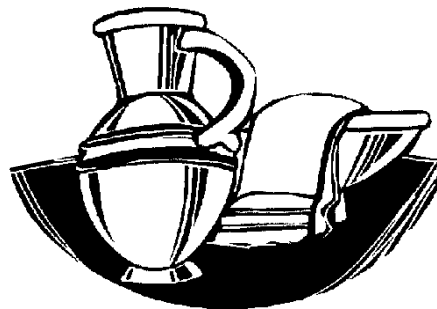


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MEMO

To: Deacon Community
From: Deacon Mark Machuga
Subject: Monthly Newsletter
Date: February, 2019



My Promise to You: The Archbishop’s Statement on the Clerical Sexual Abuse Meeting in Rome



Archbishop Schnurr has published a statement following the conclusion of the meeting in Rome between Pope Francis and representatives of the world’s bishops. During the summit, the clergy sexual abuse crisis was discussed along with the failure of some bishops to adequately address the situation. You can find the Archbishop’s statement on the Archdiocesan website at this link: [Archbishops Statement on Rome Meeting.](#) Just scroll down once you are on the page. I have also included the text of the entire statement at the end of this newsletter if you don’t want to go to the website to read it.

Open Wide Our Hearts Listening Session - You Are Invited

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is sponsoring sessions around the country to hear the testimonies of people impacted by the sin of racism. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is sponsoring one of these listening sessions. It will take place Friday, March 8, 2019 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Curran Place on the campus of the University of Dayton. In order to attend, you must register in advance. To register, please send an e-mail to Deacon Royce Winters, Director of the Office of African American Pastoral Ministries at rwinters@catholiccincinnati.org no later than Monday, March 4. For more information, please see the full-page information sheet which I’ve included at the end of this newsletter.



Annual Blessing of the Bikes

The 19th Annual 'Blessing of the Bikes' will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2019. So it's time to begin gathering deacon volunteers.

DATE: Sunday, May 19, 2019. In case of rain, the event will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2019, which is the Feast of the Ascension.

PLACE: Kil-Kare Raceway, 1166 Dayton-Xenia Road, Xenia
(Check MapQuest or Google Kil-Kare)

TIME: 1:00 PM 'Blessing of the Bikes'. The event opens at 10:00 AM.
(Visit website at www.blessingofthebikesswohio.com/)



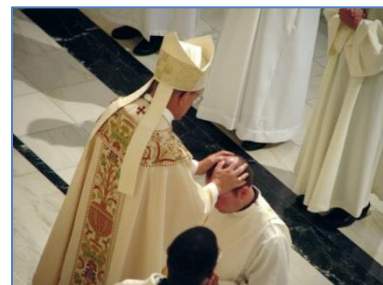
They need quite a few deacons willing to participate...8-10 deacons would be GREAT! This event is dedicated to all Military Veterans and raises funds for AMVETS, AMBUCS/GREENEBUCS, and other charities. Funds raised go to purchase of 'trykes' for special needs children and Military veterans as well as other handicapped individuals to give them some sense of mobility and independence.

Because of the sheer number of bikes (estimated over 8,000 in 2017), they are hoping to have lots of deacons to assist. It only takes about 1 ½ hours. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Deacon Greg Cecere at gacohio@sbcglobal.net.



Permanent and Transitional Deacon Ordination 2019

The ordination for the men in the current Permanent Deacon Formation class and for the seminarians who will be ordained as Transitional Deacons will be held on **Saturday, April 27, 2019 at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral**. We will have 16 men ordained as permanent deacons in the Archdiocese, and 3 men as transitional deacons. As you remember, it is a long-standing tradition that the permanent deacons of the Archdiocese welcome the newly ordained men to the diaconate at the sign of peace during the Mass.



Spiritual & Educational Opportunities

Day of Formation for Archdiocese of Cincinnati Deacons

Deacon Dave Shea will be presenting "A Day of Formation" workshop for all deacons of the Archdiocese. It will take place at St. Peter Parish, Huber Heights on **Saturday, May 4, 2019**. The workshop will cover two topics:



- **The Deacon at Mass – a refresher on the deacon’s role at Mass.**
- **“If you’re going to ask, you better listen!” Preaching Feedback that Matters: Transforming Pious Platitudes Into Powerful Preaching.”**

Final details of the workshop are being ironed out, but we anticipate it will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude with lunch around noon. A separate flyer with details will be coming. For now, please mark this on your calendar. This is a great way to get Continuing Formation hours in, along with good camaraderie with your brother deacons.

Cincinnati Men’s Conference

The Cincinnati Men’s Conference date and location has been announced. Please see below. More information can be found at their website <https://catholicspeakers.com/cincinnati-mens-conference>



NDICE 2019 – July 21-24 – Xavier University



The NDICE 2019 Conference will be held on the campus of Xavier University from Sunday, July 21 through Wednesday, July 24, 2019. Details and registration forms are in the NDICE February newsletter which has been forwarded to all deacons and men in formation in the Archdiocese. Questions can be directed to Deacon Hank Babin at hankndice@msn.com.

Necrology - March

March 2, 2009	Shirley Dipple	
March 4, 2006	Marge Thamann	
March 5, 2015	Deacon Paul Kluener	Ordained 7/28/79
March 6, 1995	Deacon Gilbert Lozier	Ordained 9/26/76
March 10, 1999	Audrey Hehemann	
March 11, 2015	Mary Kay Wong	
March 14, 1995	Deacon Delmar Palmer	Ordained 6/20/87
March 14, 2011	Deacon Allen Miller	Ordained 7/3/82
March 17, 2012	Deacon Herschel Steward	Ordained 6/21/86

This Month's Humor ...



Text of Archbishop's Statement "My Promise To You"

Dear Friends in Christ,

An extraordinary meeting in Rome between Pope Francis and representatives of the world's bishops concluded this past Sunday. The purpose of this gathering was to address the great evil of clerical sexual abuse of minors, with particular focus on bishops who failed to appropriately deal with this abuse in their dioceses.

The meeting identified many laudable principles and sentiments; however, some have expressed disappointment that it fell short of expectations. I encourage each of you to read for yourself the closing statement of Pope Francis found at <https://www.pbc2019.org/home>.

There is no doubt that the scourge of sexual abuse demands that bishops step up and lead with courage and moral clarity. As your Archbishop, I promise you that:

- Allegations of sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult will always be promptly reported to the appropriate civil law enforcement authorities.
- I will remove from ministry permanently, and without the ability to be transferred to any other Catholic institution, any member of the clergy who is found to have sexually abused a minor or a vulnerable adult.
- We will continue to offer counseling and resources to the victims of sexual abuse to help them recover and heal from the damage they have experienced.
- All priests, deacons, employees and volunteers of the Archdiocese or its various ministries will continue to be subject to criminal background checks and trained on how to spot the signs of abuse, their obligation to report all suspected abuse, and exactly how to do so.
- I require, and will continue to enforce, a strict and diligent screening process for all seminary applicants and the highest standards of formation of men suitable to the Catholic priesthood at our seminary.

From the depths of my heart, I am sorry for the terrible pain and suffering experienced by the victims of abuse throughout their lives. I understand the anger and frustration that Catholic lay people rightfully feel at the inexcusable behavior of certain cardinals, bishops, and priests, the emotional exhaustion of having to defend their faith to friends and co-workers, and the discouragement of having to relive this deep tragedy. I am deeply saddened by the stigma that good and holy priests who are committed to their vocation and vows have to endure. I am sorry for the trust that has collectively been violated.

We live in a culture that cries out for the Gospel more than ever. Everywhere, I see people desperate for meaning in their lives, wanting to love and be loved, yearning for Jesus, even if they don't realize it. The mission of the Catholic Church, commissioned by Jesus Himself, is to bring the Good News of God's mercy and love to every corner of the earth. Tragically, the actions of some of our own members have diminished our ability to do this sacred work. I remain determined to take every step necessary in this archdiocese to help heal the injured, confront and remove evildoers, and to boldly and joyfully proclaim the salvation promised us by Jesus Christ.

Many of you may be feeling that Jesus has forsaken the Church. This is not true. Rather, some members of the Church have forsaken Jesus and the call to be disciples. Jesus established His Church on earth and promised to never leave us. As we know from the Gospel of John, “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (Jn 1:5).

Please join me in praying for the healing of all victims of the grave sin of sexual abuse. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of the Catholic Church in the United States, continue to intercede for us. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr

Archbishop of Cincinnati



open wide our hearts

the enduring call to love *a pastoral letter against racism*



**The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
is sponsoring sessions around the country to hear the
testimonies of people impacted by the grave sin of racism.**



Our archdiocese is hosting one of the sessions.

You're invited to attend

Friday, March 8, 2019

3:00 - 5:00pm

at Curran Place on the campus

of the University of Dayton

1700 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409

To register please email

Deacon Royce Winters at rwinters@catholiccincinnati.org
no later than Monday, March 4.

Office of the Diaconate Phone and E-mail:

Deacon Mark Machuga
513-421-3131, Ext. 2641
mmachuga@catholiccincinnati.org or
deaconoffice@catholiccincinnati.org

If you need Mark after hours or on the weekend:
Home Phone 513-922-4130
Cell Phone 513-324-8873