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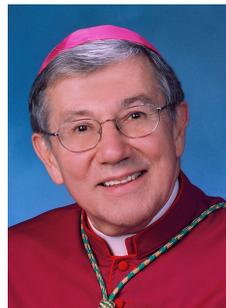
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**Believe what
you read,
Teach what
you believe,
Practice what
you teach.**

Living in a Place of Pilgrimage

The Holy Land

by Bishop Denis Madden



Most Rev. Denis J. Madden

My Dear Brothers,

The Holy Land is not a place where you simply visit or tour. Rather, it is a place of pilgrimage. This was true for me when I lived there, and continues to be so, even as

I recently led two groups to the Holy Land this past year.

Back in 1988, Archbishop Borders invited me to take up the offer of Father Theodore Hesburgh from the University of Notre Dame to go for a two year period and teach at the Ecumenical Institute located at Tantur. Once there, I couldn't think of a better place to live. If you look out the dining room windows you can see the town of Bethlehem; if you look out the other side of the building you can see the city of Jerusalem. I ended up living for nine years in Tantur, working with all of the religious communities of the region, as well as the Israelis and the Palestinians.

You might call this an extended pilgrimage. Living in the Holy Land allows one to taste of the gospels and to savor what they convey. Fr. Bargil Pixner, a Bene-

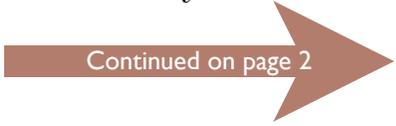
dictine Monk from a monastery in Northern Galilee, has written a book about the Holy Land called *The Fifth Gospel*, in which he brings out how the land itself is like another book of the gospels. I found this to be true as I dwelt in the land trodden upon by Jesus Christ, Mother Mary, the Apostles, and the Saints who lived in this land where God chose "to pitch His tent among us."

One still goes to the Galilee to meet the Christ, leaving behind the busyness of everyday life.

One of the best definitions I've heard thus far on pilgrimage is the one given by Paul Elie in his wonderful book *The Life*

You Save May be Your Own: An American Pilgrimage. He describes a pilgrimage this way: "A pilgrimage is a journey undertaken in the light of a story. A great event has happened; the pilgrim hears the reports and goes in search of the evidence, aspiring to be an eyewitness. The pilgrim seeks not only to confirm the experience of others firsthand but to be changed by the experience. Pilgrims often make the journey in company, but each must be changed individually; they must see for themselves, each with his or her own eyes. And as they return to or-

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dinary life the pilgrims must tell others what they saw, recasting the story in their own terms.”

To experience the busyness of Jerusalem, to make the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa, with all the noise, the smells, the shouting, the confusion that still takes place today, easily transports one to what it was like when Jesus Christ trod that same path. To go into the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre and to look up to your right as you enter through those huge wooden doors and see Mount Calvary where Jesus died on the cross and to be able to go up on top of that Mount, place your hands through a narrow hole and touch the very stone upon which the cross lay – that is an overwhelming experience. Innumerable experiences like these provide a grace that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world.

When I lived in Jerusalem, I always enjoyed traveling up to the Galilee. I now appreciate full well why, after the resurrection, Jesus told his disciples to go and tell their companions that he would meet them in Galilee. One still goes to the Galilee to meet the Christ, leaving behind the busyness of everyday life. The Galilee still holds that special quality of being the place where Jesus taught, worked his miracles, and took his rest.

I hope that you will have an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Galilee and meet the Christ in a new way. You and your companions will be changed, even as you return to “recast” and share the graces that you receive. ❖

CONVOCAATION 2011

“Verbum Domini”

by Dcn. John “Skip” Commegna

Please join us as we gather for our semi-annual weekend convocation for deacons and their wives.

This year we will again return to the [Bolger Center](#) in Potomac, Maryland. The Bolger Center is a superior facility with wonderful accommodations, great food, helpful and friendly staff, and beautiful campus.

The theme this year is “*Verbum Domini*: The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church,” which is based on the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Benedict XVI dated September 30, 2010.

The weekend as planned will follow that of previous years with Morning and Evening Prayer, Eucharistic Celebrations on Saturday and Sunday, complemented by three sessions discussing various aspects of *Verbum Domini*.

Archbishop O’Brien will be the celebrant at Mass on Sunday, preceded by an open forum for discussions. There will be a social on Saturday Evening, followed by a formal sit-down dinner. There will also be vendors and ministry information tables available.

Fr. Thomas Hurst S.S., Rector of St. Mary’s Seminary in Roland Park, will be the Keynote speaker.



The Bolger Center, Potomac, Md.

There will be three sessions in the morning and repeated in the afternoon with an excellent array of presenters:

◆ *God’s Word in Scripture* presented by Fr. Lawrence Terrien S.S., Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary and Director of Spiritual Formation

◆ *God’s Word in Liturgy* presented by Catherine Combiere-Donovan, Director of Office of Worship

◆ *God’s Word in Culture* presented by Fr. Joseph Muth, pastor of St. Matthew and Blessed Sacrament Churches



Rev. Thomas R. Hurst, S.S.

The Archbishop, Auxiliary Bishops, and the Office of Clergy Personnel are highly supportive of the convocation and how much it means to the Archdiocese and

the Order of Deacon.

Please make every attempt to experience this time of social gatherings, prayer, reflection, and renewed friendships. The registration packages were sent out by the Office of Clergy Personnel around July 22. Please register now, before you forget!

If you have any questions about the convocation weekend please contact Skip Commegna at (410-788-6113) or comegnajmj@verizon.net. ❖

Neumann Vicariate Deacons Meet with Bishop Madden

by Deacon Mark Soloski

The deacons of the Neumann vicariate gathered for a meeting with Vicar Bishop Denis Madden and Director of Clergy Personnel Msgr. Jay O'Connor at Immaculate Conception in Towson on Monday, March 8.

Deacon Kevin Reid graciously hosted the meeting, providing us with a fabulous pasta dinner. After some time for fellowship and with appetites satiated, the meeting began, as it should, with Bishop Madden leading us in Evening Prayer.

Bishop Madden first reminded us that this is the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Relief Services work in Rwanda, a country that has experienced the ravages of genocide. Bishop Madden praised the development forgiveness ministries that have developed to cope with that devastating memory.

The World Day for Consecrated Life was successfully celebrated at Calvert Hall College High School with some 200 attending. The Peace in the City Group is moving forward in its prayerful work dealing with and responding to violence in our city. Deacons are welcomed to participate.

Fr. Dick Lawrence gave a presentation on the proposal that was put in front of the Presbyteral Council dealing with the challenges ahead meeting the sacramental and

pastoral needs of parishes. This proposal was put together by a diverse committee of priests and was built on the premise that parish closings should be avoided and that parish collaboration in the sharing of resources should be the norm.

Several leadership models were presented, most having a priest shared among two or more parishes. Pastoral Life Directors and Pastoral Associates were a vital component of these models and Deacons could clearly play a key role here.

A proposal to fund a two-year formal training program for PLDs and PAs as a means to implement these models was discussed. Then Deacon John Langmead, PLD at St Rita's in Dundalk, shared his experience of the collaborative discussions that have occurred to date among parishes in Eastern Baltimore Country.

Deacon Charlie Hiebler, Pastoral Planner for Seton Vicariate, then shared his experience in the clustering process in Mountain Maryland. This has since been detailed in the *Catholic Review* but Deacon Charlie emphasized the challenge it was and that sensitivity and compassion need to be embraced in the process.

After a question and answer session, the meeting was closed in prayer and blessing. ❖

OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR DEACONS

The pastors of the following parishes have expressed an interest in having a deacon assigned. Their needs are many and varied. If you would like more information on any of these assignment opportunities, please contact Dcn. Kevin Reid at 443-570-0395 (cell) or email him at Kreid@archbalt.org.

- St. Anthony Shrine–Emmitsburg and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel –Thurmont
- St. Clement–Lansdowne
- Holy Family–Davidsonville
- St. Joseph's Church–Odenton
- Saint Margaret–Bel Air
- St. Pius X–Rodgers Forge
- Our Lady of the Chesapeake–Pasadena
- St. Augustine–Elkridge
- St. Cecilia & Immaculate Conception– Druid Hill/Baltimore
- St. Gregory the Great–Baltimore
- St. Joseph's Monastery Parish–Baltimore
- St. Mary's–Cumberland
- New All Saints–Baltimore
- Our Lady of Grace–Parkton
- Our Lady of Sorrows–West River
- St. Peter Claver–Baltimore
- Prince of Peace–Edgewood
- St. William of York - Baltimore
- Holy Trinity, Crucifixion and Good Shepherd – Glen Burnie

Special Dates to Remember

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

July 1, 1973
John Martin
Russell Matthews

July 4, 1982
Al Kosla

July 5, 1980
Robert Oliver

July 9, 1988
Leroy Moore

July 10, 1982
Charles Baynes
William DeAngelis

July 12, 1980
Francis O'Keefe

July 14, 1974
Willard Pinkney

July 18, 1981
Stanley Wise

August 4, 1974
Albert Chesnavage

August 7, 1976
Francis Werner

August 15, 1974
Patrick Goles

August 31, 1974
Eugene Miller

DEACON BIRTHDAYS

July
1st Thomas Cook
7th Philip Harcum
7th Ray Moreau
12th Bob Malinowski
13th Fred Mauser
13th James Sullivan
15th Robert Vlcej
22nd Joseph Krysiak
24th Alphonse Bankard
31st Willard Witherspoon

August

1st John Gramling
1st Hugh Mills
2nd Herman Wilkins
5th Frank Rongione
6th Timothy Maloney
6th John R. Martin
14th Daniel Roff
18th Thomas Yannuzzi
20th Charles Cook
22nd Carl Anderson
23rd Stephen Cooley
23rd Eugene Miller
25th Wardell Barksdale
27th William Jauquet
28th John Hawkins

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

John J. Codd Sr. August 4, 2004
Francis X. Moritz August 4, 2006
D. Vincent Provenza August 12, 2004
Vincent J. Perticone August 14, 2003
Richard Johe August 14, 2005
Chester J. Jakowski August 27, 2001
George F. LeFevre August 28, 2000

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

July

3rd Will & Lois Diane Witherspoon (35)
4th Robert & Lorraine Schott (54)
9th Robert & Betty Keeley (51)
15th Timothy & Meghan Maloney (11)
16th James & Joyce Mann (45)
16th Alex & Anita Rodriguez (29)
17th Frank & Mary Jean O'Keefe (40)
18th Lawrence & Carol Matheny (30)
18th James & Kathleen Sullivan (41)
22nd William & Linda Nairn (39)
27th Paul & Nancy Dignan (62)
27th Ralph & Connie Trautwein (48)
29th David & Anna Conley (53)
30th Lawrence & Harriet Teixeira (34)

August

1st James and Rose Clack (30)
4th Richard & Lee Anne Clemens (38)
6th Larry & Donna Wilson (39)
7th George & Diane Sisson (35)
13th Charles & Sheila Hicks (56)
14th Joseph & Connie Cinquino (35)
14th John & Carol Manley (46)
17th Thomas & Ellen Cook (37)
19th Paul & Helen Ciesla (44)
20th Nickolas & Lisa Pitocco (38)
20th J. Kenneth & Sue Ann Pivec (50)
22nd Anthony & Mary Jean Grillo (52)
25th Victor & Carol Petrosino (48)
27th Michael & Annette Baxter (33)
27th Clifford & M. Angela Britton (34)
27th Simon & Theresa Driesen (56)
29th Charles & Patricia Baynes (41)
29th Frederick & Chris Seibold (47)
31st Kevin & Monica Brown (32)

The Deacon's Call

Newsletter of the Baltimore Deacon Community

July–August 2011

Issues are published bimonthly, in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for articles is on the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Your comments and ideas for future newsletters are welcome. We need articles! Please consider writing a brief article on an aspect of your ministry or a review of a book you have read or a film you have seen. Please email comments to any member of the Communications Committee:

Mark Soloski, Chair

Lee Benson Angela Martin
Carol Matheny

SAVE THE DATE!

✠ ✠ ✠

CONVOCATION 2011

✠ ✠ ✠

Sept. 30 – Oct. 2, 2011

Bolger Center, Potomac, MD

Are you registered yet? Contact
Cindy Orr at the Catholic Center
if you need registration materials.

Can you help? Contact [Skip Comegna](#).

DEACON IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PHIL SENESCHAL

For some people retirement means lazy mornings, afternoon naps, and an occasional round of golf. None of this applies to Deacon Phil Seneschal. When I recently caught up with Phil — and I mean that literally — he told me over a cup of coffee that he was heading out of town on a Scout camping trip. This trip turned out to be just a small part of the wide variety of activities that enrich Phil's life.

After spending his high school and college years discerning the priesthood in a Franciscan seminary, Phil discerned he did not have a call to the priesthood and embarked on a long career with the Federal Government: 29 years with the Dept. of Defense followed by a few years with the Dept. of Justice working in Human Resource Management.

Raising a family of six children was work enough, but Phil also volunteered in several capacities at his local parishes as he was moved around with his job. Phil's parish responsibilities kept expanding since he is a person who is open to doing "a little more each time." Gradually he evolved into being an eighth grade catechist and agreed to be part of the confirmation preparation team. Phil continues to minister to the young people in his current parish.

In 2000 Phil began to discern a call to the diaconate, describing it as more of a "pull not a push." Supported throughout by his wife Jackie, he was ordained in May 2007, which opened up new opportunities to bring "the joy of the assembly" to a wide variety of people.

Assigned to St. Mary of the Assumption in Pylesville, Phil preaches at two weekday masses, one Sunday a month and performs Baptisms, funeral services and the occasional wedding. He also participates in the annual confirmation class retreat and high school faith forma-

tion program. Phil offers a weekly communion service at Hart Heritage Estates, a facility that offers a higher level of assistance for daily living and he handles communion calls for shut-ins. This may sound like enough for most deacons, but Phil does not stop here.



Before his ordination, Phil worked with the Boy Scouts in various ways. He continues to work with Scouting as an important youth ministry. Specifically, he helps with Scouts earn two Catholic religious medals, "Ad Altare Dei" and "Pope Pius XII." The *Ad Altare Dei* requires a significant commitment from the scout in witnessing the celebration of all seven sacraments. With the *Pope Pius XII* program older scouts study four different vocations (single, married, religious and or-

dained). His commitment to these programs makes a significant positive impact in the lives of these scouts.

Phil also builds scripture study into his ministry. He conducts a weekly Bible study at the Maryland Reception, Diagnostic and Classification Center (MRDCC) and assists at a bi-monthly Mass for the inmates. He participates in an ecumenical Bible study in Bel Air. With his Bible study companions he reaches out to some of the local homeless in Bel Air.

With their youngest son now in college, Phil and Jackie are discovering some new "quiet" time at home. Phil says he was "apprehensive at first" what this empty nest might be like. However, he and Jackie are adjusting quickly. Phil's life of service to others clearly reflects the call of all deacons to be ministers of service and charity. May God continue to bless Phil in his diaconate and may he and Jackie continue to enjoy many more years of happiness. ❖

Courses to be offered at the Pontifical College Josephinum

The following courses will be taught this fall. Registration is now open, and classes begin on Sept. 19, 2011. The fee is \$500 per course, and discounts are available for multiple enrollments. The 12-week courses are delivered via the Internet and each earns two graduate credit hours.

PA 990 DE: Introduction to Grief Counseling: Designed to explore the many facets of grief, this course allows participants to identify with those who grieve and to experience a methodology of counseling that is healing and helpful. It will be facilitated by Dcn. Bob McCormick, a hospital chaplain of the Diocese of Rochester, NY.

PA885DE Pastoral Care of Marriage and Family: This course prepares deacons to minister to married couples and families as they seek to become “domestic church.” Course materials are drawn from church

documents, current research, and practical pastoral experiences. The course will be facilitated by Dcn. Bill Urbine, D.Min, LMFT, of the Diocese of Allentown, PA.

PA951 DE: Good Practices in Parish Administration: This course provides priests, deacons and parish administrators with a comprehensive overview of civil, legal and financial issues that may be encountered in a parish setting. It was developed and reviewed by experienced attorneys, accountants, and pastors.

PA 868 DE: Pastoral Counseling for the Deacon: This course presents basic counseling theory, processes, and skill development, focusing on assessment, listening, and goal setting. It is specifically designed for deacons in pastoral settings who have come from other disciplines, and will help the deacon recognize some common issues and problems

that they are likely to encounter. It will also introduce deacons to a wide range of helpful resources relating to pastoral care and counseling.

PA967 DE: Prison Ministry for the Deacon: Designed for deacons interested in ministry to the incarcerated, this course was developed by deacons who work full-time in correctional facilities. It is facilitated by Dcn. Robert Werner, a full-time employee of the Federal Medical Corrections Center in Fort Devens, MA.

PA 651 DE: Principles of Catechesis: This course assists deacons to raise catechesis to the level of conscious thought. The facilitator for this session will be Father Patrick Manning, Dean of the School of Theology at Walsh University.

For more information or to register, go to dlreg.pcj.edu/newregq.php, or e-mail us at: deacons@pcj.edu. ❖

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

Contact: [Deacon Mike Flamini](#)
410-563-1783

The Amen Corner

Last Thursday of each month

Noon — An Poitin Stil Irish Pub

Contact: [Deacon Ken Pivec](#)
410-661-1469

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 Families of Central Maryland (includes wives)

Fourth Sunday (location changes)

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.