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**Believe what
you read,**

**Teach what
you believe,**

**Practice what
you teach.**

“Let's Get to Work, Together”

Archbishop O'Brien's Writes to the Deacons of the Archdiocese

Back in September at St. Louis Church, Clarksville, we celebrated Mass during which I received the candidacy for the newest class of candidates. A large number of deacons and candidates from each level of formation was on hand, many with spouses.

At the end of Mass I addressed all on hand, citing the challenges our parishes are facing and will be addressing in the years ahead:

- Our school consolidations have been completed and have reached a new phase, with an implementation report to reach me in early November.
- A review of each parish by our development office reveals that in addition to the cost of putting our school system on solid footing, our parishes have significant capital and program needs. This will require a major capital campaign over the period of the next five years.
- Our recent Priests Convocation heard startling numbers of ongoing priest reductions in the years to come. We must face the present reality of half-empty churches and regional duplications of liturgies and begin grassroots planning. “Priest burn-out” is no longer a theory, but a reality as we speak.

You have heard all this before and more recently have read my comments in our *Catholic Review*. We must proceed forward



Archbishop Edwin F.
O'Brien

on all of these three points and I see the role of our permanent deacons as crucial in doing so.

We have one of the best-formed diaconates in the nation: spiritually, theologically and pastorally. In addition, the vast variety of human gifts and professional talents which our deacons possess is a treasure we must better employ. From my observation, the utilization of deacons in our parishes and

other institutions is spotty at best, largely dependent upon local pastors or other supervisors.

I have asked Bishops Rozanski and Madden to discuss this in their meetings with their vicariate deacons. We want to hear how you think that you, as our deacons, might be more effectively utilized.

What specific talents, in fact, are out there and how can these match the developing needs of our communities and help advance the three projects noted above?

Those who have heard me speak know of my high regard and respect for the permanent diaconate, recently restored; more to the point, having met many of you and your families, I am convinced that a huge potential awaits us, with many riches for the faithful of Baltimore, by a closer look at our diaconate membership, and by offering you a challenge to greater service.

I know you are willing, able and eager. So let's get to work, together. ♦

The Road to the Diaconate: Reflection, Preparation

Sixteen Men Accepted into Aspirancy

by Rev. Patrick Carrion

“The Church receives your declaration with joy. May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment.”

These words were spoken by Archbishop O'Brien on Oct. 2 to the 16 men who petitioned to be candidates for Holy Orders. They had petitioned him weeks earlier with these words:

I, (baptismal name), a layman of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, do hereby petition that I be officially accepted as a candidate for the order of diaconate for service in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

I have considered this request very seriously. I know that there is much I must do to prepare myself spiritually, academically, and pastorally before I shall be qualified for the Call to Diaconate.

At this time I am earnest in requesting your acceptance as a candidate so that I might seriously pursue this Call. I am not doing so out of force or fear, and trust that God will give me the grace to fulfill His will in this matter.

These words succinctly describe what the men have been doing through Aspirancy and will continue to do through the three years of Candidacy. They “have considered this request very seriously” throughout the many sessions of the Aspirancy Period. They have reflected on the four pillars of formation—intellectual, pastoral, spiritual and human—and they have heard from deacons and their spouses about the ministry of the diaconate and its impact on their marriage.

As the petition above states, “there is much I must do to prepare myself spiritually, academically and pastorally” and the next three years of formation will give them the tools and confidence to be prepared for the Call to Orders. They will spend many hours in the classroom or at home reading books and writing papers as they pursue intellectual formation. They will have two one-year internships—in an institutional setting and in a parochial setting. Additionally, they will have a

spiritual director, spend time in private and communal prayer, and be on retreat with one another.

I ask that you keep these 16 men and their families in your prayers as they continue in this formation: William R. Fleming III, German E. Flores, Jose L. Gabin, Allen R. Greene, Sean P. Keller, George S. Krause, Kevin Kulesa, Mark S. Loepker, David J. Ludwikoski, James L. Mason, James M. Nuzzo, Vito S. Piazza, David A. Roling, Frank A. Sarro, Robert K. Smith, George C. Wunderlich.

For more information about the Deacon formation program please access the website:

<http://www.archbalt.org/clergy-religious/deacons/delete.cfm>.

Two information sessions have been scheduled this fall, one on Oct. 23, and a second on Nov. 9 at St. Joseph's in Hagerstown.

Rev. Patrick Carrion, pastor of the Catholic Community of South Baltimore, leads the Archdiocese Deacon Formation Team. He can be contacted at pcarrion@archbalt.org.

DEACON GIL HARTLIEB — REQUIÈSCAT IN PACEM

A funeral Mass was celebrated for Deacon Gil Hartlieb (class of 1986) at St. Stephen Church in Bradshaw on October 11, 2010. Fr. Lawrence Kolson, Gil's pastor, was the principal celebrant for the Mass, and Deacon Frank Laws, also assigned to St. Stephen's and a good friend of Gil's, presented the homily/eulogy in a very personal and meaningful manner. About 20 members of the deacon community were present at the funeral.

With 24 years of faithful diaconal service, Gil was a quiet, humble man who was totally dedicated to serving those in need in the Bradshaw area, right up to the last year or two of his life on this earth (Gil died at age 93). Gil's commitment to diaconal service is truly an inspiration to us all. ♦

NOTE

Please pray for the priests of the Archdiocese who will be attending a Day of Education on Nov. 9 on the spiritual and mental health of priests.

SAVE THESE DATES

Feb. 26, 2011

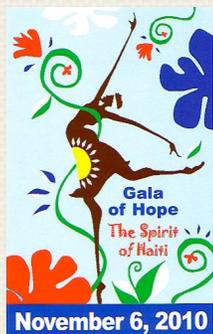
Deacon Wives Day of Reflection

April 1–5

2011 Deacon Retreat

GALA TO BENEFIT HAITI

by Deacon Rod Mortel



The 6th annual Gala of Hope to benefit Haiti will be held on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010, at the Hunt Valley Marriott in Hunt Valley, Md.

Tickets are \$85 per person. Jointly sponsored by the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Mortel Family Charitable Foundation, the event features a live auction as well as a silent auction, delicious foods, raffles, and dancing. The proceeds will help to feed and educate the thousands of students who migrated in our sister Diocese of Gonaives following the collapse of their schools in the January 12 earthquake.

Come for an evening of fun while supporting a noble cause. Information on obtaining tickets is available on the Archdiocese website at: <http://www.archbalt.org/our-faith/missions/outreach/haiti-gala.cfm>.



Archbishop O'Brien concelebrates Mass at the Deacon Day of Enrichment on October 2.



Deacons, deacon candidates, and wives prayerfully participate at Mass.

The Deacon's Call

Newsletter of the Baltimore Deacon Community

November–December 2010

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

Will Witherspoon

Dean Lopata

Jan Smith

Angela Martin

Lee Benson

From the Deacon Personnel Board DEACON DAY OF ENRICHMENT

By Deacon Skip Comegna

The 2010 Deacon Day of Enrichment was held on Oct. 2 at St. Louis Church in Clarksville. More than 100 deacons and wives attended this beautifully enriching day.

The 70 evaluations received were nearly unanimous in stating that the day was informative and a spiritually uplifting experience for the deacon community.

Archbishop O'Brien celebrated Mass in the morning, which included a Renewal of Commitment for all current deacons in attendance as well as a Rite of Candidacy for the new deacon Class of 2013. The Class of 2011 was also in attendance.

Dr. John Grabowski, associate professor of moral theology and ethics at Catholic University, delivered three presentations based on Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body," including the body in creation, the body in the fall, and the body in redemption.

Among the comments about the presentations on the evaluations were:

- Excellent speaker, easy to follow, important message.
- Excellent presentation; very thought provoking.
- He kept a large group awake and asking questions.
- This is the kind of first-class presenters/speakers we need more of; excellent choice.
- Wonderful presentation; for sure an area of need.
- Dr. Grabowski ... brought to light the need for these truths to be passed on to younger generations.
- Used terminology that is easy to understand.
- Clear method with Power Point was helpful. Good sense of humor; relaxed and knowledgeable on topic. You can tell he loves what he teaches and believes.
- Well done; excellent presentation.
- Nothing short of outstanding. Very clear and well paced. A beautiful presentation of a beautiful subject. Will use many insights in my marriage prep.

All in all, the liturgies, the sharing time, the camaraderie, the social and dinner provided the deacon community with many opportunities to grow together.

If you would like to receive a set of Microsoft PowerPoint slides of the presentations, email Skip Comegna at comegnajmj@verizon.net. ♦

Special Dates to Remember

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

November

1 st	J. Edward & Kay Bee (30 years)
3 rd	Daniel & Roberta Kopczyk (48 years)
3 rd	John & Pat Martin (47 years)
7 th	Douglas & Peggy Nathan (40 years)
12 th	Stanley & Mary Piet (61 years)
13 th	Gerald & Mary Theresa Roberts (27 years)
16 th	George & Rose Wachter (47 years)
18 th	Albert & Bernice Kosla (60 years)
23 rd	David & Dell Page (47 years)
25 th	J. Donald & Charlotte Murray (49 years)
27 th	Frank & Theresa Rongione (62 years)
28 th	Richard & Bertha Kunkel (64 years)
28 th	Edward & Francine Stoops (51 years)
28 th	Patrick & Chrystie Goles (46 years)
28 th	Skip & Janet Comegna (43 years)

December

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

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

November

4 th	Robert Keenan (38 years)
4 th	Daniel Stretmater (33 years)
18 th	Donald Latrick (20 years)
28 th	Alphonse Bankard (21 years)

December

8 th	Anthony Grillo (38 years)
8 th	Frederick Seibold (36 years)

DEACON BIRTHDAYS

November

2 nd	Richard Novak
2 nd	Mark Soloski
5 th	Paul Weber
8 th	John McKenna
8 th	David Page
16 th	Richard Bolgiano
16 th	Brandon Justice
17 th	Lee Benson
18 th	John Manley
25 th	Francis Werner

December

3 rd	Rodrigue Mortel
3 rd	Richard Montalto
4 th	Peter Calabrese
4 th	Robert Lynne
8 th	Harry O'Neill
11 th	Kevin Reid
12 th	Harbey Santiago
13 th	Stanley Wise
13 th	William Albaugh
14 th	Frank Hodges
16 th	John Coster
17 th	Richard Morris
19 th	Paul Dignan
21 st	David Conley
26 th	Charles McCandless
28 th	Theodore Gross
31 st	Todd Smith

NECROLOGY

Nov. 6, 2000

J. Faberty Casey

Nov. 17, 2004

Malcolm Thompson

Nov. 18, 2009

Verdan P. Wiedel

Nov. 24, 2001

James R. Kent

Dec. 23, 2008

Raymond C. Crawford

Dec. 24, 2001

William F. Grape

Dec. 29, 2000

Daniel Spytkowski

Dec. 30, 2004

Rafael R. Villagaray

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seton Vicariate Meetings

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 3 or
Tuesday, Nov. 30, at 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Louis, Clarksville or St.
Joseph, Hagerstown

Neumann Vicariate Meeting

Date: Monday, Nov. 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Place: Immaculate Conception

'Unbound' Conference

Date: Nov. 5, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. &
Nov. 6, 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Place: St. Agnes, Catonsville

Diaconate Information Session

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's, Hagerstown

Mark your calendars!

Corrections: The September–October 2010 issue of

The Deacon's Call should have included Kevin Brown, whose birthday is Sept. 23, and Harry O'Neill, whose ordination occurred on Oct. 1, 1985. It also mistakenly listed Paul Ciesla's ordination year as 1982; it was in 1983.

BOOKS OF NOTE

by Deacon Lee Benson

We all pray the *Our Father* so many times that we can say the words without contemplating their full meaning. We start by honoring and praising the Father and end with a series of petitions. The final one, “and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,” comes into clear focus in Neal Lozano’s *Unbound*, (Chosen Books, 2003).

At our Baptism “all sins are forgiven, original and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin” (CCC 1263). Yet the struggle with sin and evil affecting our lives does not end with Baptism. Rather, in a sense, our struggle is only beginning. And so we do pray the *Our Father* asking God to “deliver us from evil.”

What is this ‘evil’? “In this petition, evil is not an abstraction, but refers to a person, Satan, the Evil One, the angel who opposes God” (CCC 2851). At this point, images from *The Exorcist* come to mind, and we may become fearful at the thought of evil spirits. However, Neal Lozano wants to help us to stop focusing on evil.

“This book is not so much about evil spirits as it is about acknowledging the doors we have opened to their influence and learning how to close them,” he notes in *Unbound*’s Introduction.

Neal and Janet Lozano draw from their years of ministry to give insight into how evil can affect our lives. They provide a wealth of personal testimonies; readers will readily find one that speaks directly to them.

Unbound contains the stories of people raised in abusive families or by addictive parents, people who have experienced traumatic events as adults, and people with typical childhood experiences of feeling unloved or rejected. In this array of experiences, one common thread stands out: “The enemy brings us one damaging thought at a time. As a pattern of thinking is built based on the foundational lie, he finds a place to dwell and exerts greater influence on our emotions and will.”

Over time people begin to accept these lies (I’m worthless, I always make mistakes, God doesn’t love me) and no longer perceive them as lies. The *Unbound* model of prayer helps us recognize the truth and discard the lies about ourselves.

The *Unbound* model has five elements: repentance and faith, forgiveness, renunciation, command and blessing.

In several ways, the model follows the pattern of the *Our Father*. First, we repent of times we turned away from God, express our faith in Him, and thank Him for His presence in our life. Next, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in forgiving anyone who has harmed us.

In the next step, one renounces the lies that one has accepted knowingly or unknowingly. Once these lies are renounced, then the door to them needs to be closed. In the command step, one closes that door. We ask God to break any authority that the lies have in our lives. God

alone has this authority, but God allows us to participate in His authority through our faith.

Now, we allow God to renew His blessing in our life, strengthening in us the true identity He gave us at our Baptism and Confirmation. Freed from the lies that keep us from completely knowing this identity, the blessing reminds us that we are truly the sons and daughters of God.

On a personal note, when my wife Debra and I went through the five keys at an *Unbound* conference in 2009, we both experienced greater freedom in our lives. Recently we held a book study on *Unbound* using the DVD version of the conference talks, and several people who attended reported experiencing a fresh release of God’s freedom in their lives.

With Archbishop O’Brien’s approval, the *Unbound* conference is coming to St. Agnes in Catonsville on November 5th and 6th.

At the conference, the talks based on the book expand and amplify its contents. There will also be prayer teams available, trained in the *Unbound* model, to assist anyone who wants to go through the five keys in prayer. We encourage anyone who desires to experience greater freedom in Christ to read the book and attend the conference. For any questions please contact me at labdon70@gmail.com.

Deacon Lee Benson ministers at St. Ignatius, Hickory.

Archdiocese of Baltimore Culture of Life Medal Awarded

Deacon Richard ‘Monti’ Montalto Receives Double Honors for Years of Service to Life

by Deacon Skip Comegna

Deacon Richard ‘Monti’ Montalto was doubly honored in October for his years of service to protecting innocent human life, receiving prestigious awards from both the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns.

Archbishop Edwin O’Brien conferred the Archdiocese of Baltimore *Culture of Life Medal* on Deacon Monti at the Respect Life Mass at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen on Sunday, October 24, 2010.

The Culture of Life Medal is awarded to those members of the Catholic community in the Archdiocese who have contributed significantly to the defense of the truth about the dignity of every human person from conception to natural death.

Deacon Monti has tirelessly worked for the sanctity of life in the Archdiocese of Baltimore for many years. He serves on the Respect Life Committee of the Archdiocese and has been active in the Respect for Life department of the Maryland Catholic Conference. He served for many years in leadership positions in the Gabriel Network, a Maryland-based crisis pregnancy ministry,

and remains an active contributor to their ministries. In addition, he has conducted training seminars for pro-life candidates for public office.

Earlier in the Month, Deacon Monti was presented with the prestigious “Pro-Life Advocate Award” by the Center for Pregnancy Concerns (CPC) at its 30th Anniversary Gala on Oct. 7, 2010.

He currently serves on the Board of the CPC, an ecumenical crisis pregnancy center with three locations in the Metro-Baltimore area, including at St. Rita’s and St. Brigid’s parishes. The Baltimore CPC provides counseling, information, medical, and material help to more than 1,000 women in difficult or crisis pregnancy situations each year.

Archbishop O’Brien is a supporter of the CPC and was the recipient of its Pro-Life Advocate Award in 2009.

Congratulations, Monti, for these awards, but more importantly for your many years of passionate dedication to pro-life ministries. ♦

The Deacon Communications Committee is pleased to welcome Lee Benson, who will help update the deacon pages on the Archdiocesan web site and facilitate communication within the deacon community. Thanks, Lee, for saying ‘yes’ to the call!

COMMITTEES

Deacon Personnel Board

Chair: [Fred Mauwer](#)

Policy Committee

Chair: [Frank Zeiler](#)

Communications Committee

Chair: [Mark Soloski](#)

Ongoing Formation Committee

Chair: [Skip Comegna](#)

Placement Committee

Chair: [Kevin Reid](#)

Are you are interested in serving on a committee? 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

8:15 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](#)
443-255-0270

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.