

THE MUSTARD SEED

Volume 4
No. 2

*Newsletter for the Diaconal
Community of the
Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach*

2011 Summer Education

Special Education Edition

Dear Brothers,

This is a special Education Edition of the Mustard Seed to alert you to continuing education opportunities in order that you might consider them in time for enrollment this fall.

We will have another, regular edition, shortly after the Permanent Diaconate Ordination this September 17th.

Online Course at the Society of St. Benedict

The Formation Office has entered into an arrangement with the *Society of St. Benedict* to offer online courses for the continuing formation of deacons. This arrangement will offer economical courses, currently with a tuition of \$325.00 per course for permanent deacons, their wives, or widows. The courses are intended to satisfy educational requirements shown in the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*.

The course being offered is **Introduction to Ecumenism**. This course is to fulfill an ecumenical dimension shown in the *National Directory*, but not provided during our formation.

The course will be given in twelve weeks, beginning the week of August 22nd, and ending November 11th. The course will be structured with a chapter to be read each week and related questions to be answered on the related page. A two page paper at the end will serve as the final exam. This course will be taught by Deacon Dennis Demes, Ph.D.

To register, please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and send it in with a check for tuition. If we need to pay for the course ourselves, arrangements can be worked out with Lynn Powell in the Diocesan Office. If you have any questions, please call or email Lynn.

A Reminder . . .

Let's keep the prayer line open by contacting Mrs. Lynn Powell at the office via email at diaconateoffice@diocesepb.org or with a telephone call, 561-775-9540, regarding anything that needs our attention. If you have moved, have a new telephone number, or have a new email address, please also call.

Distance Learning for the Diaconate at the Pontifical College Josephinum:

Through the Josephinum distance learning courses, deacons can gain knowledge with a practical pastoral focus and learn from experienced deacon-facilitators with both academic credentials and real-world experience. All learning outcomes are linked to the applicable standards contained in Appendix I of the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*.

All courses are twelve weeks, two graduate credit hours (48 class hours) and are delivered over the Internet. The twelve week trimester begins September 19, 2011 and concludes on December 9, 2011. Tuition is \$420 per course before 8/16, \$445 before 9/1, \$500 thereafter.

For more information or to register, visit the the [Josephinum Distance Learning web site](#), call 1-877-933-266 (toll free), or email deacons@pcj.edu.

Courses available this fall are:

PA 990 DE: Introduction to Grief Counseling: This course is designed to allow the participant to explore the many facets of a person who is grieving the loss of someone close to them. Completion of this course will allow the participant to identify with those who bereave and allow the participant to experience a methodology of counseling that will be healing and helpful to the bereaved. The deacon will explore the attitude that we have toward death; define what grief and bereavement mean; identify factors that influence different reactions to grief; examine different bereavement scenarios; identify memorial and funeral services used to heal the bereaved and bring closure; consider cultural differences among various religions; explore the healing process through counseling; learn how to develop a good grief group; and list professional organizations and helpful resources for the bereaved and those who help them. He also will be assigned the role of acting as a counselor to another participant who will play the role of a bereaved person, thereby allowing the participants to gain practical insight into the theoretical basis of the course. Participants will be required to give a weekly report on the progress of their assigned counselee, and each counselee will give a weekly report on the work of their assigned counselor. This class will be facilitated by Deacon Bob McCormick, a retired educator and deacon of long service as a hospital chaplain of the Diocese of Rochester, NY.

PA883DE: Pastoral Care of Marriage and Family: This course is based on the mandate given by John Paul II in *Familiaris Consortio*, "No plan for organized pastoral work at any level must ever fail to take into consideration the pastoral area of the family" Since parish families should be the first communities of evangelization and families often experience crises, Deacons must be sensitive to the need for a proper pastoral response. This course focuses on the pastoral aspects of ministry with families, and significant attention will also be given to marriage preparation in the parish. A vision for

pastoral care of families will be developed by focusing on:

- Church teaching,
 - The dignity of marriage,
 - The marital embrace, and
 - The family

This course will emphasize the critical importance of ministering to married couples and families as they seek to become “domestic church.” Materials used in this course will be drawn from church documents, current research, and practical pastoral experiences in order to help Deacons adequately respond to the issues faced by today’s families. We are fortunate to have Deacon Bill Urbine, D.Min, LMFT, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Deacon of the Diocese of Allentown, PA as our facilitator for this course.

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 which may be encountered in a parish setting. It also provides a structured overview of various scenarios likely to be present in a parochial setting, and does so in both the context of civil and canon law. Topics addressed include: overview of civil law, contracts, negligence and premise liability; land use and zoning, employment law, worker’s compensation and unemployment compensation; civil law regarding marriages and families, festivals, bingo and games of chance; casinos, game-nights and liquor liability, tax exempt status, confidentiality and privileged communication; protection of children, and financial management. This course has been developed and reviewed by experienced attorneys, accountants, and pastors. Ohio state laws are used with a very broad general brush that is applicable to most situations.

PA 868 DE: Pastoral Counseling for the Deacon: This course presents basic counseling theory, processes and skill development, focused on assessment, listening, and goal setting. This course briefly outlines various emotional/mental disorders which may assist the non-professional counselor to make appropriate assessment and professional referral. This course is specifically designed for those deacons in pastoral settings who have come from other disciplines, and aims to introduce students to a variety of tools, strategies, and methodologies. Special emphasis will be placed upon helping the deacon recognize some common issues and problems which they are likely to encounter. Personal counseling styles will be addressed as a means of enabling each participant to understand his or her own strengths and weaknesses in a pastoral care setting. This course will permit the deacon to identify the critical differences between pastoral care and professional counseling, particularly as it relates to the nature and limits of the pastoral counseling task. This course will also assist the deacon to understand the elements of the counseling process and gain experience of elementary counseling interventions through practice and role-play, and to help learners to understand their own personal style of relating and its influence on the counseling process. This course will also introduce deacons to a wide range of helpful resources relating to pastoral care and counseling.

PA967 DE: Prison Ministry for the Deacon: This course is specifically designed for those deacons involved or with interest in ministry to the incarcerated. It has been developed by a cadre of deacons, each of whom is a full time employee of a correctional facility, as well as an experienced chaplain. It addresses issues which are specific to local, state or federal correctional facility.

It will enable a deacon to:

- Employ appropriate programs and demeanor as a volunteer or contract chaplain within a correctional setting.
- Identify basic correctional procedures within Federal, State, and Local penal institutions.
- Examine and differentiate inmate mentality.
- Differentiate the role of a Catholic chaplain from an institutional chaplain.
- Provide effective Catholic services - liturgical and educational.
- Discuss the limits of confidentiality within counseling and basic religious counseling method.

Deacon Robert Werner, a full-time employee of the Bureau of Prisons at the Federal Medical Corrections Center in Fort Devens, MA, will return to facilitate this popular and most useful course.

PA 631 DE: Principles of Catechesis: As person of faith and a deacon, you continually catechize all of those around you. This course assists both new and experienced deacons to raise this catechesis to the conscious, thoughtful level. Our focus for this twelve-week course will be the realization that the authentic and on-going growth in knowledge and faith for all of those entrusted to the catechetical care of the Church is paramount. This course looks at how to both form and inform God's faithful in the Catholic faith – engaging both the head and the heart. We explore the balance struck toward this goal over the history of Christianity. The readings, forums, and deliverables are particularly designed to allow deacons to find that balance for themselves and for their ministry. Course outcomes include:

- Familiarizing and enabling deacons to understand and use the long and rich history of catechesis in the Church to ensure effective catechetical ministry in a modern setting.
- Differentiating various means and tools of catechesis.
- Discussing the most recent ecclesiastical pronouncements and resources of the Church regarding catechesis.
- Explaining catechesis and the catechism of the Catholic Church more effectively to the faithful, using the images and religiosity of widely disparate faith traditions while remaining faithful and supporting the magisterium.

The facilitator for this session will be Father Patrick Manning, Dean of the School of Theology at Walsh University.

Please fill out the form below and return it to:
Lynn Powell
Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation
Diocese of Palm Beach
9995 North Military Trail
P.O. Box 109650
Palm Beach Gardens, FL. 33410-9650

The Society of St. Benedict



An International Benedictine Educational Fraternity of the Order of St. Benedict

Course Registration Form

(Please PRINT)

Course Name and/ or Number DFTH01 OR *Introduction to Ecumenism*

Student Name _____

(Arch)Diocese or Religious Community: Diocese of Palm Beach/Permanent Deacon Program

Semester (Fall-Spring-Summer): Fall Year _____

Cost: \$325.00 (non-credited/audited)

Signature _____

Course Number Designations

Each course is designated by a Subject Code and a six-digit number. The Subject Code represents the teaching unit offering the course (e.g., DFTH-xxx Diaconal Formation Theology). The middle three numbers identify the level of the course as follows:

xxx 001 - xxx 099 = no degree credit/audited course. "R" designated "required" in formation/post-formation
"E" designates "elective"

xxx 100 - xxx 499 = undergraduate courses

xxx 500 - xxx 599 = graduate courses to which undergraduate students may be admitted

xxx 600 - xxx 799 = graduate courses to which undergraduate students usually are not admitted

The last three digits (if applicable) are the section number.

A transcript will be sent to the participating (Arch) Diocese or Religious Community. All checks payable to the **Society of St. Benedict**