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**Believe what  
you read,  
Teach what  
you believe,  
Practice what  
you teach.**

## Ministering to Those in Prison

### What Eyes Have Seen and Ears Have Heard

by Deacon Seigfried Presberry

For more than 24 years, day in and day out, I would report for duty as a Maryland State Correctional Officer, a career both frightening and appalling: I would be frisked for contraband upon entrance, and the sound of the metal gates opening and closing still rings in my ears to this day. You report for your post and cautiously prepare yourself for the unknown. You are in another world—a world where survival of the fittest is practiced by those for whom society has no remorse. You are in the midst of those serving time for various crimes and somehow you are serving time with them.

People inquire, “How can you do that kind of work? Do you get any joy or satisfaction out of it?” My response is usually “No.”

How can you? Who cares? You are just trying to get through the day without getting harmed. There were days when I wanted to quit but, being a husband and father of two children, I needed a job that provided health and insurance benefits to my family. It was and still is a good job if you can handle the pressure and stress that comes with it.

As time went on, I found myself doing a lot of praying. Asking God to be with me and get me home safely. I was not a religious person at that time, so praying was something new for me. I was a non-practicing Christian who only talked to God for personal needs only. I was being selfish and

deep down inside I knew it. Then one day I was assigned to observe an inmate who was believed to be suicidal. This assignment changed my life.

Not since 1961 had anyone been executed in the State of Maryland. This changed in 1994 when a new law was enacted stating that the State of Maryland could execute persons convicted of a capital crime as long as it was by lethal injection. Prior to this law, Maryland executions were performed by hanging. The inmate I was watching was convicted and sentenced to be executed.

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**God's love is not contained  
within walls but within hearts.**

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During this assignment, somehow the name of Jesus Christ came up. I listened intently as the inmate described in graphic

detail an encounter he had with Jesus Christ about death and the afterlife. He seemed content in accepting his fate. I could not believe that someone who committed such a heinous crime could say and believe that he had an encounter with Christ. “Nonsense, nonsense.” I said to myself. “God is not like that.” How wrong I was.

When I retired from Corrections, I vowed never to go back to that life. Being a Deacon, I knew that I could not serve two masters. So how did I become involved in

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## HELP WANTED

The DPB Communications Committee is in desperate need of members who can help us get the *Deacon's Call* newsletter out on a timely basis. Particular needs include:

- ◆ **Proofreading.** If you read this newsletter and notice errors, we want you on our team!
- ◆ **Page Layout.** If you enjoy making things fit and can use Pages on a Mac, we need to hear from you. Templates and training provided.
- ◆ **Database Maintenance.** The Birthdays, Anniversaries, Ordination Dates, and Necrology are maintained in an Excel file. Can you help keep this information up-to-date?
- ◆ **Feature Writing.** Book and movie reviews are always appreciated. We also need articles on any topic of interest to the deacon community, including summaries of what is discussed at Vicariate meetings.
- ◆ **Photography.** Please take photos at deacon events and email them to the editorial staff!

Committee membership is open to deacons and their family members! [Email us today!](#)

From page 1

prison ministry for the Archdiocese of Baltimore? I too had an encounter with Jesus Christ.

I was told that each and every one of us is a child of God regardless of what we have done, who we are, where we have been or are going. Whether black, white, brown or yellow, **no one** has the right to judge that which belongs to God.

For 24 years, I considered myself to be judge and juror while I worked in Correction. I had power and control over the most forgotten members of our society—the imprisoned.

I believe that this is where God wants me now, to assist the Archdiocese of Baltimore in bringing glad tidings and joy to all. As Jesus said in Matthew Chapter 25, "Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

May we remember that God's love is not contained within walls but within hearts. ❖

## IN MEMORIAM



### Deacon Mike Flamini

*May 13, 1949 – Sept. 23, 2011*

None of us knows the hour or the day when God will call us. So it was for Michael Flamini. Mike had made plans to attend the Deacon Convocation this year.

However, our Lord had another plan. He called Mike to his eternal reward as he slept on the Friday night prior to the event.

Michael's life gives us no time to mourn. He was so full of life, with his quick response to something said, or his wonderful smile when his heart was touched.

The parishioners of his parish touched him deeply. When our Emmaus group met at St. Michael's, parishioners were always standing on the street in front of church. They greeted Michael in Spanish and he responded in kind. Smiles abounded.

Our Emmaus group would pray Morning Prayer in the small chapel. After this we met in the rectory or in a restaurant for breakfast. Our discussions ranged from our personal lives, the Church and our group's experience.

Throughout any meeting Michael's input, laughter and wisdom were a joy to experience. His respect for human life from natural conception to natural death (our Emmaus group's concern), no doubt resulted in an army of children in heaven, welcoming him with Jesus.

Our hearts were lifted at Michael's funeral liturgy. There was no time to weep because his life was a symphony of joy. We will miss him. Yet, our faith should lift hearts to recognize that "not knowing the hour or the day" means simply that heaven will be sudden and beautiful for us because we will see Michael Flamini and all of our loved ones again, for eternity.

Thank you, Michael, for sharing your life and your love with us. ❖

— Deacon Jack Ames

## IN MEMORIAM



### Deacon Michael Misulia

*Jan. 26, 1918 – Oct. 30, 2011*

I lost a friend, mentor, and model of faith when Deacon Michael Misulia passed from this life to the next after 93 years on this earth and 33 years as a deacon.

Deacon Mike's lived faith and service helped me discern my own call to the diaconate. He was a walking, talking version of the Beatitudes. His humility and total reliance on God were evidenced by his love for visiting the homebound, serving others, and praying before the Blessed Sacrament. The death of his beloved wife Josephine in 1988 left a void in his life, but he never wavered in his service, faithfully doing what the Lord had called him to do until he could be with her again.

Mike was pro-life, pro-family, pro-people. I doubt he ever met a person he didn't get along with. He had a heart for all who were in need. During my formation, I had the opportunity to observe and assist with several funeral wake services. I marveled at how Deacon Mike could enter the funeral home knowing nothing about the deceased, and within a few moments, he would develop such a rapport with the family that he could offer words of comfort, inject a little humor, and gently draw the family into the hopeful wonder that the Church offers to those who mourn.

Michael exemplified the biblical meaning of meekness. He was soft spoken, but when he spoke, people listened. No one could doubt what he believed, and he led all who heard him to place their trust in the love and faithfulness of God.

It's interesting to note that Mike was ordained at age 60 and he continued faithfully serving at the altar long after reaching the age for retirement. Thanks be to God that the Church had the service of this holy man for 33 years. We are all called to holiness and the hope of sainthood. Deacon Mike Misulia was a model of how a saint might live, love, and serve. Well done, good and faithful servant. ❖

— Deacon John Martin

## Institute for the Formation and Ministry of the Diaconate

### The Pontifical College Josephinum

*in association with the National Association of Diaconate Directors*

Spring 2012 courses begin on Jan. 9, 2012

- ▶ All courses take 12 weeks and delivered via Internet
- ▶ Each course earns two graduate credit hours (48 class hours)

#### PA 990 DE—Introduction to Grief Counseling.

Explores the many facets of grief, helping participants identify with the bereaved and experience helpful counseling methodologies. Facilitated by Deacon Bob McCormick, a retired educator and a hospital chaplain of the Diocese of Rochester, NY.

**CL 612 DE—Canon Law for Deacons.** Developed after numerous requests, this course offers deacons an understanding of the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*.

**PA 868 DE—Pastoral Counseling for the Deacon.** Basic counseling theory, processes, and skill development, focusing on assessment, listening, and goal setting.

**SP 611 DE—Spirituality of the Deacon.** Highlights development of sound spirituality emphasizing ongoing integration of spiritual reading, personal prayer, private devotion, liturgical worship, and pastoral practice throughout a deacon's ministry to the faithful.

**MO 844 DE—Topics in Moral Theology.** Foundational principles of Christian ethics from Eastern and Western considerations of basic themes, including the relationship between moral theology and Christian ethics; God as source of the moral life; the nature of the human person; the problem of evil and the experience of sin; and conscience and moral decision-making.

**PA 631 DE—Principles of Catechesis.** Looks at how to form and inform God's faithful in the Catholic faith, engaging both head and heart.

For more information, call (877) 933-2266, go to [www.pcj.edu/distance/index.html](http://www.pcj.edu/distance/index.html), or send an email to [deacons@pcj.edu](mailto:deacons@pcj.edu). To register online, go to <http://dlreg.pcj.edu/newregq.php>. ❖

## Special Dates to Remember

### ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

September 6, 1984 Joseph Jensen	September 29, 1998 Gary Lee Fulmer
September 6, 1992 Robert Baker	September 30, 1978 Robert Keeley
September 7, 1996 Peter Barbernitz	October 1, 1983 Paul Ciesla Harry O'Neill
September 8, 1984 Charles Hiebler Robert Lehr	October 8, 1977 Richard Novak
September 13, 1986 J. Edward Bee John Coster Robert Lynne J. Donald MacKnew Richard Strine C. Richard Swann Verdan Wiedel	October 12, 1976 John Manley  October 15, 1989 Matthew Podniesinski Alan Rose
September 13, 1997 Stephen Cooley	October 24, 1986 David Conley Henry Davis James Mann Richard Montalto Frank Rongione
September 15, 1974 J. Kenneth Pivec	October 28, 1989 John Boscoe Robert Hacker Charles Hicks Loren Mooney J. Donald Murray Darrell Smith Hugh Mills
September 15, 1986 Paul Shelton	
September 17, 1983 Nicholas Feurer Daniel Kopczyk	
September 18, 1995 Jack Connor	
September 19, 1983 Richard Morris	October 29, 1983 John Rafter
September 23, 1972 Robert Keenan Edward Stoops	November 4, 1972 Robert Keenan
September 23, 1974 Theodore Gross	November 4, 1977 Daniel Stretmater
September 24, 1987 John McKenna	November 18, 1990 Donald Latrick
September 25, 2004 Karl Bayhi	November 28, 1989 Alphonse Bankard
September 29, 1984 William Fallon	December 8, 1972 Anthony Grillo  December 8, 1974 Frederick Seibold

### DEACON BIRTHDAYS

<b>September</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> .....J. Edward Bee
1 <sup>st</sup> .....Ray Britt	15 <sup>th</sup> .....P. Gregory Rausch
1 <sup>st</sup> .....Lawrence Matheny	17 <sup>th</sup> .....James Prosser
1 <sup>st</sup> .....Michael McCoy	18 <sup>th</sup> .....Larry Wilson
1 <sup>st</sup> .....Anthony Norcio	22 <sup>nd</sup> .....Nickolas Pitocco
6 <sup>th</sup> .....Gary Dumer	29 <sup>th</sup> .....Paul Mann
6 <sup>th</sup> .....Richard Kunkel	
7 <sup>th</sup> .....John Martin	<b>November</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> .....Martin Wolf	2 <sup>nd</sup> .....Richard Novak
10 <sup>th</sup> .....Paul Ciesla	2 <sup>nd</sup> .....Mark Soloski
12 <sup>th</sup> .....Philip Seneschal	5 <sup>th</sup> .....Paul Weber
13 <sup>th</sup> .....George Sisson	8 <sup>th</sup> .....John McKenna
14 <sup>th</sup> .....George Jenkins	8 <sup>th</sup> .....David Page
18 <sup>th</sup> .....John Langmead	17 <sup>th</sup> .....Lee Benson
19 <sup>th</sup> .....Henry Davis	18 <sup>th</sup> .....John Manley
19 <sup>th</sup> .....Robert Lehr	25 <sup>th</sup> .....Francis Werner
19 <sup>th</sup> .....Mark Ripper	
21 <sup>st</sup> .....Frederick Bauernschmidt	<b>December</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> .....Jack Connor	3 <sup>rd</sup> .....Rodrigue Mortel
23 <sup>rd</sup> .....Kevin Brown	3 <sup>rd</sup> .....Richard Montalto
24 <sup>th</sup> .....Kevin Bagley	4 <sup>th</sup> .....Peter Calabrese
25 <sup>th</sup> .....Robert Hacker	4 <sup>th</sup> .....Robert Lynne
26 <sup>th</sup> .....Gary Lee Fulmer	8 <sup>th</sup> .....Harry O'Neill
27 <sup>th</sup> .....Clifford Britton	11 <sup>th</sup> .....Kevin Reid
27 <sup>th</sup> .....Douglas Nathan	12 <sup>th</sup> .....Harbey Santiago
29 <sup>th</sup> .....James Monaghan	13 <sup>th</sup> .....Stanley Wise
	13 <sup>th</sup> .....William Albaugh
<b>October</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> .....Frank Hodges
1 <sup>st</sup> .....Edward Sullivan	16 <sup>th</sup> .....John Coster
6 <sup>th</sup> .....Michael Baxter	17 <sup>th</sup> .....Richard Morris
8 <sup>th</sup> .....Robert Baker	19 <sup>th</sup> .....Paul Dignan
8 <sup>th</sup> .....Robert Shepard	21 <sup>st</sup> .....David Conley
13 <sup>th</sup> .....John Ames	26 <sup>th</sup> .....Charles McCandless
	28 <sup>th</sup> .....Theodore Gross

### **The Deacon's Call**

Newsletter of the Baltimore Deacon Community

October–December 2011

Issues are published quarterly, in March, June, September, and December. The deadline for articles is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication.

Please email your comments to any member of the Communications Committee:

**Mark Soloski, Chair**

Lee Benson  
Carol Matheny

Brent Heathcott  
Angela Martin

## Special Dates to Remember

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

#### September

- 3<sup>rd</sup> .....Henry & Mary Davis (56)  
 11<sup>th</sup> .....James & Kay Barth (18)  
 11<sup>th</sup> .....Francis & Mary Ann Laws (40)  
 17<sup>th</sup> .....Frederick & Maureen Bauerschmidt (23)  
 18<sup>th</sup> .....Gary & Ellen Dumer (24)  
 19<sup>th</sup> .....Michael & Joyce McCoy (52)  
 26<sup>th</sup> .....Kevin & Donna Bagley (30)  
 27<sup>th</sup> .....Gary & Virginia Ingold (36)  
 29<sup>th</sup> .....Edison & Carmen Morales (32)  
 30<sup>th</sup> .....Joseph & Patricia McKenna (39)

#### October

- 1<sup>st</sup> .....Thomas & Cindy Beales (33)  
 9<sup>th</sup> .....Harbey & Nancy Santiago (18)  
 13<sup>th</sup> .....Philip & Jacquelyn Seneschal (21)  
 15<sup>th</sup> .....Herman & Loretta Wilkins (33)  
 18<sup>th</sup> .....John & Chris Ames (36)  
 18<sup>th</sup> .....Frederick & Marge Schoennagel (53)  
 26<sup>th</sup> .....Anthony & Armella Norcio (37)  
 28<sup>th</sup> .....John & Janet Comegna (43)  
 28<sup>th</sup> .....James & Maureen Westwater (50)

#### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> .....J. Edward & Kay Bee (31)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> .....Daniel & Roberta Koczyk (49)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> .....John & Pat Martin (48)  
 7<sup>th</sup> .....Douglas & Peggy Nathan (41)  
 12<sup>th</sup> .....Stanley & Mary Piet (62)  
 13<sup>th</sup> .....Gerald & Mary Theresa Roberts (28)  
 16<sup>th</sup> .....George & Rose Wachter (48)  
 18<sup>th</sup> .....Albert & Bernice Kosla (61)  
 23<sup>rd</sup> .....David & Dell Page (48)  
 25<sup>th</sup> .....J. Donald & Charlotte Murray (50)  
 27<sup>th</sup> .....Frank & Theresa Rongione (63)  
 28<sup>th</sup> .....Richard & Bertha Kunkel (65)  
 28<sup>th</sup> .....Edward & Francine Stoops (52)  
 28<sup>th</sup> .....Patrick & Chrystie Goles (47)  
 28<sup>th</sup> .....Skip & Janet Comegna (44)

#### December

- 6<sup>th</sup> .....Lee & Debra Benson (35)  
 17<sup>th</sup> .....Richard & Margaret Morris (54)  
 21<sup>st</sup> .....Paul & Patti Gifford (44)  
 27<sup>th</sup> .....Robert & Alice Oliver (52)  
 27<sup>th</sup> .....John & Sadie Sedlevicius (30)  
 27<sup>th</sup> .....Paul & Irene Mann (28)  
 28<sup>th</sup> .....Miguel & Isabel Sainz (47)  
 28<sup>th</sup> .....James & Dolores Ryan (47)  
 30<sup>th</sup> .....Nicholas & Mary Ann Feurer (53)

### REST IN PEACE

- Earl A. Smith .....September 9, 2007  
 Leo Nuedling .....September 11, 2001  
 Melvin L. Baranoski .....September 15, 2000  
 Michael Flamini .....September 23, 2011  
 Gilbert Hartlieb .....October 5, 2010  
 Raymond A. Bullinger .....October 11, 2001  
 John F. Naughton .....October 12, 2008  
 George T. Jenkins .....October 22, 2009  
 Bertrand Michael .....October 30, 2006  
 Michael Misulia .....October 30, 2011  
 J. Faherty Casey .....November 6, 2000  
 Malcolm Thompson .....November 17, 2004  
 Verdan P. Wiedel .....November 18, 2009  
 James R. Kent .....November 24, 2001  
 Raymond C. Crawford .....December 23, 2008  
 William F. Grape .....December 24, 2001  
 Daniel Spytkowski .....December 29, 2000  
 Rafael R. Villagaray .....December 23, 2004

### SAVE THE DATES!

#### **DREAM Act Training Session**

**Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012**

Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Baltimore  
*Sponsored by the Maryland Catholic Conference*

For information or to register, call 410-269-1155 or  
 email [info@mdcathcon.org](mailto:info@mdcathcon.org).

#### **Deacon Wives' Day of Reflection**

**Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012**

Bon Secours Retreat Center, Marriottsville

#### **Mid-Atlantic Congress for Pastoral Leadership**

**March 8–10, 2012**

Baltimore Hilton Inner Harbor  
 For information or to register, visit  
[www.midatlanticcongress.org](http://www.midatlanticcongress.org)

#### **Deacon Retreat Weekend**

**May 4–6, 2012**

Bon Secours Retreat Center, Marriottsville

# BOOK REVIEW: HOW TO WIN THE CULTURE WAR

by Angela Martin

A global war is being waged, but many of the combatants don't realize they are at war—and those who do may not know who the enemy is.

That's the premise of *How to Win the Culture War: A Christian Battle Plan for a Society in Crisis* (InterVarsity Press, 2002) by Peter Kreeft, a philosophy professor at Boston College with a gift for expressing intellectual ideas in a way anyone can understand.

He has given us a concise, practical plan for winning the culture war. The first step is to realize that we *are* at war. The best way to lose a war, he maintains, is to deny that we're in one. The second step is to know who the enemy is — and how he works.

Christians have a tendency, says Kreeft, to look for enemies in the media, in liberal universities, in the purveyors of porn, in the abortion industry, or even in those whose religious beliefs differ from ours, whether they be atheists, Muslims,

or mainline Protestants. To Kreeft, these are not enemies but casualties of a battle that transcends our human differences.

The culture war we face today is the same one that began well before Eden and our enemy is none other than the prince of darkness himself.

Too many of us, according to Kreeft, have given up the fight. The solution he proposes avoids both extremes — we must not demonize our fellow combatants, nor should we capitulate to the culture. Instead, we will win the battle by becoming saints.

Kreeft is no ivory tower academic. His down-to-earth, humorous, and occasionally sarcastic writing style is eminently readable — more like a conversation over a beer than a philosophical treatise. He pulls no punches when describing Satan's "Seven Step Sexual Strategy" — and he's likely to offend some with his assertion that the culture of death

has flourished because many people, including most Christians, "defend divorce and fornication and masturbation and contraception and abortion and sodomy...."

But he's also no pessimist. Kreeft believes in the ultimate victory. He lays out nine principles for getting there, beginning with the basics of spiritual warfare and ending with basic training for becoming a saint.

Along the way, he quotes from sources as diverse as Martin Luther and Charles Colson — this is no partisan treatise! Kreeft is a true ecumenical who counsels us to discard labels like "liberal" and "conservative." Instead, he urges us to love, with the true, self-forgetful love that is only possible through God's grace.

In the end, good triumphs over evil, life triumphs over death, and love always wins. Kreeft's call to action challenges us to reflect on what we must do to achieve the victory. ❖

## COMMITTEES

### Deacon Personnel Board

Chair: [Skip Comegna](#)

Vice Chair: [Kevin Reid](#)

### Policy Committee

Chair: [Frank Zeiler](#)

### Communications Committee

Chair: [Mark Soloski](#)

### Ongoing Formation Committee

Chair: [Skip Comegna](#) (acting)

### Placement Committee

Chair: [Kevin Reid](#)

*The committees need members! Both deacons and wives are invited — just email the appropriate committee chair.*

## Current Emmaus Groups

### St. Ephrem Fraternity

2nd Tuesday of each month

10 a.m. — Immaculate Conception

Contact: [Deacon John Gramling](#)  
410-823-0694

### Harford County - St. Stephen

4th Friday of each month

7:30 p.m. — St Mark, Fallston

Contact: [Deacon Simon Driesen](#)  
410-457-0451 or  
[Deacon Chuck Hicks](#)  
410-879-2496

### St. Lawrence

3rd Friday of each month

8:30 a.m. — Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Contact: [Deacon Ray Moreau](#)  
410-464-4005

### St. Vincent Fraternity

Meeting times & locations vary

Contact: [Deacon Jack Ames](#)

### The Amen Corner

Last Thursday of each month

Noon — An Poitin Still Irish Pub

Contact: [Deacon Ken Pivec](#)  
410-663-0560

### Holy Trinity

2nd Tuesday of each month

6 p.m. — Holy Trinity, Glen Burnie

Contact: [Deacon Kevin Brown](#)  
410-544-6330

### Urban Emmaus Group

2nd Saturday of each month

8 a.m. — St. Peter Claver/St. Pius V  
1546 N. Fremont Ave., Baltimore

Contact: [Deacon Will Witherspoon](#)  
410-599-8327

### Deacon & Wives of Central Maryland

Meeting times & locations vary

Contact: [Deacon George Sisson](#)  
301-473-4800

If you have started a new Emmaus Group, please provide the pertinent information to [The Deacon's Call](#) so we can include it in future issues.