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**Believe what you read,
Teach what you believe,
Practice what you teach.**

Deacon Day of Enrichment

The Deacon's Ministry of Charity

Homily by Bishop Denis Madden, October 6, 2012

In reflecting on the Gospel passage we read this morning from Luke's 10th chapter, Pope Benedict points out that "the gospel passage presents Jesus sending out 72 disciples to the villages he is about to visit in order to prepare the way" for Jesus.

Upon their return they are filled with great joy, their enthusiasm has been bolstered having experienced what it is like to even cast out demons. Jesus too rejoices with them, at the good use they have made of the powers He has entrusted to them.

Then in the end of this passage Jesus takes these disciples aside and says in private, in the intimacy of their relationship:

"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say 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."

What did they see, what did they hear? The human form of God in Jesus and the sound of his voice? Yes, but so did others and Jesus did not take those aside. The 72 are blessed for they really saw and heard the Word of God.

For the deacon, for any of us, to carry out a ministry of charity we must, like these 72, really see and hear the Word of God first before engaging in any kind of charity.

Otherwise it is not much different than the government's programs of Medicare, Medicaid, or the United Way. Our ministry of charity is more than that.

These last three days the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs met in Chicago with our Muslim partners for the

first national plenary entitled: Living our Faiths Together. The three dialogue groups from the Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and West met in the

Windy City to continue our dialogue begun over 15 years ago.

Over the years many friendships have resulted from our meetings. One of the speakers at this recent meeting reminded us of how Pope John Paul II had said while addressing a group of Muslims and Catholics in 1982 "that we are, we Muslims and Catholics, united already in our faiths, in our common belief in One God, the Creator of the Universe, life after death and the final judgment, the necessity of prayer and fasting in our lives as well as care for the poor – we are united on these things and so," the Pope said, "we should strive to come closer together."

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Again, in 1985, Pope John Paul II went on to remind Muslims and Catholics of the unity we also share in our being descendants of Father Abraham and how Abraham was so well known for his gift, his virtue, of hospitality, loving care for the guest, the stranger. You might say his ministry of charity.

For nine years I lived in the Holy Land and for another eight I continued to work for the Holy See's arm of charity engaged in relief and development work.

When I think of all the good that the Church does for the poor, even those not of our faith, I, like those 72, would return home rejoicing and thanking God for being so fortunate as to be part of all this.

But again like those 72 who were taken aside by the Master, it was in quiet reflection of what was going on all about me, that I saw and heard really wonderful things.

Going into a home in one of the refugee camps and seeing the children or the mother going to a neighbor's house to ask for some food, sweets, coffee, or even tea that might be offered to guests. In these instances one sees and hears what charity is all about, how one would even so humiliate themselves as to beg for the welfare of the guest.

Father Tom Mischel, SJ, one of the presenters at our Chicago gathering, reminded us, much like Pope John Paul II, of how much more we share than those elements of dogma that divide us. There is so much more that unites us with those in need than divides us.

Today we have gathered together for the Deacon Day of Enrichment emphasizing the "Deacon's Ministry of

Charity." If there is a true ministry of charity that we are involved in then we too must realize how much more we do share with those we are ministering to, trying to assist – how much more we are like them than different from them. And how much we can learn from them about life itself.

There is a unity which we share, a real unity, with those who are poor, homeless, marginalized, those whom we want to show charity towards.

There is a unity which we share, a real unity, with those who are poor, homeless, marginalized, those whom we want to show charity towards. And for this reason, we must be so very careful not to fall into the trap that our ministry of charity is a kind of commerce between the haves and have nots and thinking that we are being especially virtuous when we do such kind things. Not at all.

We even know this from our human interactions with each other for we all are offended by insult, abandonment, being cheated or lied about. We all feel good when we can sense success, recognition, experience friendship. And we all are capable of doing good things and we all are capable of doing not such good things.

And perhaps what is most important is that Jesus proved to us that we all are loved by God.

My dear brothers those we meet who are suffering some form of loss or discouragement because of their plight do indeed need our help, our assistance, our charity. And many because of their plight and what they have suffered in life may not be

particularly attractive in the sense that we are naturally drawn to them.

May I conclude with one incident from the life of Francis whose feast we just celebrated.

Francis, a rich young man, a party-goer, so well liked by his friends in Assisi had this great fear of lepers. One day traveling through the hillside with his friends out for a jaunt. They saw a leper approaching and all ran, all but Francis. He was almost frozen there. His friends knew of his fear of lepers and wondered what is going on here.

They called out to him to come and join them. "Francis they said, let someone else help this person." His reply was, "There's no one else here."

Francis then embraced the leper and covered him with his fine cloak.

Mindful of our oneness with each other, let us—when these golden opportunities come before us—be mindful of Francis' words "There's no one else to help."

And in this way, we too—like the 72 disciples—might well be preparing the way for this person to receive Jesus into their life. The real charity; the real gift we might give. ❖

The Deacon's Call

Newsletter of the Baltimore Deacon Community

July–December 2012

Issues are normally published quarterly, in March, June, September, and December. The deadline for articles is on the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please email your comments to any member of the Communications Committee:

Chair Lee Benson
Brent Heathcott Carol Matheny
Angela Martin Cliff Britton

Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan Christ Transforms Our Love

by Deacon Lee Benson

This is the final article in a series of articles reflecting on the significance of married love in the Divine Plan.

In our last reflection on the U.S. Bishop's pastoral letter, *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*, we considered the damage that sin does to all our relationships and in particular our marriages. Yet Christ's coming to redeem us changes everything. He came to redeem us and to restore all our relationships, including our marriages. Therefore, we have great hope in what Christ can do for our marriages. "So if the son frees you, then you will truly be free" (John 8:36).

Christ freely came so that we might freely love God and one another. In his passion, death and resurrection Jesus chose to give all of himself out of his love for us. We participate in that immense love every time we receive the Eucharist.

This love of Christ transforms our marriages. As the Bishops state: "He heals marriage and restores it to its original purity of permanent self-giving in one flesh."

This *agape*, this self-giving love of Christ, redeems and transforms our marriages. We asked God to fill our marriages with this love on the day of our weddings — and He does. We do not have to travel to far-away places to find it, nor do we have to worry whether or not we have received it. We do not have to do anything to earn Christ's love. Christ gives his love away freely.

Christ freely chooses to empower our marriages with his love. As the the Bishops say: "Spouses are penetrated with the spirit of Christ and their whole life is suffused by faith, hope and charity; thus they are increasing further their own perfection and their mutual sanctification, and together they render glory to God."

Therefore, our marriages restored in Christ are quite different from the mutual finger pointing of the man and woman in the garden. Our married love becomes empowered with Christ's self-giving love. When we pray together as married couples, when we make the happiness of our spouse the most important item in our day and when we speak loving words to one another, we invite Christ's transforming love into our marriage. ❖

This reflection is published on the blog, marriagejoy.wordpress.com where comments and suggestions are most welcome. You may email the author at labdon70@gmail.com.

IN MEMORIAM

J. Kenneth Pivec, Sr.

May 11, 1941 – July 30, 2012

Every human being, regardless of where they live, has a longing for home. Ken Pivec was a perfect example of one who loved his home, but he had more than one. For Ken, 'home' was not only his family, but also the Catholic Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary, his parish.

Ken loved ministry and was comfortable with all people, from little ones to the elderly. He and Sue conducted summer bible school, and I am sure there are hundreds of adults who hear the words 'Bible school' and hum the songs they learned at IHM, like 'Do You really Love Jesus' and 'Rock My Soul in the Bosom of Abraham.'

Then, for many years, Ken promoted the Catholic faith through RCIA, welcoming new members and strengthening the faith of existing members. During the last 10 years, he could be found at local nursing homes doing communion services whenever his health permitted. Ken thrived on carrying out his diaconal functions — baptisms, weddings and assisting at Mass.

For many years Ken promoted diaconal community by arranging the monthly 'Amen Corner' meetings for local deacons and their wives to share fellowship and build community.

Ken was passionate about his family and his ministry, and as we remember him and comfort his family, we recall the words of Our Lord in John's Gospel: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me ... I shall come back to take you with me, so that where I am, you also may be." I'm sure Ken is now looking around up there for the local Dunkin' Donuts.

We are thankful for Ken, who was Gods' gift, not only to Sue, his wife of 50 years and their family, but to each of us who have known him, and to the many people to whom Ken ministered during his 38 years as a permanent deacon in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Until we meet again, welcome home good and faithful servant. ❖

— Deacon Jack Martin

Strengthening Our Ground Game in the Year of Faith

By Dcn. Brent Heathcott

As the recent election cycle wound down to its final days, a common phrase was repeated continuously by the talking heads on the cable news channels.

“Ground Game.”

“*Ground Game*” is defined by the strategy and operations of both political parties in deploying supporters across the country – in state and national elections – to get out the vote on election day by any means possible, whether knocking on doors, making phone calls or herding people, who might not otherwise have the means or desire to vote, onto buses to get them down to the nearest polling location.

The political ground game is an interesting phenomenon, one that is pursued with passion, vigor, and conviction by people who have strong convictions for the core values and issues they support. Thousands, maybe millions, of volunteers across the country spent countless hours working on campaigns in 2012. As the news talking heads provided a post-election analysis the day after the election, they credited the superior ground game of President Obama’s campaign as the difference in putting him over the top.

As I reflected on this ground-game concept, I couldn’t help visualizing in this Year of Faith what kind of influence Catholics could make spreading our faith and transforming our culture if we had a ground game like Obama’s.

Wow.

But to have an effective ground game, we need to be focused on core values and beliefs. What is our identity? Who are we and what are our core values? In order to effectively create and mobilize our base for a solid ground game, we have to know who we are, while simultaneously being unashamed to proclaim our identity in the face of individualism or moral relativism— even if it comes from our own Catholic brothers and sisters.

The Church cannot afford to become irrelevant. Jesus cannot become irrelevant.

So, who are we as Catholics and what do we stand for? The core of our faith is the Eucharist, which feeds us with the body, blood, soul and divinity of our Savior. We are Saints – both past and present – who strive to live the lives God envisioned for us even before we were born. We are devotees to Mary, the mother of God who intercedes on our behalf to our Lord. We support the sanctity of life from natural conception until death. We support and affirm marriage between one man and one woman, as sacred scripture and the laws of nature and society teach us. We experience life in the sacraments, living signs of God’s grace and mercy in the world.

As deacons, my dear brothers, we have the opportunity to share and teach the Church’s core values and beliefs through word, ministry and charity. We know the challenge can be difficult, the road steep. But, we have been graced with God’s calling to serve him and his people, so we

know with confidence that the Holy Spirit is always present to guide and support us.

For all these things and many more, *all* Catholics must live courageously, speak boldly and love tenderly, so people know what it means to be Catholic – charity in truth as Archbishop Lori has promulgated. You can go as far to say the core values above are our Catholic brand – a brand in recent years that has been watered down, both from within and outside the Church. Sometimes it seems, we as a Church have chosen appeasement to keep parishioner counts high, rather than feeding our faithful with the truths of our faith – which, by the way, many are desperately seeking.

I have worked in non-profit, health-care associations for more than 16 years. In a recent book titled, “*Race for Relevance: 5 Radical Changes for Associations*,” authors Harrison Coerver, CAE and Mary Byers, CAE, address a sharper and more narrow focus of products, programs and services for members as one of the five radical changes associations need to get a handle on quickly in order to be relevant in the future.

For years, associations, in an attempt to increase revenue and members while competing with the Internet and for-profit entities, have expanded membership categories and member benefits, finally arriving at the point where they have lost all sense of identity and mission. In order to please and serve as many potential stakeholders as possible, as-

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Strengthening Our Ground Game in the Year of Faith

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sociations have watered down their missions, provided less value and in general lost their way, as well as members. In many ways, they have become irrelevant.

The Church cannot afford to become irrelevant. Jesus cannot become irrelevant.

To get our ground game machine humming to its fullest capacity, the Church gives us the playbook for our efforts in its teachings – dogma, doctrine and the Catechism. We need to share the truth of our faith and do so boldly and without reservation. It is only then that we can truly feed our flock and send them forth to evangelize and transform hearts and minds.

In this Year of Faith and as part of the New Evangelization, we are called to strengthen our spirituality as a driver to building a strong faith, which we can in turn use to transform the faith lives of others – one person at a time.

This is the essence of the ground game philosophy. Instead of knocking on doors, we're called to knock on hearts. It's a philosophy that is not new to the Church, by any means. But, with the season of Advent upon us, we have an opportunity to further inculcate the truths of our faith into our hearts and minds, thus sharpening our focus on who we are and what we believe.

Peace to you, my brothers, and blessing to you and your ministry. ❖

Check out Brent's blog at <http://catholicreview.org/blogs/musings-of-a-deacon-father>

SAVE THE DATES!

Constitutions of Vatican II

Part One: (*Dei Verbum* – On Divine Revelation & *Lumen Gentium* – On the Church)

March 19 – Mount St. Mary Seminary, Emmitsburg

March 20– St. Mary 's Seminary, Baltimore

Part Two: (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* – On Sacred Liturgy & *Gaudium et Spes* – On Church in the Modern World)

April 9 – Mount St. Mary Seminary, Emmitsburg

April 10 – St. Mary 's Seminary , Baltimore

✠ ✠ ✠

Deacon Wives' Retreat

February 23, 2013

Bon Secours, Marriottsville

✠ ✠ ✠

Spring Deacon's Retreat

featuring Fr. Larry Therrien, S.S.

April 26 – 28, 2013

Bon Secours, Marriottsville

✠ ✠ ✠

Ordination: Permanent Deacons

May 11, 2013

Cathedral of Mary Our Queen

✠ ✠ ✠

CONVOCATION 2013

with Fr. John Hurley and the Department of Evangelization, highlighted by a meeting with Archbishop Lori and evening Mass

Oct. 4 – 6, 2013

Bolger Center, Potomac, MD

COMMITTEES

Deacon Personnel Board

Chair: [Skip Comegna](#)

Vice Chair: [Kevin Reid](#)

Policy Committee

Chair: [Frank Zeiler](#)

Communications Committee

Chair: [Lee Benson](#)

Ongoing Formation Committee

Chair: [Dave Page](#)

Placement Committee

Chair: [Kevin Reid](#)

The committees need members! Deacons and deacon wives are invited to participate — just email the appropriate committee chair.

Special Dates to Remember

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

July

3 rd	Will & Lois Diane Witherspoon (36)
4 th	Robert & Lorraine Schott (55)
9 th	Robert & Betty Keeley (52)
15 th	Timothy & Meghan Maloney (12)
16 th	James & Joyce Mann (46)
16 th	Alex & Anita Rodriguez (30)
17 th	Frank & Mary Jean O'Keefe (41)
18 th	Lawrence & Carol Matheny (31)
18 th	James & Kathleen Sullivan (42)
22 nd	William & Linda Nairn (40)
27 th	Ralph & Connie Trautwein (49)
29 th	David & Anna Conley (54)
30 th	Lawrence & Harriet Teixeira (35)

August

1 st	James and Rose Clack (31)
4 th	Richard & Lee Anne Clemens (39)
6 th	Larry & Donna Wilson (40)
7 th	George & Diane Sisson (36)
13 th	Charles & Sheila Hicks (57)
14 th	Joseph & Connie Cinquino (36)
14 th	John & Carol Manley (47)
14 th	Steve & Nancy Roscher (35)
17 th	Thomas & Ellen Cook (38)
19 th	Paul & Helen Ciesla (45)
20 th	Nickolas & Lisa Pitocco (39)
20 th	J. Kenneth & Sue Ann Pivec (51)
22 nd	Anthony & Mary Jean Grillo (53)
25 th	Don and Patti Battista (39)
25 th	Victor & Carol Petrosino (49)
27 th	Michael & Annette Baxter (34)
27 th	Clifford & M. Angela Britton (35)
29 th	Charles & Patricia Baynes (42)
29 th	Frederick & Chris Seibold (48)
31 st	Paul and Susan Cooke (38)
31 st	Kevin & Monica Brown (33)

September

2 nd	Jerry & Jeannine Jennings (34)
3 rd	Henry & Mary Davis (57)
11 th	James & Kay Barth (19)
11 th	Francis & Mary Ann Laws (41)
17 th	Frederick & Maureen Bauerschmidt (24)

September (cont'd.)

18 th	Gary & Ellen Dumer (25)
19 th	Michael & Joyce McCoy (53)
26 th	Kevin & Donna Bagley (31)
27 th	Gary & Virginia Ingold (37)
29 th	Edison & Carmen Morales (33)
30 th	Joseph & Patricia McKenna (40)

October

1 st	Thomas & Cindy Beales (34)
9 th	Harbey & Nancy Santiago (19)
13 th	Philip & Jacquelyn Seneschal (22)
15 th	Herman & Loretta Wilkins (34)
18 th	John & Chris Ames (37)
18 th	Frederick & Marge Schoennagel (54)
26 th	Anthony & Armella Norcio (38)
28 th	John & Janet Comegna (44)
28 th	James & Maureen Westwater (51)

November

1 st	J. Edward & Kay Bee (32)
3 rd	Daniel & Roberta Koczyk (50)
3 rd	John & Pat Martin (49)
7 th	Douglas & Peggy Nathan (42)
9 th	Harold and Elaine Bradley (38)
12 th	Stanley & Mary Piet (63)
13 th	Gerald & Mary Theresa Roberts (29)
18 th	Albert & Bernice Kosla (62)
23 rd	David & Dell Page (49)
27 th	Frank & Theresa Rongione (64)
28 th	Richard & Bertha Kunkel (66)
28 th	Edward & Francine Stoops (53)
28 th	Patrick & Chrystie Goles (48)
28 th	Skip & Janet Comegna (45)

December

6 th	Lee & Debra Benson (36)
17 th	Richard & Margaret Morris (55)
21 st	Paul & Patti Gifford (45)
27 th	Robert & Alice Oliver (53)
27 th	John & Sadie Sedlevicius (31)
27 th	Paul & Irene Mann (29)
28 th	Miguel & Isabel Sainz (48)
28 th	James & Dolores Ryan (48)
30 th	Nicholas & Mary Ann Feurer (54)

Special Dates to Remember

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

July 1, 1973 John Martin Russell Matthews	September 6, 1992 Robert Baker	September 23, 1972 Edward Stoops	October 28, 1989 Alan Rose
July 4, 1982 Al Kosla	September 7, 1996 Peter Barbernitz	September 23, 1974 Theodore Gross	Alphonse Bankard Charles Hicks Darrell Smith Hugh Mills J. Donald Murray John Boscoe Loren Mooney Matthew Podnieszinski Robert Hacker
July 5, 1980 Robert Oliver	September 8, 1984 Charles Hiebler Robert Lehr	September 24, 1987 John McKenna	October 29, 1983 John Rafter
July 9, 1988 Leroy Moore	September 13, 1986 C. Richard Swann J. Donald MacKnew J. Edward Bee John Coster Paul Shelton Richard Stine Robert Lynne	September 29, 1984 Gary Lee Fulmer William Fallon	November 4, 1972 Robert Keenan
July 10, 1982 Charles Baynes William DeAngelis	September 13, 1997 Stephen Cooley	September 30, 1978 Robert Keeley	November 18, 1990 Donald Latrick
July 12, 1980 Francis O'Keefe	September 17, 1983 Daniel Kopczyk Nicholas Feurer	October 1, 1983 Harry O'Neill Paul Ciesla	December 8, 1974 Anthony Grillo Frederick Seibold
July 14, 1974 Willard Pinkney	September 18, 1995 Jack Connor	October 8, 1977 Richard Novak	December 7, 1974 Patrick Goles
July 18, 1981 Stanley Wise	September 19, 1983 Richard Morris	October 12, 1976 John Manley	
August 4, 1974 Albert Chesnavage		October 24, 1986 David Conley Frank Rongione Henry Davis James Mann Richard Montalto	
August 7, 1976 Francis Werner			
August 31, 1974 Eugene Miller			

DEACON NECROLOGY

July 30, 2012 <i>J. Kenneth Pivec, Sr.</i>	August 28, 2000 <i>George F. LeFevre</i>	October 12, 2008 <i>John F. Naughton</i>	November 18, 2009 <i>Verdan P. Wiedel</i>
August 4, 2004 <i>John J. Codd Sr.</i>	September 9, 2007 <i>Earl A. Smith</i>	October 22, 2009 <i>George T. Jenkins</i>	November 24, 2001 <i>James R. Kent</i>
August 4, 2006 <i>Francis X. Moritz</i>	September 11, 2001 <i>Leo Nuedling</i>	October 30, 2006 <i>Bertrand Michael</i>	December 23, 2008 <i>Raymond C. Crawford</i>
August 12, 2004 <i>D. Vincent Provenza</i>	September 15, 2000 <i>Melvin L. Baranoski</i>	October 30, 2011 <i>Michael Miulia</i>	December 24, 2001 <i>William F. Grape</i>
August 14, 2003 <i>Vincent J. Perticone</i>	September 23, 2011 <i>Michael Flamini</i>	November 6, 2000 <i>J. Faberty Casey</i>	December 29, 2000 <i>Daniel Spytkowski</i>
August 14, 2005 <i>Richard Jobe</i>	October 5, 2010 <i>Gilbert Hartlieb</i>	November 17, 2004 <i>Malcolm Thompson</i>	December 30, 2004 <i>Rafael R. Villagaray</i>
August 27, 2001 <i>Chester J. Jakowski</i>	October 11, 2001 <i>Raymond A. Bullinger</i>		

DEACON BIRTHDAYS

July

1 st	Thomas Cook
7 th	Philip Harcum
7 th	Ray Moreau
12 th	Robert Malinowski
13 th	Fred Mauser
13 th	James Sullivan
15 th	Robert Vlcej
22 nd	Joseph Krysiak
24 th	Alphonse Bankard
31 st	Willard Witherspoon

August

1 st	Hugh Mills
1 st	John Gramling
2 nd	Herman Wilkins
5 th	Frank Rongione
6 th	John R. Martin
6 th	Timothy Maloney
14 th	Daniel Roff
18 th	Thomas Yannuzzi
19 th	Don Awalt
22 nd	Carl Anderson
22 nd	Steve Roscher
23 rd	Eugene Miller
23 rd	Stephen Cooley
25 th	Wardell Barksdale
27 th	William Jauquet
27 th	Brent Heathcott
28 th	John Hawkins

September

1 st	Anthony Norcio
1 st	Lawrence Matheny
1 st	Michael McCoy
1 st	Ray Britt
4 th	Bill Senft
6 th	Gary Dumer
6 th	Richard Kunkel
7 th	John Martin
9 th	Martin Wolf
10 th	Paul Ciesla
12 th	Philip Seneschal
13 th	George Sisson
18 th	John Langmead
19 th	Henry Davis
19 th	Mark Ripper
19 th	Robert Lehr
21 st	Frederick Bauernschmidt
22 nd	Jack Connor

23 rd	Kevin Brown
24 th	Kevin Bagley
25 th	Robert Hacker
26 th	Gary Lee Fulmer
27 th	Clifford Britton
27 th	Douglas Nathan
29 th	James Monaghan

October

1 st	Edward Sullivan
5 th	Dave Ebner
6 th	Michael Baxter
8 th	Robert Baker
8 th	Robert Shepard
13 th	John Ames
14 th	J. Edward Bee
15 th	P. Gregory Rausch
17 th	James Prosser
17 th	Tim Moore
18 th	Larry Wilson
22 nd	Nickolas Pitocco
29 th	Paul Mann
31 st	James Clack

November

2 nd	Mark Soloski
2 nd	Richard Novak
5 th	Paul Weber
8 th	David Page
8 th	John McKenna
17 th	Lee Benson
18 th	John Manley
23 rd	Neil Crispo
25 th	Francis Werner

December

3 rd	Richard Montalto
3 rd	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
17 th	Scott Lancaster
21 st	David Conley
26 th	Charles McCandless
28 th	Theodore Gross

DEACON DAY OF ENRICHMENT

On Oct. 6, approximately 40 deacons and 20 wives gathered at St. Louis Church in Clarksville for the biennial Day of Enrichment (DoE). As usual, Msgr. Luca, pastor of St. Louis, offered us a wonderful location and facility to pray, to learn, to share, and to celebrate ... and we did all of those with enthusiasm.

The day opened with Morning Prayer followed by the Liturgy with the Seton and Neumann Vicars, Bishops Mitchell Rozanski and Denis Madden. Bishop Maddenen encouraged us with these words:

For the deacon, for any of us, to carry out a ministry of charity we must, like these 72 [disciples Jesus sent out to the villages], really see and hear the Word of God first before engaging in any kind of charity. Otherwise it is not much different than the government's programs of Medicare, Medicaid, or the United Way. Our ministry of charity is more than that.

Following the homily, the deacons renewed their vows of obedience and service to the Archbishop and his designated representative.

After lunch, there were three presentations on the theme *Deacon's Ministry of Charity*. The keynote speakers for each of the three sessions were Sister Joan Marie Stief, OSB, and Dennis Murphy, both mainstays at Catholic Charities of Baltimore. The sessions were: *Those Living in Poverty; Vulnerable Children & Their Families;* and *Seniors and Those Living with Developmental Disabilities.*

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Deacon Day of Enrichment Focuses on Charity

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Dennis Murphy put the first session in perspective by informing us that more than 550,000 Marylanders live in poverty, almost 650,000 receive food stamps, and more than 15,000 families receive childcare subsidies. He described four Catholic Charities services: *Our Daily Bread*, *Sarah's House*, the *Esperanza Center*, and the *Samaritan Center*.

Following Dennis' opening, Dcns. Dave Page and Jim Sullivan told of their involvement with *The Christian Assistance Program of*

Odenton, Severn and Gambrills and the *St. Vincent de Paul Center* at St. Frances de Sales Church, respectively. Dave explained how more than a dozen churches have formed an ecumenical approach to serving neighbors. Jim spoke about the traditional approach of the SVdP organizations and their strong tradition of charity.

Sr. Joan Marie introduced the next session, showing that more than 46 million Americans live in poverty, and that many have to choose between food and medicine, between getting to work and paying a utility bill. She also told us how Catholic Charities programs like *My Sister's Place*, *Head Start*, *St. Vincent's Villa* and *Villa Maria Schools*, *Sarah's House*, and *Anna's House* are providing help to women and children. Dcn. John Hawkins told about his ministry to troubled youth at the Victor Cullen Center and Academy (VCC) in the mountains west of Thurmont. Recruiting members from his home parish in Thurmont, Dcn. Hawkins

is trying to meet the spiritual needs of the youth who have been placed in the VCC by the Maryland juvenile courts. Dcn. Ed Stoops captured the attention of all when he spoke of his efforts (and those of his recently deceased wife Francine) to help the homeless, the hungry, and the lonely in Baltimore and his home area of central Anne Arundel Co.

... more than 46 million Americans live in poverty, and ... many have to choose between food and medicine, between getting to work and paying a utility bill.

In session three, Sr. Joan Marie showed the difficult situation so many seniors face: fixed incomes below \$20K/year, need for long-term care, affordable rental units. She also helped us understand more about folks living with developmental disabilities, and how Catholic Charities responds. She was followed by Dcn. Steve Rubio and his wife Michelle, who spoke about their home parish's efforts to make it easier for the elderly and the physically challenged to participate in the faith community's activities. Dolores Krysiak explained her involvement with *Answers for the Aging*, which helps older adults maintain dignity, independence and self-determination as they go through life's changes.

After the presentations, the deacons and wives gathered in the historic church to celebrate a memorial service, commemorating the deacons who returned home to the Lord during the last 12 months. The service was completed with Evening Prayer. ❖

Copies of the DoE PowerPoint presentations are available via e-mail. Contact Dcn. Page at denpage@gmail.com and he will forward three files, one for each session.

ONE MINISTRY, MANY OPPORTUNITIES

By Deacon Charlie Hiebler

When I was ordained 28 years ago, I knew that diaconal ministry would include the three elements of Word, Altar, and Service. For me, being "deacon" meant that it wasn't important what I did, but who I am; therefore, I believe that whatever I do, or wherever I find myself, I am always "deacon." But what I didn't know was where this call to a ministry of service in the Church would lead me. I am sure many of you can relate to that experience.

One of the important aspects of the Permanent Diaconate is our witness of bringing Christ to our families and the workplace. For me, whether it was my 20 years as a professional in the Boy Scouts of America in service to adults and youth, or the 15 years I served as a Director of Religious Education, or as a Pastoral Counselor, or the many volunteer activities in which I am currently involved, I consider all that I do as a part of my ministry.

Now my continuing employment in the Archdiocese at the Catholic Center is another aspect of my ministry, though my employment, originally as assistant to Bishop Malooly as Coordinator for Planning and Council Services, was not based on my being a deacon, but on the skills and experience that I brought to that position. Anyone with the qualifications could have been employed in that position. However, being a deacon in that position provided a service to the Bishop in a unique relationship, similar to that of the first deacons in the Church in

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ONE MINISTRY, MANY OPPORTUNITIES

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its early centuries. That continues today as I serve as Pastoral Associate to Bishop Rozanski. No matter what I do or where I go, I represent the Church, the Bishop, and Archbishop, as does every one employed in the Archdiocese, as well as those of us who are deacons.

In recent years, one of the most interesting and challenging aspects of my ministry was to represent the Bishop on a task force in Mountain Maryland (Western Region) that was charged with developing recommendations to the Bishop and Archbishop for providing quality pastoral care to the people of the region in the midst of declining population and economic resources, aging facilities, unserved or underserved prisons and nursing homes, and reduced availability of clergy to serve the region.

To meet the needs and the challenges means a paradigm shift from where the Church and its parishes have been since the late 1700s, when Baltimore became the first diocese in the U.S. While changes have occurred over the last 200+ years, never has anything as dramatic, or traumatic, occurred as the situation we face today. Our task is to envision what is needed to keep the Church viable, vital, and sustainable, and to strengthen our Catholic identity in a predominantly nonCatholic area.

Change usually is never easy, especially for an aging population whose ancestors have been the pillars of the Church and its parishes in the region. But the challenge we face as deacons, as our Archdiocesan Parish Planning Process is im-

plemented through clusters of parishes, is to be the agents of change—accepting what needs to be done for the good of the whole, helping the laity understand the changes, and encouraging them to “Be not afraid.”

As deacons, we too will be called upon to “re-vision” ourselves and our ministry to meet the challenges and needs of the Church. And that re-visioning will most likely be different from what we initially envisioned as diaconal ministry. ❖

DAMIAN STAYNE CHARISM SCHOOL

by Deacon Dean Lopata

On Oct. 19-21, the Archdiocese of Baltimore hosted the *Damian Stayne Charism School* at both the Archdiocesan Catholic Center in Baltimore and the Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Scriptural theme for this beautiful weekend was from St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians:

“Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts” (1 Cor 14:1).

The objective of the Charism School is to provide helpful teaching and training in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, with a focus was on the gifts of prophecy, word of knowledge, healing faith, and deliverance.

Baltimore’s Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) group sponsored this Charism School, in conjunction with the CCR groups in Arlington, Va., Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pa., and the Mother of God Community.

Why so many co-sponsors?

Damian Stayne is an extraordinary lay minister from London, England. Because of his exceptional personal charisms, Damian has a worldwide ministry that includes both wisdom-filled teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as well as power-filled healing services where large numbers of people experience miraculous healings.

The teaching segment of the Charism School in Baltimore was held on Friday evening, throughout the day on Saturday, and during the morning and part of the afternoon on Sunday. Mass in the Basilica, with presider Fr. Erik Arnold, was held early Saturday evening, followed by a powerful healing service led by Damian. Quite a few people later testified that they had received God’s healing touch during that service. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was also held in the Catholic Center on both Saturday and Sunday.

Well over 200 people from several states attended this inspiring and life-changing Charism School led by an outstanding teacher of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Damien’s days of teaching were intended to bless all attendees and empower them to grow in their understanding and confidence to use these spiritual gifts.

We can be very thankful to the good Lord for assisting Bob and Julie Sawyer in making the arrangements for Damian to come to the Archdiocese of Baltimore, with the many Spirit-empowered gifts that God has given him, and, through his teaching and prayer, release the mighty gifts and power of God’s kingdom into the lives of all those who attended this magnificent Charism School. ❖

FILM REVIEW: FOR GREATER GLORY

by Deacon David Tengwall, Ph.D., St. Andrew by the Bay

As an historian, I am always amazed when a major historical event is portrayed on the big screen. I know that there are some historical “experts” somewhere on the set, but more often than not the director almost always over-embellishes the “true” history, to make it more provocative and exciting. Thus one must not expect a history lesson per se, but rather an emotional and enticing portrayal. Such is the case with the movie *For Greater Glory* that came out earlier this year to minimal acclaim. The movie centers on a very turbulent time in Mexican history—the early 20th century and the Mexican revolution of 1910.

As with many emerging governments in Latin America, the newly established “secular” leadership of the country was very concerned about the possible control/influence that the Roman Church had on the majority of the population. As a result, the newly created Constitution of 1917 was to include some specific articles that directly attacked the power and influence of the Roman Church and to a degree limit religious liberty. (It specifically limited the Church’s property rights, banned political involvement by church officials, and prohibited foreign priests from working in Mexico.)

In 1926 the new regime of Plutarco Elías Calles, wanting to promote reforms regarding private property, public education, and secular social reforms, began to enforce these Constitutional restrictions and enact additional laws to limit the Roman Church’s influence in Mexico. This included arresting priests who might critically speak out against governmental policies, and even fining a priest for wearing clerical garb in public. As a result, led by many bishops in Mexico and even supported by Pope Pius XI, Catholics began to demonstrate openly in opposition to these measures. The first major confrontation took place in Guadalajara, Mexico, on August 3, 1926, where some 400 armed Catholics shut themselves up in the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe. As a result some 18 people were killed when federal troops stormed the Church.

This would lead to a formal rebellion beginning in 1927 led by the National League for the Defense of Religious Freedom [Liga nacional para la defensa de la libertad religiosa—LNDLR), which supported a Catholic resistance group called Cristeros with their battle cry, ¡Viva Cristo Rey! (Long live Christ the King!). It was thus referred to as La Cristiada or the Cristero War, 1926-1929.

The “hero” of the movie is General Enrique Gorostieta, played by Andy García. Gorostieta is hired by the LNDLR to lead a rather rag-tag uprising. Although he was himself a liberal, Gorostieta fully accepts the cause of the rebellion, and in order to inspire his troops wears a large crucifix around his neck, frequently evoking his reliance on God. Indeed as one reviewer correctly wrote: “... everyone does and says exactly what one would expect of a character like them. Every priest is devout, and every executed priest and layman dies with edifying grace, and not a single federale troop involved in executing even priests and children shows the slightest hesitation or conflict.”

It is a moving story as portrayed and does have some contemporary relevance. Visiting Mexico earlier this year, Pope Benedict XVI highlighted the ongoing restrictions on religious freedom in Mexico’s Constitution. In the United States, the U.S. bishops made a top priority the defense of religious freedom against encroaching federal policy regarding health-care mandates and same-sex marriage. Again, while the “true” history lesson may not be there, the movie does evoke thoughts about the most important values in one’s life and whether those values are worth dying for. ❖

Current Emmaus Groups

St. Ephrem Fraternity
2nd Tuesday of each month
10 a.m. — Immaculate Conception
Deacon John Gramling, 410-823-0694

St. Lawrence
3rd Friday of each month
8:30 a.m. — Location varies
Deacon Mark Soloski, 410-664-4654

St. Vincent Fraternity
Meeting times & locations vary
Deacon Jack Ames

Holy Trinity
2nd Tuesday of each month
6 p.m. — Holy Trinity, Glen Burnie
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
Deacon Will Witherspoon, 410-599-8327

Deacon & Wives of Central Maryland
Meeting times & locations vary
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.