

THE MUSTARD SEED

Volume 3
No. 3

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

Second Quarter
2010 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 11th.

Funding of Education for Permanent Deacons

Article XXIV of the **Policies and Procedures Relating to the Permanent Diaconate**, promulgated by Bishop Barbarito on March 15, 2007, provides that annual funding be provided for our on-going formation.

Currently our allotment is \$1000 per year. We should ask our pastor if funds are available from our parish for any of the following courses we wish to take.

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 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 first course to be 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 sixteen weeks, beginning the week of August 22nd, and ending early in December, with Thanksgiving week off. The course will be structured with a chapter to be read each week and related questions to be answered on a blog spot. A two page paper at the end will serve as the final exam. The course, which will be taught by Deacon Dennis Demes, Ph.D., can be taken in less than the sixteen weeks if desired.

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 our self, arrangements can be worked out with Mrs. Lynn Powell in the Diocesan Office. If you have any questions, please call or email Mrs. Powell.

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*.

Courses available this fall are:

CL612 DE: Canon Law for Deacons

This course has been especially designed for deacons and provides an in-depth analysis of those specific canons with which Deacons may become involved. This twelve module course is divided into four broad themes: An overview of this history, purpose, operation, and interaction with the Code of Canon Law; in depth discussion and analysis of those Canons which are operative in pastoral (parish) settings; Canons relating to the sacramental life of the Church, and those Canons which relate to marriage, including those of interest to those involved in Tribunal work. This course has been designed and will be facilitated by Monsignor Michael Osborn, JCD, of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, MI.

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.

MO 841 DE Medical and Health Care Morality for the Diaconate

This course will present fundamental Church principles relating to health care morality and medical ethics that will provide you with confidence as you are called upon during these discussions. This course studies the theology of the human body, personhood, and human dignity in protecting life from beginning to end and in treating illness. This course will be of particular interest to deacons involved in hospital, nursing home, ministry to the aging, or other similar settings, and to those deacons who have completed our course in Hospital Ministry and who desire an in-depth examination of Catholic moral principals on this topic. Deacon Pete Gummere, a deacon of the Diocese of Burlington, VE will return to facilitate this course during the upcoming term.

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 class will be facilitated by Deacon Bob McCormick, a

retired educator and deacon of long service in the Diocese of Rochester, NY.

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.

SP 611 DE **The Spirituality of the Deacon**

With particular emphasis on the formation and ministry of permanent deacons in the United States, this course correlates the sources, principles and practices of sound spirituality with the fundamental truths of Catholic faith, with the reality of human nature as redeemed and graced, and with practical aspects of spirituality in diaconal ministry. It highlights development of sound spirituality in the context of the Church and emphasizes the need for, and spiritual benefits of, ongoing integration of spiritual reading, personal prayer, private devotion, liturgical worship, and pastoral practice throughout a deacon's ministry to the faithful. We are fortunate again to have Monsignor Christopher Schreck, PhD, STD, of the Diocese of Savannah, GA as our facilitator for the fall 2010 term.

More Information and Registration

All of the courses this fall are 2 credit hours; the tuition charge is \$250 per credit hour or \$500 per course. For more information on the current courses or to register visit the [Course Descriptions](http://www.pcj.edu/distance/courses.html) web page, <http://www.pcj.edu/distance/courses.html> , or call 1-877-933-2266 (toll free).

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. Also, if you have moved, have a new telephone number, or have a new email address, please also call.

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 DFTH010R *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**