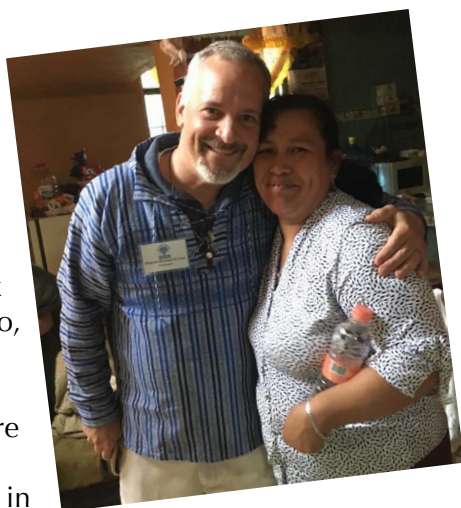
Assignment: **DEACON**

- With Deacon Mike Kristan '18

Helping Hands Medical Missions (HHMM) was formally established in 1996 after 3 years of developing a program for a Catholic medical mission. The idea originated in Dallas in 1991 when a Catholic priest recognized the need for Catholic medical professionals to provide health care services for the poor in rural areas of developing countries. In Holy Week of 1996, a pilot group of medical missionaries from various areas of the U.S. joined the youth missions in Michoacán, Mexico.



The mission was a success with a small group (7) of medical personnel. In the fall of 1996, the first mission under the name of HELPING HANDS Medical Missions took place in Cotija, Mexico, with 30 participants: doctors, nurses, and volunteers serving more than 500 patients and providing 91 surgeries in just 5 days! To date more



than 241,000 patients have been served through Helping Hands.

My wife, Dr. Angela Kristan, and I attended the medical mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico right after Ordination from June 1st to the 10th 2018. Here we are pictured with Bishop Rodrigo Aguilar Martinez of the Diocese of San Cristobal de Las Casas

We were based out of the Seminary in San Cristobal for morning prayer, Mass and breakfast each day before packing up the buses to head out to the different villages on the outskirts of the city. It would typically be an hour drive to these remote villages and many of the people we would serve had not had medical care for up to a year for some chronic conditions. One of the most common illnesses are various parasites found in bad water sources which are many. Some of the people would complain of diarrhea for 6 months or more.

From a pastoral perspective, I was able to offer bless-

ings to people we would interact with including sharing a first with a family in town as we evangelized from door to door; blessing water. One of the pictures includes me and the lady of the house as she held my first bottle of holy water! What a great experience for them and us.

Another poignant moment was ministering to people waiting in line as I offered a blessing for those suffering infirmities. After asking if they would like a bendición, about 10 people stood around me striking a solemn prayer posture while I struggled through my best attempt at Spanish. Afterward four of them came up to me for hugs with a few offering me a teary eyed thankfulness for the experience. Ahhh, how they love the Church of Christ and Her ministers!

We finished the trip with a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe which was absolutely breathtaking for me. Prior to making the trip I had the chance to watch the movie Guadalupe; a living image which really set the stage as I walked this holy ground. My wife and I were engaged on 12/12/12 of Our Lady's feast day so this place held extra special meaning for us.

Dr. John O'Brien of Liverpool NY was the medical director for this particular mission and he will not be able to attend next year. He asked my wife Angela to head it up and she has accepted. I guess I know where I am going this time next year! I look forward to ministering from a whole new perspective after a year of serving the Cathedral community at Sacred Heart starting September 1st.



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Wednesday:	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Thursday:	3:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Friday:	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturday:	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**Located in the former
school building
at St. John the Evangelist
in Spencerport**

Your Deacon Personnel Board

By Deacon Dennis Lohouse

Where is Shortsville and why do we go there?

Once a month – from September until June – a group of Deacons schlep out to St. Dominic's Parish in Shortsville to attend meetings of the Deacon Personnel Board. Composed of approximately 8-10 appointed deacons, the board is consultative to the Bishop as a part of his responsibility to ensure that diaconal assignments meet the needs of the diocese, benefit those to whom the deacon is sent and enrich the deacon himself, while being responsible to his family and employment obligations. The Bishop listens to the advice and recommendations of the Deacon Personnel Board making his decision in the context of the input we provide.

The board offers advice on the initial assignment and transfer of deacons, assignments to special ministries, progress of deacons in their assignments, and issues or problems as they occur which merit the attention of the board.

The Personnel Board stands as a means of connection and communication between the bishop and the diaconal community. We encourage deacons to contact any member of the board to surface issues that may affect the individual or the community as a whole. We stand ready, in concert with the Deacon Director, who is an ex-officio member of the board, to vet issues, hear concerns, discuss solutions and make recommendations to the Bishop.

In the normal course of doing the Board's business, we consider new requests for deacons who come from parishes, social ministries and other agencies of the diocese. In some cases we are not able to fill all the requests which are presented in a given year. To the extent possible we seek to optimize assignments as to the needs of the community and the diocese, location, experience, family and work situation as well as personal preference.

The Board also deals with requests for transfer, management or supervisory issues, conflict and in some cases extreme family or health concerns. It should be noted that deacons or their wives, having urgent concerns, events or issues should always contact the Director of the Deacon Personnel Office, Dcn Ed Giblin, for immediate attention. Of course, all conversations with Deacon Giblin, the Board and discussions within the Board are held in confidence.

Every year board members interview one third of the active deacons in the diocese as a part of the "Growth in Ministry" process. After sending each deacon and their supervisor a brief survey we sit down with the deacon and his wife to discuss their assignment, challenges they face, issues they wish to raise and generally get a read on how they are doing and how we as a community can be of service. This process is our way of reaching out in a systematic way to surface issues or concerns that may not come

up otherwise. In fact this is now the time of the year when we run the process hoping to complete our interviews over the next six weeks.

Finally, since there is a time limit on board membership we are always looking for new members to serve the community in this way. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Deacon Giblin for information. It is an interesting and edifying way to serve the Bishop and the diaconal community.

Dcn. Dennis Lohouse was ordained in 2007 and is presently assigned at St. Theodore Parish, Gates NY after previously being at St. Pius X for 10 years. He has his B.A., M.S., M.B.A., M.Div., and is presently a D. Min candidate. Professionally Dennis is a Principal, Portfolio Manager and Managing Director at Forte' Capital, LLC in Rochester.



YOUR INPUT NEEDED IN SELECTING SSDCA NEW LEADERSHIP



This year we will be electing officers for the Saint Stephen's Diaconal Community Association at our annual retreat. We count on the community to nominate individuals or couples for the offices of President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer. Please send your nominations to Dick Lombard at dick.lombard@dor.org. You may nominate any community member, including yourself, for any office. If you have any questions email Dick or call him at 585-259-3846.



New Group Forming



Gathering of Remunerated Deacons

Are you a deacon who works fulltime in the Church (a parish or other Catholic institution)? If so, we invite you to join us in prayer and conversation about best practices of working for the Church and serving as a permanent deacon. We will look at both the spiritual and pragmatic components of our vocations. What are we experiencing? Where is Christ in our experience? How do we respond to our experience with a comprehensive charity – one that honors God, loves our neighbor, and sustains the minister.

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 8 AM
at St. Anne Church
1500 Mt. Hope Avenue**

Contact Dcn. Bill Rabjohn or Dcn. Tom Jewell for further info

Assignment: **DEACON**

- With Deacon Kevin Carges '05

It all started with a trip to Jamaica in 2006, a year after being ordained. It was then that Deacon Bill Coffey introduced me to a whole new level of poverty I had never witnessed. It was a trip that changed me forever and gave me a passion like I had never experienced before.

I created a webpage called Deacon Kevin's Circle of Friends and began to raise money in hopes of building a fish farm in Haiti. This would provide food as well as an income to help a small community, but it was slow going. Having to raise \$28,000, I spoke to anyone who would listen but only had raised about \$15,000 after three years. It hurt having such a passion to help the poor and disadvantaged in such a desperate situation, yet not come through. Then the earthquake struck Haiti in 2010 killing 1 out of every 56 people in the country. The need was critical and I gave what I raised towards emergency relief. I was left feeling defeated not raising my goal to help others as I had set out.

About 2 months later I attended my "St. John Fisher College class of 1984" reunion at the Pittsford Pub. It was great seeing people I had not been in contact with over the many years. It was in the midst of this that I received a "divine inspiration." As people spoke of their lives and various careers I began to think to myself, "What If." What if some of them would share their skills and talents with me to help others? Would they be willing to help me in serving people who had nowhere else to go in developing countries? I wonder if they might be willing to join me in my passion?

After my past experience of the fish farm failure, I was keenly aware of my own deficiencies in fund-raising. I had to admit that I just wasn't able to do various things well and needed help from others.

I began to share my ministry experiences and those who seemed interested I asked if they might help me in my mission to serve. That night I found six people who would be willing to share their gifts and talents with me in my cause. They were experienced in sales, social marketing, fund-raising and loved the idea of doing something to help others. We met a couple months later and the group Eight 4 World Hope was born.

One of my goals was taking this ministry outside the church and into the community. I also wanted people to see exactly where their money was going. It is always good to give to others, but when I donated to various charities, I often wondered where or what the money was actually doing.



After some discussion within the group, we decided to focus on schools as education is truly the way out of pov-

erty. I had met so many children over the years in my travels, many who could not attend school for various reasons.

I often wondered how they could possibly escape the severe poverty they were simply born into. They all at least deserved a chance, an opportunity, a hope, that life could be better for them in their futures.

I also wanted donors to see who they helped, what they built, a specific concrete end result. Knowing the people in Jamaica and Haiti, how they touched my heart, I wanted others to meet them. So through Food for the Poor I set up specific projects with goals that could be met. We needed reason to celebrate and measure our efforts in order to improve if it was God's will to continue.

Eight 4 World Hope is entirely volunteer based, each dollar goes towards various project. I go and visit each situation personally, to ensure the need is real and that our efforts will truly make a difference.

Our first school "Sacred Heart" was in the middle of Jamaica, a very rural area with only one main road going through it. The school was being closed due to an infestation of bats and mold growing around the rotting building structure. It had become too unsafe for the children and the Ministry of Education in Jamaica ordered it should be closed.

The Jamaican government will help fix "major" schools in the large urban areas most times, but the rural communities must maintain their own schools if they want one. If Sacred Heart School closed, fifty children would be losing out on an education. I also stopped at a neighboring school with 243 children called Bensonton Primary that was in need of new bathrooms to replace the forty year old pit latrines they currently used.

I returned to Rochester and through the group we began to fund raise the \$25,000 for a new school building and \$11,500 for a new bathroom facility that included a septic system and flush toilets.

Fifteen months later we had met our first goal of \$25,000 dollars. About 7 months later we raised enough to build the bathrooms as well. I was filled with joy and felt God's presence through this work.

While in Jamaica to celebrate the opening of the new school and bathroom, Food for the Poor asked if I might be willing to look at another school in need. We had anticipated only doing one or two schools when we came together initially but I had two of my friends from the group with me and we agreed perhaps we could do another school if it really needed help.

It took about 30 minutes to find the school in the small community because when we drove by the building, we didn't think it was a school, but rather a shed. It was in

The Diaconal Ministry of Hosting Pilgrimages

By Deacon Ray Defendorf, '82

I was privileged to be in the first ordination class in 1982 which means that on April 17, 2018, I'll have been ordained for 36 years. My ministry, with young people (when I myself was young), the people of Corning, NY including those who fell through the cracks of typical parish ministries, people who lacked affordable health-care, and the opportunity to spend 8 years as pastoral administrator of churches in Waverly, Van Etten, and Bath, NY, has abundantly blessed me.

Another life-changing blessing came 33 years ago when a Methodist minister friend invited me to visit the Holy Land on a clergy familiarization pilgrimage with Educational Opportunities Tours, a Christian travel ministry. My classmate Deacon George Welch and Father Dave Gramkee, my supervisor during a diaconal formation stint at the Elmira Reformatory, were the only Catholics among 35 or so clergy on that pilgrimage.

Walking in the footsteps of Jesus and personally experiencing the "fifth Gospel" – the geography of the Holy Land, enhanced my understanding of scripture, improved my preaching, and set me on a course of ministry that would allow me to return to the Holy Land twenty times. My first few visits allowed me to share and relive my spiritual experience with my wife, my children and several Corning area parishioners. But the 17 visits that followed, I would classify as the special ministry of pilgrimage leader and spiritual guide to hundreds of people including deacons, priests, religious, parish ministers and lay pilgrims.

Over the last ten years, I've hosted deacons, deacon spouses, and priests on familiarization pilgrimages similar to the one I attended in 1985. Each January, Educational Opportunities works with hotels in Bethlehem, Tiberius and Jerusalem to offer these 8-day Holy Land pilgrimages at a greatly reduced price. Last January, the price for deacons and priests was only \$1498 with deacon spouses traveling for only \$100. This is a savings of \$800 to \$900 off the regular price (\$2398) offered to pilgrims for the same itinerary.

The familiarization pilgrimage includes international air from JFK or Newark, first class hotels, buffet breakfast

and dinner daily, guided sightseeing, deluxe motorcoaches, taxes, airline fuel surcharges and most gratuities.

About 5 years ago, Educational Opportunities invited me to head EO Catholic Travel Ministries - a new division specifically serving Roman Catholics. As National Director, I help deacon and priests from throughout the United States to successfully host Catholic pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Fatima, Lourdes, Guadalupe and other Marian shrines, Rome, Assisi, Ireland, Poland, etc. In recent years, EO Catholic has invited distinguished speakers and spiritual writers such as Fr. Richard Rohr, Fr. Greg Boyle, Sr. Joan Chittister, Fr. Ron Rolheiser and others to present Retreats at Sea on cruise ships in the Mediterranean and Caribbean.

Deacons, priests and other Catholic hosts can earn their travel on any of these pilgrimages and cruises by inviting family, friends, and parishioners to accompany them. Deacons can earn a trip to the Holy Land when only five people register to travel with them. For most European travel and cruises the ration is one free trip for every seven or eight pilgrims.

But I would stress, not the personal benefits for pilgrimage hosting, but the special blessings that you facilitate for your parishioners by helping them fulfill life-long dreams of walking in the footsteps of Jesus, the apostles and saints.

Our next EO Catholic Holy Land Familiarization pilgrimage is scheduled for January 22 – 29, 2019. If you would like to join other deacons, deacon spouses, priests and lay ministers on this pilgrimage, please email me at deaconray@stny.rr.com or call 607-426-1100. Other Rochester deacons and spouses that can assist you in registering for this familiarization pilgrimage are:

Deacon Dennis and Barbara Lohouse
Dennis.Lohouse@DOR.org, 585-247-2566

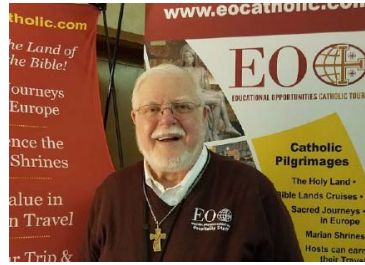
Deacon Dick and Rose Marie Lombard,
rlombar2@rochester.rr.com, 585-225-8980

Deacon George Welch,
gwelch@tqcp.com, (607) 731-6170.

While, the familiarization pilgrimage is not yet up on the EO Catholic website, I invite you to visit

www.eocatholic.com

Dcn. Ray Defendorf was ordained in 1982 and is presently assigned at All Saints Parish in Corning. A retired Pastoral Administrator with his Master's in Theology from St. Bernard's., he is currently National Director of EO Catholic Travel Ministries. Ray is married to Patricia (Patt) for 50 years this July 4th.



prayer

In your kindness, please remember these occasions and needs:

Birthdays

Deacon Dennis Lohouse '07 7/17
Deacon Tom Jewell '98 7/30
Deacon Peter Dohr '10 8/13
Deacon Nemesio Martinez '82 8/21
Deacon Pat Graybill '82 8/29

Anniversaries

For Health

Deacon Ed Smith '92

Special Intention

*Let our community lift up in prayer your special occasion or need.
Send us your birthday, anniversary or other prayer requests to the
email and by the deadline listed on page 2.*

New Beginnings:

2018 Ordained: Permanent - Deacon Mike Kristan,
Deacon Bihn-Yen Nguyen, Deacon Jim Pegoni; Transi-
tional - Deacons Matthew Walter and Daniel White

Deacon Mark Bovenzi '10 to St. Ann's Community
Cherry Ridge Campus concurrent with his assignment
to the University of Rochester Medical Center (eff. 1 SEP
2018)

Deacon Tom Jewell '98 to Our Mother of Sorrows,
Greece (eff. 1 JUN 2018)

Deacon Bruno Petrauskas '14 to St. Stanislaus Kostka
Parish, Rochester from the Cathedral Community, Roch-
ester (eff. 1 SEP 2018)

Deacon Lon Smith '10 to St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish,
Irondequoit from St. Leo the Great Parish, Hilton (eff. 1
SEP 2018)

Deacon Ron Verkon '94 was recently excardinated to
the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Deacons granted Senior Status: John Giugno '84, Don
Eggleston '11, John Pattison '12, and Jim Hankey '90.



ST. BERNARD'S
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Pray for all those in formation:

Aspirants

Dave Kelly
dave.kelly@dor.org

Brian Mizzoni
mizzonib@corning.com

Joe Parisi
jpjoeparisi@gmail.com

Candidates

Roger DeBell
deb主lljr@gmail.com

Johna Engstrom
jengstrom@dor.org

Vince Franco
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Luke Gabello
luke.gabello@gmail.com

Bill Goodman
wmgoodman19@gmail.com

Roger Loucks
loucks@alfred.edu

Jon Schott
jschott@sjfc.edu

*Your hands
made me
and
fashioned me;
give me
understanding
to learn your
commandments.*

Ps 119:73

Requiescat in pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul and
for the comfort of family and friends of . . .

Father Edwin B. Metzger, Jr.

Deacon Stephen Carroll '82

Collette Cary

[aunt of Deacon Peter Niche]

terrible condition and it too was ordered closed by the Jamaican Ministry of Education.

McCook Pen Basic School served 3-5 yr. olds. They begin education earlier in Jamaica because so many leave school in their teens in search of work to survive and help their families.

They asked us to raise \$53,000 to build a new school building that would allow up to 100 children to attend the school. The current "school" could only hold so many and some children were not allowed to come to school due to lack of space.

You can see the before and after pictures of the difference we can make. I was blessed to have Deacon Greg Emerton join me on this trip and give the blessing



of the school before the ribbon was cut to open it.

As of this writing Eight 4 World Hope has now opened 9 new school buildings at a cost of \$350,000. We have approximately 1400 students attending the schools we have helped each year.

We have just began raising money to build additional classrooms at a school called Marie Cole Primary in St. Elizabeth Parish, Jamaica. This school of 286 students was actually using an old bus for classrooms due to the overcrowding. The Ministry of Education ordered them to discontinue using the bus for safety reasons so 40 children were dismissed from the school.

This ministry for me has been such a blessing from God. I find so much joy through it and it is never work even though I feel tired sometimes. God continues to open doors and show us ways to do His will. So many people in Jamaica tell me how they have no where to turn except to God. Eight 4 World Hope is proof He hears their prayers and He has answered many of them through us. I am so humbled by the many graces and blessings I have witnessed over the years.

We have a golf tournament coming up on September 8th at Victor Hills Golf course. You can join us to play

golf or just for dinner through our website www.eight-4worldhope.org

We are always in need of volunteers or those willing to help. I thank you all for your prayers of support and guidance. I pray that we may all continue to serve humbly doing God's work. Peace.

2018 Deacon Convocation

The Deacon Convocation was held Saturday, May 12 at St. Patrick's in Victor and was, by all accounts, a great turn-out with a wonderful time of community, prayer and worship experienced by all.



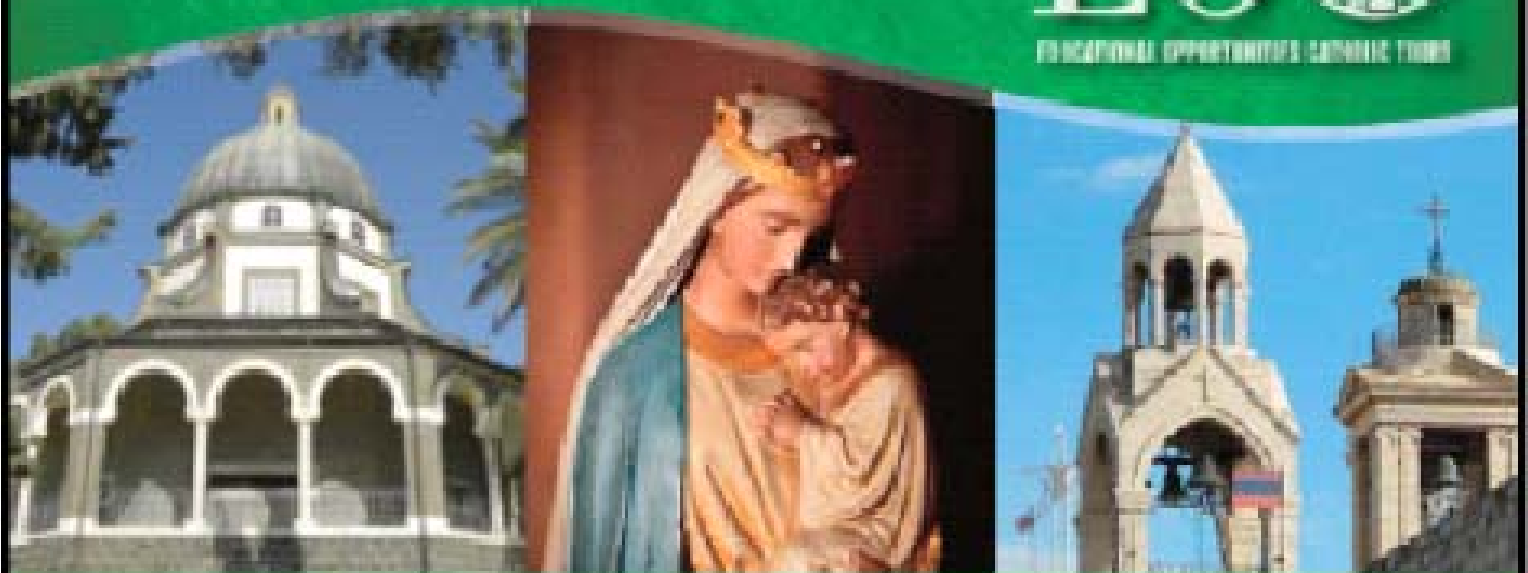
Bishop Matano served each and every member of the community.



Bishop Robert C. Evans
Auxiliary Bishop – Diocese
of Providence delivering his
keynote address:
"The Restoration of the Per-
manent Diaconate: An Ongo-
ing Work of the Holy Spirit"

The 2018 recipients of
the Zawacki Award:
Deacon Angelo
& Patricia Coccia





Holy Land Pilgrimage

January 22 - 29, 2019

Just one weekend out of the parish

**Enhance your preaching and familiarize yourself
with the Fifth Gospel - the Land of Jesus**

ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE \$1,498*

For priests, deacons, religious, and full-time pastoral ministers.

Deacon Spouses, just \$1598*

*Includes: International Air from NYC, First Class Hotels, Buffet Breakfast and
Dinner Daily, Profession guide, Deluxe motorcoaches, taxes, gratuities and fees.*

**Reflects 4% Cash discount for paying by check and pp/dbl. Single Room Supplement \$350.*

For registration information, call or email
Deacon Ray Defendorf: 607-426-1100
Ray.Defendorf@DOR.org