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Believe what you read,

Teach what you believe,

Practice what you teach.

INTRODUCTION TO THIS ISSUE OF THE DEACON'S CALL

We rejoice that we are able to publish some great articles from the deacon community. Thanks to all who contributed! We are especially grateful for Francis Zeiler's hard work on behalf of the preborn. We thank Archbishop Lori for speaking to us at the convocation and for his support of the deacon community. Thanks also to Angie Martin for her hard work formatting The Deacon's Call. We can use some help though. We need someone who uses a Mac computer to help lay out future issues, especially the anniversary and birthday information. Please contact me at labdon70@gmail.com if you can help.

The topic for next issue will be Pope Francis's exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium. Please consider writing a personal reflection on the exhortation. We also welcome articles on evangelization efforts at your parish.

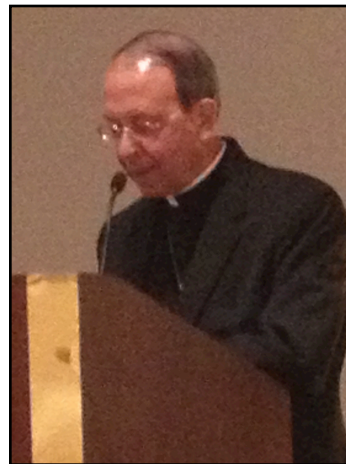
May God bless all your service in the coming year. Peace and many blessings,

— Lee Benson

2013 Deacon Convocation at the Bolger Center Archbishop Lori's Homily

Dear brother Deacons and friends in Christ, the Archdiocese of Baltimore, in which we are all privileged to serve, is distinguished for many reasons. But perhaps the most distinguishing reason of all is that saints have come from this local Church: our brothers and sisters in the Faith who have "fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith." These are the ones who served here so heroically, so generously, and so sacrificially, that their virtue has been recognized by the Church and who are now held up before the whole Church as models of holiness.

I think of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Saint John



Neumann. I think of the Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, whose cause for Beatification is currently proceeding in Rome. And today, on what in some parts of the world is his feast day, I think of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, who died 146 years ago yesterday, and who served as Pas-

tor of Saint Alphonsus Church in Baltimore in the mid-1850s.

So even though we celebrate today a Votive Mass of Our Lady on Saturday, for just a moment, let's let Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a local hero of the Church in Baltimore and the Church Universal, speak to us of our vocation of service.

Strengthened by the Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Rite of Ordination of Deacons outlines your ministry in clear terms. It says: "Strengthened by the Gift of the Holy Spirit, [Deacons] help the Bishop and his priests in the ministry of the

See Archbishop, page 2

ARCHBISHOP LORI'S REFLECTIONS AT THE 2013 DEACON CONVOCATION

Archbishop ... cont'd. from page 1

word, of the altar, and of charity; showing themselves to be servants to all. As ministers of the altar, they proclaim the Gospel, prepare the sacrifice, and distribute the Lord's Body and Blood to the faithful. Furthermore," the Rite continues, "it is their duty, at the Bishop's discretion, to exhort believers and unbelievers alike and to instruct them in holy doctrine. They preside over public prayer, administer Baptism, assist at and bless Marriages, bring Viaticum to the dying, and conduct funeral rites."

This, my brothers, is a tall order, especially since

your diaconal ministry in the Church is usually carried out alongside the vocation to Marriage and Family Life, while at the same time you hold down a full-time secular job.

So back to Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. When he was Pastor of St. Alphonsus, he too was consumed with pastoral responsibilities both within the parish, and with the Redemptorist novices, who looked to him as a father, and whom he thought of as sons. Oftentimes, he was nearly overwhelmed with the seemingly limitless duties for which he was responsible, yet he was known above all for his smile, for his kindness, and for the peace that radiated from within him.

For this reason, it is said that when he sat in his confessional (which is still there today) the lines of penitents, on more than a few occasions, stretched around the inside of the

church, and even around part of the outside of the church!

The Pastoral Wisdom of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

His biographer, Redemptorist Father Michael Curley (no relation, as far as I know, to the Archbishop) records that Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos spoke extensively about perseverance in the face of trials, and of that supernatural pastoral energy which comes about only through a

"We are so tender toward ourselves, until God finally takes a direct hand in our affairs and does violence to us. In this way He takes complete possession of our hearts, and opens them to the influence of His Divine Grace."

life of deep, sustained prayer. He speaks of the Crosses that come to all of us in our respective ministries as the very means by which we can progress towards holiness.

This is particularly instructive for us today.

On one occasion, in words which will no doubt resonate with all of us, he said: "We are so tender toward ourselves, until God finally takes a direct hand in our affairs and does violence to us. In this way He takes complete possession of our hearts, and opens them to the influence of His Divine Grace." And with timeless pastoral wisdom, he exhorts any who would follow Christ in ordained ministry to "be faithful, and give a deaf ear to the whisperings of the evil one. Dismiss him at once with a strong determination of the will."

This certainly is food for thought

and prayer for anyone who carries out a ministry in service to the Gospel in the midst of a very busy life and in a culture which is increasingly unfriendly.

With Heartfelt Thanks

Finally, dear brothers, allow me to thank you most warmly for the dedicated service which you carry out in this local Church: a service of the Word, of the Altar, and of Charity, in service to the Lord Jesus, and in service to His holy people.

As you proclaim the Holy Gospel and preach on it, and as you stand at the altar and "prepare the sacrifice" week by week, year by year, I ask you to remember that the words of Christ in today's Gospel apply to you: "Many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

And in giving thanks for our share in this ministry, pray for me, and be assured of my prayers too, for each of you, especially at the Altar of the Lord.

May God bless us and keep us always in his love! ❖

The Deacon's Call

Newsletter of the Baltimore Deacon Community

October – December 2013

Issues are published quarterly, in normally March, May, August, 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:

Lee Benson, Chair

Cliff Britton

Harbey Santiago

Angela Martin

REFLECTIONS ON THE CULTURE OF LIFE

By Deacon Frank Zeiler

Archbishop William Lori presented the Culture of Life Medal to Deacon Frank Zeiler at the annual Respect Life Mass held at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen on Oct. 6, 2013. This medal is awarded to those members of the Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Baltimore who have contributed significantly to the defense of the truth about the dignity of every human person from conception to natural death. For this issue, Dcn. Zeiler was asked to share some reflections about his involvement in pro-life ministry.

My ministry in the defense of human life began 13 years ago when I responded to Fr. Blair Raum's invitation for clergy to join him in the Project Rachel work he started.

Following Fr. Raum's passing, I continued with the ministry, which was reorganized under Denise Douglas' leadership and later renamed Rachel's Vineyard–Baltimore. Rachel's Vineyard, the world's largest ministry for healing after abortion, serves many Catholic dioceses worldwide.

It has been a rewarding experience to work with the ministry team as the Clergy Liaison. This position has afforded me the opportunity to help priests and deacons develop a deeper understanding of how abortion affects women, men, and their families. Such knowledge enables clergy to minister more effectively to this unique group of people.

Other ministry team members and I give presentations at area seminaries, high schools, colleges, health fairs, and parish respect life groups to increase their understanding of life-related issues.

However, the most significant part of my ministry continues to be serving as part of a team on Rachel's Vineyard healing retreat weekends, which are offered four



times each year for women and men. It is here that we help them find our Lord's healing from their years of emotional and physical suffering so they can move forward with healthier lives.

When you consider that by age 45, at least 43 percent of all women have had at least one abortion, we all have a responsibility to facilitate such healing. Our compassionate Lord offers forgiveness and healing, but many people are not aware of this and that the Church is the bridge to make it happen. Perhaps they are not aware because we have

failed in our responsibility to tell them.

Although preaching at Mass and speaking informally in defense of human life from conception to natural death is difficult and unpopular, it is absolutely necessary. I can tell you from my personal experience, women do come forward when you make them aware that compassionate healing is available.

If you need help reaching out to post-abortive people, Rachel's Vineyard is glad to assist. We can offer help with homiletics, how to speak effectively with post-abortive people, techniques for effective dialogue with abortion supporters, educational material about the psychological and spiritual impact of abortion, and on-site training. For a better understanding of the suffering and healing of men and women associated with abortion, Rachel's Vineyard–Baltimore invites you to participate in one of its healing retreat weekends. Through this experience, you will develop skills to be more prepared to speak about this issue and minister to post-abortive men and women. For more information, visit our website at this address: www.rvbaltimore.org or contact me at fzeiler@archbalt.org.

The Lord's peace be with you! ❖

A PARISH EXPERIENCES “DISCOVERING CHRIST”

By Deacon Jim Mann

On August 23-24, I traveled with my pastor, Fr. Richard Gray, and two other members of the evangelization team from our parish, St. Thomas More, Baltimore, to a *Discovering Christ* Conference presented by ChristLife, a Catholic evangelization ministry. My expectations were not great.

Our parish has experienced many of the challenges facing urban parishes in the past few decades – the closing of our school, the changing demographics of our area, the aging of our parishioners, and so on. We had attempted other evangelization programs in the past, with little or no success. I didn't want to get my hopes up again only to see them crushed.

As it turned out, I need not have worried. The conference not only taught us about a program, but it also evangelized those of us who attended. We came away with renewed hope, energy, and boldness. We had encountered Jesus personally once again and were ready to share Him with others.

With the full support and under the inspired leadership of our pastor, we decided to step out in faith. We assembled and trained a team of volunteers and, about one month after we had attended the conference, we began the *Discovering Christ* program at St. Thomas More. To our delight, about 55 people signed up to attend – a wonderful response for a parish of our size. That verified

what we already knew – that there is a widespread hunger to know Jesus personally and to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Almost everyone who began the program completed it, and 39 people submitted written responses to survey questions at the end. Nearly all the responses were extremely positive.

The program runs for seven weeks, with meetings once a week as well as a one-day retreat. The weekly meetings begin with a meal, followed by a brief time of prayer and praise, then a 30-minute DVD teaching on the topic of the evening, followed by small group discussion. Many of our folks found the shared meal to be a highlight of the program – it allowed people to relax and come to know each other in a different way than before. And the retreat, with the opportunity to be prayed over, was the time when many of our attendees encountered Jesus and the Spirit most powerfully.

For me personally, it was the final evening that convinced me. Our pastor asked if anyone wanted to come forward to give a testimony, and I was afraid that no one would. Again, I needn't have worried. Testimonies of changed lives were given that blew me away – and many of them came from men whom I personally knew to be reticent about such things. With a grateful heart, I realized that night what a mighty work the Lord had done in our

parish through *Discovering Christ*. The effects have continued to be seen in the culture and spirituality of our parish in the weeks since the program ended. Soon St. Thomas More parish will begin *Following Christ*, and then, Lord willing, *Sharing Christ*, which are both sequels to the *Discovering Christ* program.

For more information on these programs, contact ChristLife (www.christlife.org) at info@christlife.org or 1-888-498-8474. ❖

Deacon Mann is assigned to St. Thomas More Church, 6806 McClean Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21254. Father Richard Gray is the pastor.

SAVE THE DATE!

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Friday, Jan. 31–Sunday, Feb. 2
St. Gabriel's Retreat House
1501 Hilton Ave.

Catonsville MD 21228

Prayers for the team and those who need the courage to register and letters of encouragement for those attending are needed.

For information, contact
rvbaltimore@archbalt.org

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Seton Vicariate Deacons' Gathering

Monday, April 7, 2014
6 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Anne Arundel/Howard Co.
Location TBD

BOOK REVIEW

KILLING JESUS: BY BILL O'REILLY AND MARTIN DUGARD

By Deacon Dave Tengwell

It is always a concern for a professional historian when books or movies that purport to depict an historical event are so far from accurate that it boggles the mind. However, unlike most historians, I applaud almost all attempts of conveying historical events in a “popular” context because at least people will be getting some historical information, albeit not entirely accurate. (One of the best examples is the movie *Troy*, where liberties to Homer’s masterpiece *The Iliad* were definitely taken.)

Recently the television commentator Bill O’Reilly and a co-writer Martin Dugard have undertaken to do exactly that – to cover major historical events from a strictly historical perspective and present them in a popular, not academic, form. Their first two forays were *The Killing of Lincoln* and *The Killing of Kennedy*.

As I have actually taught an academic course for several years titled Presidential Assassinations, I can state with complete certainty that Mr. O’Reilly offers absolutely nothing new to either event and in many instances he actually presents some serious inaccuracies. But those works are not my focus here. O’Reilly and Dugard have now ventured to take on a major historical event that has tremendous importance and meaning to us as Catholics with the recent release their new work, *Killing Jesus*. It should be noted that O’Reilly openly, and seemingly with great pride, promotes himself as a Roman Catholic. Indeed, he actually boasts that he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this particular work.

However, O’Reilly emphasizes that this “is not a religious book,” describing it as “an accurate account of not only how Jesus died, but also the way he lived and how his message has affected the world.” Using various texts, including Roman writers and the Bible, and giving an apparent historical interpretation of Jesus, he presents what is basically the “gospel according to Bill O’Reilly.”

Now again, I want to re-emphasize that I do applaud any historical work (book or movie) that portrays in a popular fashion an historical event, because many unknowing individuals will at least be getting some history. Indeed, within *Killing Jesus*, the historical coverage regarding the Roman Empire at the time of Jesus is okay, although the

assassination of Julius Caesar is a stretch. So I do applaud his attempt at presenting the historical context within which Jesus lived, preached, and died, although there are literally hundreds of books that portray the Roman Empire much more accurately and thoroughly.

But in his portrayal of Jesus, Mr. O’Reilly has done an even greater disservice to the reading public than he did in his previous works on Lincoln and Kennedy, because he misses completely the true meaning of what Jesus’ life and crucifixion were all about. By removing faith from the narrative, O’Reilly misses the whole point of Jesus.

In a television interview regarding his book, O’Reilly emphasized one point regarding the crucifixion, claiming that while on the cross, Jesus did not say, “Forgive them Father for they know not what they do,” because, he maintains, a man in the physical state that Jesus was in could not have uttered those words. It truly befuddles me that a man who claims to have been inspired by the Holy Spirit would repudiate the most important message of Jesus’ entire ministry — love and forgiveness.

In teaching Western Civilization at Anne Arundel Community College for the last 36 years, and especially since I was ordained in 2007, I have been very conscience of not using the podium as a pulpit. But nevertheless, it is impossible to cover Jesus in any historical context without covering the message he was presenting to the people of the Roman Empire. It was so radical, so revolutionary that it did, in fact, change the world. Sadly, Mr. O’Reilly and his co-author miss that very point.

O’Reilly’s book is not in any way extraordinary. *Killing Jesus* is another account that will garner attention for a while and then will fortunately disappear and be forgotten. In the meantime, however, it will fail to provide its readers with the true message and meaning of Jesus; it will neglect to tell why his life, his crucifixion, and his resurrection are of such eternal significance — a matter of his life and death and our own. I hope and pray that as deacons we all will, by our words and especially by our deeds, promote and represent the true message of Jesus.



CURRENT CULTURE

GREAT FILMS OR JUST GREAT REVENUE?

By Deacon Cliff Britton

Those who read my review (May 2012) of *Hunger Games* (Lionsgate) may recall my anecdotal research into the attitudes of young people drawn to the film, particularly their inability to recognize the underlying evil of adults forcing children to kill children.

The action-packed sequel, *Catching Fire*, retains the same depressing tension of the first film — people forced to fight one another to the death, gladiator fashion, to fulfill the political ends of an oppressive regime. Thankfully, the film strays a bit from the book and does not render the gory murders in vivid detail nor dwell overly long on people killed, particularly the young. Yet the theme of human expendability remains woven throughout this film targeted to young teens.

Another film targeting young teens showed great potential until the last five minutes. *Ender's Game* (Summit Entertainment), based upon a controversial yet acclaimed 1985 book by Orson Scott Card, chronicles the life of Ender Wiggin, a pre-teen rising through the ranks from thousands of children being tested to find the one genius commander who can lead Earth's forces against an anticipated alien invasion.



Adults had decided that only the agile minds of children could be creative enough to engage and destroy the alien species that had attacked Earth 50 years earlier. Ender and his team of misfits show courage, adaptability, and camaraderie as their tightly knit team gels.

Ender, in signs of growing maturity, wonders if destroying the alien race is needed; that perhaps diplomacy is the better course. However, adults advocating “kill them before they kill us” trample his blossoming seed of wisdom.

The twisted twist [SPOILER ALERT] at the end undermines the film's goodness when Ender is pitted in one last “computer gaming scenario” to test his leadership and tactical skills. Throwing himself and his forces into the heat of battle, he is determined to win. Sacrificing thousands of his own men to protect his advance against the alien world, he scores a stun-

ning victory when he succeeds in completely destroying the alien planet and its population.

His adrenaline-fed exaltation is completely ripped from his gut (and we in the theater who journeyed with him to this point share his feelings) when he discovers he had been duped.

The scenario he had been forced to play was no scenario at all, but the actual live mission. Thousands of his comrades were killed; an entire sentient race was destroyed. In despair, he agonizes that he will always be remembered as the killer of an entire world and decides to live a secluded life seeking atonement.

During the coming weeks we can take time in our homilies and instruction to advocate for the dignity of each life. We can speak to the hearts of young people who not only find the themes of these films exciting, but “normal” enough that they miss the dark themes altogether.

As the Light of Christ burns brightly in a darkening world, young people must be encouraged to join their light to His Light, versus accepting as okay the falseness of Darkness' inevitability. ❖

Mary, Mother of God: A Model of Leadership for Modern Women

By Ellen Marie Dumer

The virtues of Mary, revealed in the mysteries of the rosary, show her to be a role model of leadership in women's lives. A quote from Roy Disney inspires this way of looking at leadership through virtues and values. *'It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are.'*

I have chosen to start us off on the Joyful Mysteries...

The Annunciation: humility

Mary's humility shows us how to conduct ourselves in the world. We are born with a human ego that is necessary for our survival, but it can also blow up out of proportion.

Humility enhances life. It does not require us to undervalue ourselves. To do so is to deny the unconditional love and purpose that God has for us! Humility is an equalizer that allows us to know and love ourselves and also to see the worth and greatness of others.

In accepting the role of mother of God, Mary put the world before her own desires. A great leader always accepts her greatness as a gift from God and uses it for the betterment of others.

How to Nurture this Virtue in Yourself

- ✦ share yourself, your gifts, and your treasures with others
- ✦ lift others up regardless of what they appear to be
- ✦ speak the truth with love

The Visitation: charity

While the word brings to mind the giving of money or goods to those in need, the root of charity is kindness, the giving of self, sacrificial love that wants more for the other than for self.

Pope John Paul II wrote in *Redemptoris Mater* #12, "moved with charity, therefore, Mary goes to the house of her kinswoman... While every word of Elizabeth is filled with meaning, her final words would seem to have a fundamental importance. 'And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her from the Lord' (Luke 1:45)... Mary's faith proclaimed by Elizabeth indicated how the Virgin of Nazareth responded to this gift."

Mary brought the gift of Jesus and a blessing to her cousin's home. She gave of herself in her "yes" to the role and also in her knowledge that she would be severely judged by others. Elizabeth's immediate acceptance of her state and acknowledgement of its honor was a reciprocal gift of kindness to Mary. It solidified their blessed relationship with trust in the Lord.

A great leader extends kindness and reserves judgment of her followers and gains even more followers through her tolerance and compassion.

How to Nurture this Virtue in Yourself

- ✦ see Christ in others
- ✦ share the Christ in you with others

- ✦ stay close to Christ daily for courage and strength to see the way to share

The Nativity: poverty and detachment from the world

The setting of the birth of Christ shows the material poverty of Mary and Joseph at the time. Away from the others gathered for the census, they were likely protected from the "partying crowds" that large public gatherings seem to encourage. Against this simple backdrop, God's promise of a savior came to fruition.

The joy of birth outweighed any discomforts and fears Mary may have had. Every mother knows that moment — although we have carried the child for months, we do not fully connect with the reality until we gaze upon our child. Mary's thoughts of "where shall we go, what will we eat," were replaced with "It is true!" Her simple heart that had accepted the gift months earlier now experienced the abundant love of Christ.

A great leader regularly separates from the "world" to reflect on her vision and mission, to contemplate and discern the voice of the Lord and its message for her.

How to Nurture this Virtue in Yourself

- ✦ practice simplicity in your "material" world
- ✦ avoid the temptations of worldly ideas

See Mary, page 8

Mary ... cont'd. from page 7

- ♦ take time with Christ in a silent retreat, where you can hear his voice

The Presentation: obedience to God's will

Mary and Joseph obeyed the law when they presented their son at the Temple. Her obedience fulfilled the prophecy of God to Simeon that he would see the Savior before he died. This interaction also allowed Mary to see that her "yes" was the right choice; Simeon verified that her son was indeed the Savior.

There are many instances in our lives when discernment leads us to a difficult choice and we are rewarded with proof of God's love for us. We need only to be willing to say "yes" also and watch for the signs.

A great leader makes positive change in the world and she can be trusted to remain obedient to God's law.

How to Nurture this Virtue in Yourself

- ♦ follow the Commandments in every aspect of life
- ♦ use the Sacrament of Reconciliation to remain filled with the grace necessary for discernment
- ♦ seek Spiritual Direction to assist in your personal faith journey



The finding of Jesus in the Temple: reverence and piety

Traveling to the Temple during Passover was the act of pious Jews, who brought lambs for slaughter in reparation for their sins. Christ was brought by Mary and Joseph and the event was used as a statement of his entry into adulthood in the Jewish faith. He spoke wisely beyond his years to the men there and announced his obligation to do so to Mary when she found him.

His words to her showed that he was now separating from her to take his place in the world. They reminded Mary of her great role and sacrifice as the Mother of God. In her humanness, she needed to grow in understanding of her son's relationship to God the Father as he began his own journey toward death for the redemption of our sins. These journeys

were not easy for them. Both needed to travel the difficult path to salvation.

A great leader shuns the easy way and seeks to bring forth greatness in others.

How to Nurture this Virtue in Yourself

- ♦ practice daily connection to God to fortify yourself for the journey
- ♦ take the lead in difficult actions
- ♦ be openly Catholic — do not hide your faith but share the wonders it has brought

I encourage you to take some moments over the coming months to spend time with Mary through the Rosary. Ask her to intercede with her son, Jesus Christ, for the blessings of these virtues in your life and the courage to attain them.

May you be blessed with the joy of Christ in your heart!

I look forward to chatting with you in future newsletters. Please feel free to email comments on this article or suggestions for future articles to me at Ellen@LivingYourExceptionalLife.com. My prayers are for us all to continue to serve God through with our own unique gifts and to be given the strength and love to support our husbands' ministry. God bless you all. ❖

NEUMANN VICARIATE DEACONS MEET ON NOVEMBER 18, 2013 AT ST JOSEPH FULLERTON

By Deacon Mark Soloski

More than 30 deacons from the Neumann Vicariate met with Bishop Dennis Madden and Msgr. Jim Hannon, Director of Clergy Personnel in November.

After a delicious dinner and evening prayer, the evening began with Bishop Madden sharing his excitement about the election of Archbishop Joseph Kutz as the new head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Archbishop Kutz has broad pastoral experience and a particular concern for the poor and marginalized.

We were urged to promote the survey from the Vatican in our local parishes, as the results will be used to generate discussion at the upcoming Worldwide Synod on the Family in 2014. The recent Young Adult Mass at the Basilica was mentioned; ministry for young adults is a particular focus of the Archbishop, and we were urged to promote young adult activities.

Dcn. Kevin Reid, liaison to the Clergy Personnel Office, recently

sent out a survey to all pastors, PLDs, and other leaders to assess their needs for a deacon to serve in a parish or other ministry setting. Openings will be listed in *The Deacon's Call*. Kevin also reminded us to renew our letters of understanding with our supervisors.

Our guest speaker was Tom Corcoran, Associate to the Pastor at the Church of the Nativity in Timonium. Tom and Fr. Michael White have co-authored two books that offer ideas on how to build a healthy Catholic parish. The first, *Rebuilt*, shares their vision while *Tools for Rebuilding* offers practical tactics to build a more vibrant parish. Implementing their strategies at Nativity has led to an increase in weekly attendance, volunteerism, and parish support.

The core of their efforts is taking seriously Jesus' call to "go and make disciples" (Mt 28:19). To make this work, a parish needs to look at the demographics of the local area and consider it as a mis-

sion field. Team leaders need to learn who is in the parish and design ministries and approaches that meet the needs of these individuals.

To make this happen, Tom offered three general guidelines. First, use the perspective of the people who are *not* going to church and find ways to draw them in. Second, change your weekend experience to make it more welcoming. Third, move church people to action. At Nativity, small faith-sharing groups are an important component of this movement. Also emphasized is the importance of intentional welcoming, not only in the church, but also in the parking lot and on the parish website. The presentation touched only lightly on the many ideas and strategies Fr. White and Tom have utilized. More information about their books and workshops is available online at churchnativity.tv/#/rebuilt-matter/rebuilt-matter.

With mind, body, and soul filled, a final prayer and blessing was offered by Bishop Madden. ❖

PARISH OPENINGS

The following parishes have expressed an interest in having a deacon. This list is not necessarily complete. If you are interested in a new assignment, contact the Office of Clergy Personnel. For more information about these opportunities, visit the parish website or contact the pastor.

[St. Joseph on Carrollton Manor](#)

5843 Manor Woods Rd.
Frederick, MD 21703

Pastor: [Fr. Lawrence Frazier](#)
301-663-0907

[Church of the Resurrection](#)

3175 Paulskirk Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Pastor: [Msgr. John Dietzenbach](#)
410-461-9111

[St. Ignatius Parish Hickory](#)

533 E. Jarrettsville Road
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Pastor: [Msgr. James M. Barker](#)
410-879-1926

[St. Joseph – Cockeysville](#)

100 Church Lane
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Pastor: [Msgr. Paul Cook](#)
410-683-0600

[St. Clare Parish Community](#)

714 Myrth Ave.
Essex, MD 21221

Pastoral Admin.: [Fr. Jesse Bolger](#)
410- 547-5455

[Our Lady of the Fields](#)

1070 Cecil Ave.
Millersville, MD 21108

[Msgr. Jay O' Connor](#)
410-923-7060

COUPLES' RETREATS ANNOUNCED

It is time for the annual Galeone "Married Couples Retreat," facilitated by [Frank and Elaine Galeone](#). A welcome respite after the hustle and bustle of holiday celebrations, the retreats this year are dedicated to the most inspirational couple of all, Mary and Joseph.

Five retreats will be offered this spring, each led by an experienced and highly recommended priest. Retreat masters are Fr. Michael Heine, OFM; Fr. James Van Dorn, OFM; Fr. Julio Martinez, OFM; and Fr. Paul Schenck, a diocesan married priest from Harrisburg.

All retreats will be held at the Priestfield Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV, about 1.5 hours from Baltimore and Washington and about 9 miles from Harpers Ferry. Each retreat starts Friday at 5:30 p.m. with supper and ends on Sunday at 12 noon with lunch.

The cost of the retreat, \$350 per couple, includes a room with two double beds and private bath and all meals. The fee also helps provide a stipend for the retreat master and music minister. No one should let the cost dissuade them from accepting this retreat invitation; generous assistance is available for those who may find the cost a financial burden.

Make your reservation now by completing the form below and mail it with your deposit of \$150.00. The check should be made out to Frank Galeone. It will not be deposited until the Monday after your retreat. The balance of \$200.00 will be collected Sunday morning, the last day of your retreat.

For more about the Galeone's and these retreats, please visit their web site at www.marriedcouplesretreat.com.

Enclosed is our deposit of \$150. Please register us for the following retreat:

- Feb. 28 – Mar. 2 (Fr. Heine)
 Mar. 7 – 9 (Fr. Heine)
 Mar. 21 – 23 (Fr. Van Dorn)
 Mar. 28 – 30 (Fr. Schenck)
 Apr. 11–13 (Fr. Martinez)

Names _____ Daytime Phone _____
 Address _____ Cell Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Email Address _____

Send registration form and deposit made out to Frank Galeone to 2161 Greenspring Dr., Timonium, MD 21093

COMMITTEES

Deacon Personnel Board

Chair: [George Sisson](#)

Vice Chair: [Dave Page](#)

Policy Committee

Chair: [Jim Sullivan](#)

Communications Committee

Chair: [Lee Benson](#)

Ongoing Formation Committee

Chair: [Dave Page](#)

Placement Committee

Chair: [Mike Dodge](#)

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

St. Lawrence

3rd Friday of each month

8:30 a.m. — Location varies

Contact: [Deacon Mark Soloski](#)

410-664-4654

The Amen Corner

Last Thursday of each month

Noon — An Poitin Stil Irish Pub

St. Vincent Fraternity

Contact: [Deacon Jack Ames](#)

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, or if your group's information needs updating, please provide the pertinent information to [The Deacon's Call](#).