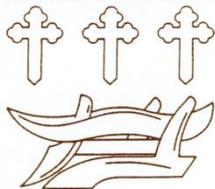


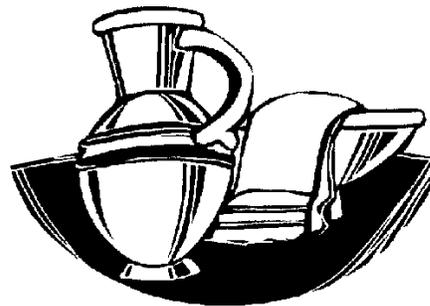
Archdiocese of Cincinnati



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MEMO

To: Deacon Community
From: Deacon Mark Machuga
Subject: Monthly Newsletter
Date: November, 2020



Reflecting back over the year 2020 we might be hard pressed to come up with things to be thankful for. A rampant pandemic that has claimed thousands of lives, a divisive political season, the closing of our churches which led to seasons of Lent and Easter with no liturgies, the inability to gather with family and friends because of social distancing ... the list seems rather bleak. Could it be that the chaos of this year is the Lord's way of bringing our focus back to the things that we *truly should be thankful for*? Faith, family, friends. The Lord is always with us, which is a gift for which we will always be grateful. "*... behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*" (Mt 28:20)

In spite of the difficulties of this past year, I am grateful for the blessing that each of you deacons and your families have been to our parishes and our Archdiocesan community. I wish we could have been together at our Regional Meetings and our annual St. Lawrence Feast Day celebration, but I'm praying that the distribution of the vaccines will bring the pandemic under control and we'll share time together in 2021.

My gratitude goes out to all of you for the gift that you are. May you and your families be blessed with a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Ministry Opportunity

Genesis is a one-day retreat for engaged couples. It is a day for couples to meet other couples and be formed by those who are already married. The Office for Marriage Preparation has asked me if I would inquire about deacons and wives who would be interested in serving as a presenting couple for a *Genesis* weekend.



From Katie Englefield, the coordinator for Marriage Preparation in the Archdiocese:

We are looking for well-formed married Catholic couples that feel called to minister to these young couples by sharing their knowledge and personal stories of living out these questions that make the foundation for the vocation of marriage. We are looking for witnesses that can tell their story of marriage and giving these questions of intention real flesh and bone.

Would you and your wife consider being a part of this ministry? The time commitment for each retreat is at the minimum one hour if you are giving just one presentation and you can participate in one retreat per year, or several as your schedule allows. I am building a cohort of couples that may be interested in presenting in 2021.

Please pray and consider your calling to this ministry. I would love to hear from you and speak with you about any of your questions.

There is also a need for deacons to preside at a Holy Hour and Benediction during the weekends. This includes a blessing of engaged couples given by the deacon.

If you are interested in either of these ministry opportunities for engaged couples, please send an e-mail to me at mmachuga@catholicaoc.org and I will get you in touch with Katie. Thanks for your consideration!

Monthly Spiritual Enrichment for Deacons



Our recent Virtual Retreat for the deacons of Cincinnati and Covington was a great success. Those deacons who participated in the recorded sessions and the Zoom discussions were very blessed by the retreat.

The committee which organized the retreat is planning to continue a similar format in the new year 2021. We are planning a monthly Spiritual Enrichment Series in which we would invite a

featured speaker to present on a topic, and then allow time for a live discussion group similar to the Zoom meetings we had during the retreat. The meeting would be one hour (presentation and discussion) once a month.

Participation in these meetings would count for continuing formation credit. More information will be coming about this series and will be communicated through e-mail. If you have ideas for presentation topics, please send them to me via e-mail.

Annual Reports Will Be Due in January

As in the past, the annual Continuing Formation Report for all ACTIVE status deacons will be due by the end of January. The form can be found in the Secure Login section of the old Archdiocesan website here: <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/ministries-offices/diaconate-office/secure-login/continuing-formation-report/>

As previously announced, the requirement for an annual retreat was waived for 2020. Given the chaotic nature of 2020, the requirement for 10 hours of Continuing Formation will be relaxed. Please report whatever you were able to accomplish during the past year. Thank you for your efforts.

Deacon Informational Meeting at your Parish?

I would like to extend to all of you the invitation to hold a meeting and invite men from your parish or the larger community of several parishes who would like more information on the diaconate. Please let me know if you would like to organize an evening to inform men of your local area about the discernment process for the Permanent Diaconate.



Requiescet in pace

Deacon William Renneker Ordained June 25, 1983 Died October 27, 2020

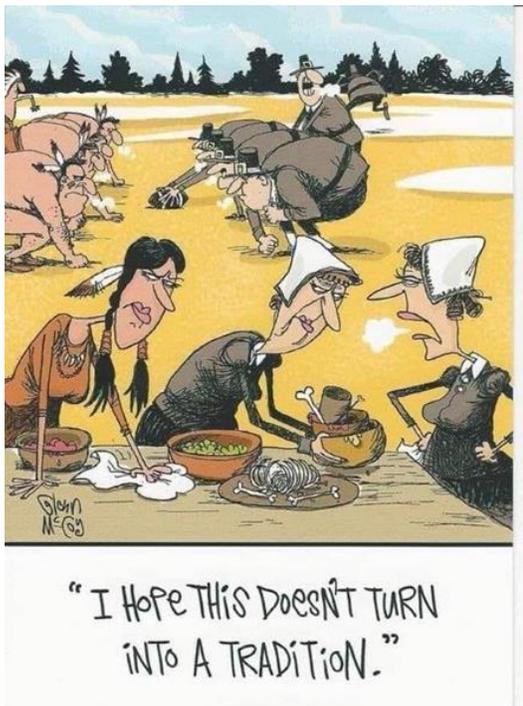


"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual Light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

Necrology - December

December 4, 2016	Deacon Thomas Huff	Ordained 7/3/82
December 4, 2019	Deacon Kenneth Schnur	Ordained 4/27/13
December 6, 2011	Deacon Joseph (Ted) Schmidt	Ordained 7/3/82
December 10, 2011	Deacon Urban Waldbillig	Ordained 7/28/79
December 15, 1995	Deacon James Smith	Ordained 6/25/83
December 16, 2010	Deacon Jack Gould	Ordained 9/26/98
December 23, 2000	Kathleen Gobbi	
December 23, 2019	Rita Marie Bertke	
December 25, 2017	Deacon Raymond Grismer	Ordained 9/26/98

This Month's Humor ...



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