

THE MUSTARD SEED

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

Third Quarter
2011 Fall

Our New Deacons



Above: From left to right are Deacons Martin Serraes our Episcopal Delegate, James Parrilli, Gerard Palermo, Lester Loh, Charles Weir, Dennis Demes our Director of Formation, Jose Antonio Mares, Keith (Rusty) Skinner, and Wayne Creelman, standing with Bishop Gerald Barbarito.

Photo courtesy of Alicia Donelan ©2011

On Saturday, September 17th, seven new permanent deacons were ordained by Bishop Gerald Barbarito at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola to serve in the Diocese of Palm Beach. Our new brothers are:

Deacon Wayne Creelman of Holy Cross parish in Vero Beach has been married to his wife, Maggie, for 35 years. They have two sons; Chad, who is 32, married, and living in Nevada; and Evan, who is 30, single, and living in California. Wayne is a physician, a psychiatrist, with the University of Florida and is the Medical Director of the *McCabe Center for Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine* in Vero Beach. Wayne will minister in the diocesan Marriage Tribunal as an expert in psychiatric issues, as well as his ministry at Holy Cross.

Deacon Lester Loh of St. Jude parish in Tequesta, has been married to his wife, Cathy, for 29 years. Cathy and Les moved to Florida from Connecticut 11 years ago. They have two children; a son, Jordan who is 24, and a daughter, Maddy who is 17. Les works in Marketing at Skinner Dental Laboratory, owned by the family of Deacon Rusty Skinner, during the day. His diocesan ministry will be in the Respect Life Office, in addition to his ministry at St. Jude.

Deacon Jose Antonio Mares of Our Lady Queen of Peace parish in Delray Beach has been married to his wife, Mary, for 21 years. They have one child, a daughter, Jesina who is 29. Mary has always lived in Florida; Antonio moved here from Mexico 25 years ago. Antonio works in building maintenance during the day. He will minister in the local prisons in addition to his ministry at Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Deacon Gerard Palermo of St. Thomas More parish in Boynton Beach has been married to his wife, Mary, for 33 years. They have one daughter, Kellie, who is 21 and is a senior at FSU. They all came to Florida from Long Island, New York in 1997. Gerard is a technical project manager during the day. He will minister in the diocesan Marriage & Family Life office as well as at St. Thomas More.

Deacon James Parrilli of St. Christopher parish in Hobe Sound, has been married to his wife, June, for 24 years. June and James were married in the Chicago area in August, 1987 and came to Florida six months later. They have three daughters, Natalie who is 14; Colette, 13; and Margot, 11. James will minister in the Diaconate Vocations Office as well as at St. Christopher. He is part of a very active ministry, which holds a Eucharist service at a nursing home in the parish every Saturday, with 35 people attending. James works professionally, selling property and casualty insurance.

Deacon Keith (Rusty) Skinner of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in Delray Beach, has been married to his wife, Wanda, for 30 years. Rusty and Wanda have lived in Florida since their childhood days. They have three daughters; Wendy who is 18, Amy who is 16, and Cindy who is 14. Rusty operates his family's business, Skinner Dental Laboratory, in Delray Beach. He will minister in the diocesan Office of Serving Children, in addition to his ministry at St. Vincent Ferrer.

Deacon Charles Weir of St. Helen Parish in Vero Beach has been married to his wife, Janice, for 38 years. They have two children; a son Charlie, who is 35 and lives in St. Louis, where Janice and Charles lived for many years. They also have a daughter, Jessie, who is 23 and attending the University of Florida as a grad student, pursuing a master's degree in Equine Nutrition. Jessie came to Florida with Charles and Janice in the year 2000. Charles works as a Trust Administrator during the day. As a deacon, he will minister in the prisons as well as his ministry at St. Helen, where he has a Hospital Ministry in addition to his normal parish ministry.

Our Annual Retreat – Confirmation needed by October 10th

Just as a reminder, the Annual Retreat for Permanent Deacons and wives will be held on October 21st – 23rd at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center. Rev. Richard B. William O.P. will be our Retreat Master.

If you are planning to attend, please e-mail your confirmation to lpowell@diocesepb.org or call the office at (561) 775-9540, no later than Monday, October 10th. If you will be commuting, please call or e-mail.

About Our People

Deacon George Collins and **Mrs. Cecelia Reed**, mother of Ms. Charleene Reed, passed away since our April newsletter. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Please keep our sick brothers and sisters in your prayers; that they may be strengthened by the power of our Lord's Holy Spirit.



Mrs. Linda Barbaro, wife of Deacon Sam
Mrs. Maureen Pope, wife of Deacon Bob
Deacon Norbert (Klem) Klimaszewski
Mrs. Ana Delgado, wife of Deacon Alberto
Mrs. Betty Wesley, wife of Deacon Al
Rev. William O'Shea, pastor of St. Clare Church
Mrs. Joanne Lizardi, wife of Deacon Mark
Deacon Ed Fisher
Colleen Gluhosky, daughter in law of Deacon Frank
Deacon Terry Mancuso and his wife Georgia
Deacon Miguel Munoz
Deacon William Cresswell

Deacon Richard Dingee is well into recovery and has returned to his ministry at Holy Family parish and the local hospital, where he also ministers.

Deacon Bill Jacobs and Toni have moved to the Diocese of Knoxville where they have joined Holy Family parish. Bill is one of two deacons serving in his new parish. Bill's leadership and the presence of Toni and Bill will be greatly missed here in Palm Beach.

Congratulations

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate those deacons whose quinquennial ordination anniversary takes place during the second half of this year. We thank them for their work and ask God to bless them, their ministries, their wives and their families.

<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>	<u>Date Ordained</u>	<u>Parish</u>
Donald Battiston	35 years	December 6 th	Saint Peter
Charles Whalen	20 years	July 28 th	Our Mother of Sorrows Tucson, Arizona
William Cresswell	15 years	December 14 th	Saint Thomas More
Woodworth Draughon	15 years	December 14 th	Our Lady Queen of Peace
John Breitfelder	10 years	November 17 th	Saint Bernadette
Silvio Menendez	10 years	September 8 th	Saint Thomas More
John Beaudoin	5 years	September 6 th	Cathedral of Saint Ignatius Loyola
Luis Castellanos	5 years	September 6 th	Our Lady Queen of the Apostles
Byron Champagne	5 years	September 6 th	Saint Peter
Paul Gaucher	5 years	September 6 th	St. Patrick Mount Dora, Florida
Robert Golden	5 years	September 6 th	Holy Family
Steven Guess	5 years	September 6 th	Saint Sebastian
Lee Levenson	5 years	September 6 th	Saint Vincent Ferrer
Richard Moser	5 years	September 6 th	Saint Lucie
Nick Nowak	5 years	September 6 th	Saint Vincent Ferrer
Joe Pollock	5 years	September 6 th	Saint Peter
Bruce Turnbull	5 years	September 6 th	Saint Vincent Ferrer
Jaime Zapata	5 years	September 6 th	Cathedral of Saint Ignatius Loyola

Ask Father Glen

“Deacon ... can you bless me?” A cautionary tale for those in diaconal ministry

When I was in seminary, the house spiritual director told us a story about a visit to a hospital. He visited a room that had two beds. To the woman in the first bed, he followed the ritual for the pastoral care of the sick, anointed her, gave her Holy Communion, and gave her a blessing at the end. He proceeded to the door and, in his pastoral solicitude, asked the other patient if she was Catholic and wanted to be anointed or receive Holy Communion. She said “No,” so he said that he would give her a blessing instead, and proceeded to do so. She started yelling at him, “How dare you throw around blessings. You have no right to bless someone who does not want a blessing!”

Blessings are a part of the Church’s tradition, and certainly date back to the time of creation. In Gn 1, 28, God blessed male and female and told them to be fruitful and multiply. The blessing of Moses and Aaron is example of how God wished future generations to be blessed (cf. Nm 6, 23-26). In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus blessed the children (Mt 19, 13-15); and then, in his final act, Jesus commissioned the apostles to act in his name and with authority (“Full authority has been given to me, both in heaven and on earth. Go, make disciples of all the nations ...”). It is from this command that the Church was entrusted with the power to bless.

As in the story above, blessings are sacramentals, and, as such, are regulated by the Church. Those in ordained ministry, such a clerics who are acting in the name of the Church, may impart blessings in certain instances. While deacons are clerics in the first grade of holy orders, it does not follow that because they are clerics they may impart blessings in the same manner as those in priestly or episcopal orders. Indeed, diaconal blessings are very much circumscribed, both in canon law and in the ritual books.

Upon ordination, deacons have the universal faculty to bless on certain occasions. Notably, deacons are able to: a) preside at benediction and give the blessing reserved Eucharist (c. 943); b) celebrate minor exorcisms and blessings of catechumens (cf. *RCIA* 91, 96; *OCIA* 109, 119); c) give the blessings of the rites at which the deacon presides (i.e., the concluding blessing of the *Liturgy of the Hours* or at the end of funeral services); d) preside at penitential celebrations when the sacrament of penance is not celebrated (cf. *RP* 36-37); e) celebrate the rites for visits to the sick and the prayers on the occasion of death (cf. *OUI* 138, 151; *PCS* 212, 221); f) preside (when a priest is unavailable) at funeral rites – the vigil, funeral liturgy outside Mass, and committal (cf. *OE* 19; *OCF* 14); g) celebrate or impart other sacramentals in accord with the law (cc. 1168; 1169, §3); and h) preside at other blessings in accord with the *Book of Blessings* (cf. *DB/BB* 18c).

It is precisely the last two points (g and h) that may need further explanation. The deacon's ability to impart a blessing is limited to those that are found in the rituals (such as the blessing of rings at a wedding, exorcism at baptism, blessing at benediction, or final blessings in a service, among others). As a cleric, the deacon can be the minister of sacramentals provided he has been given the necessary power (of which other sacramentals may be expressly mentioned in the *pagella* of faculties from the diocesan bishop) to act in accordance with the liturgical books (c. 1168). In each of the liturgical books, the *praenotanda* (preface) identifies which ministers may lead a particular celebration, and what that minister may do. In general, you may NOT impart personal blessings (hence the title of this article), unless directed otherwise in the rubrics.

Deacons should also note that there is an abbreviated book of blessings called the *Shorter Book of Blessings*. Although there are fewer blessings presented, the ritual remains intact, and the *praenotanda* and rubrics describe what you may and may not do.

A good rule of thumb might be: if the *Book of Blessings* or rubrics or the *praenotanda* allow deacons to impart a blessing to the faithful, or to an object, or on a particular occasion, then it is appropriate to do so. If any of these does not permit (or in fact prohibits), deacons should be careful as they may be acting beyond their purview.

Father Glen J. Pothier, DTh, JCL, is Adjutant Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Palm Beach.

Abbreviations:

RCIA, OCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Order of ...

RP: Rite of Penance

OUI: Ordine Unctione Infirmorum [Anointing of the Sick]

PCS: Pastoral Care of the Sick

OE: Ordo Exequias

OCF: Order of Christian Funerals

DB/BB: Book of Blessings

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.