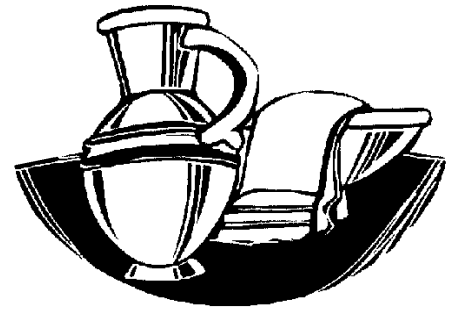


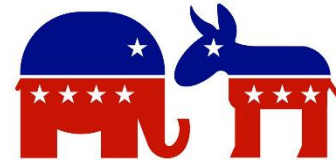
MEMO

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



MUST READ: DEACONS' RESPONSIBILITY CONCERNING POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

The political season leading up to the presidential election is now in full swing. I have been involved in several issues concerning deacons and partisan politics, the upcoming election, voting and Church teaching in these areas.



Let me reiterate the directives of the Archdiocese. No deacon may engage in public displays of partisan politics by endorsing a political party or candidate. This includes especially, but not exclusively, all forms of social media and homilies. Deacons must remain neutral on partisan politics in public forums.

The information below comes from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's website, under the *Faithful Citizenship* tab of the Catholic Social Action office's page.

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICAL ISSUES

1. Efforts should be made at the parish level to help parishioners understand and accept the importance of their involvement in the political process by participation in all elections (primary and general, local and national).
2. The Church, through its leadership, has not only a right but an obligation to speak to the moral dimension of political issues.
3. The Church's primary responsibility in the political arena is one of being educated – of being aware of the moral implications of political issues. The leadership of the Church has an obligation to provide guidance concerning the rightness and wrongness, good or evil of any specific issue.

4. In fulfilling this responsibility to provide moral guidance on political issues, however, the Church does not wish to engage in political activity. Consequently, Church leadership (including archdiocesan officials, or offices, pastors, deacons, employees, parish councils):

a) may not endorse political parties or take any action that could be construed as endorsement on the part of the Church (or describe political parties as negative entities).

b) may not endorse individual political candidates or take any action that could be construed as endorsement on the part of the Church (or describe candidates in a negative fashion).

c) may not make available the use of church facilities to one party or candidate;

d) should not authorize anyone to distribute political material on church property; (Persons who attempt to do so should be asked to leave church grounds. The distribution of political materials off church property cannot be prohibited, although it should never be authorized.)

e) may not use church publications, inserts or attachments thereto (Sunday bulletins, etc.) to support, promote, or endorse any particular party or candidate. (See number 6 below.)

5. For voter education, facilities can be made available, if a fair cross section of candidates is invited to participate in a debate or forum at which a variety of issues is discussed without any biased limitation of topics. If the program includes a question and answer period, each candidate should be given the opportunity to answer questions. Bias should not be exhibited by using rehearsed questions to entrap certain candidates.

6. Special care should be exercised in distributing materials which attempt to report candidates' stands on specific issues. Before permission to distribute such materials is given, the materials must be reviewed for political comment that constitutes endorsement.

Offices, parishes, schools, institutions, and agencies should not distribute voter education materials that are not authorized and distributed by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the State Catholic Conference or the National Bishops' Conference.

7. A Christian's social concern should extend to the entire spectrum of social issues. While some concerns may be weightier than others, citizens should nevertheless be encouraged to inform themselves of a candidate's stand on all issues before making a final judgment. It would be a disservice to encourage citizens to take an overly simplistic "single issue" approach.

8. The effectiveness of these guidelines demands that they be impartially applied to all candidates or parties, whether an individual candidate or party supports the Church's position on a specific issue or not. If effective moral leadership has been provided on the issues, the choice of candidates can confidently be left to each individual.

9. These anti-political rules also apply to any parish web site.

10. The website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops contains useful information on political activity guidelines. Please go to the website <http://www.usccb.org/about/general-counsel/political-activity-guidelines.cfm> for the Political Activity and Lobbying Guidelines for Catholic Organizations.

11. The link to the Faithful Citizenship page on the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is <http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/>.

Maria Stein Retreat 2020:
“Ministering in Hope During Challenging Times”

The annual Maria Stein Retreat will begin next Friday, October 2. If you have not yet signed up, you may do so if you e-mail me before end of day Thursday, September 24.



The Retreat Master will be Fr. David Zink, a retired Archdiocesan priest. Father Zink provides regular commentaries for Radio Maria, part of a worldwide network of Catholic radio stations. He also serves as spiritual director to the St. Joseph Chapter of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. He is a former pastor of several parishes.

A copy of the flyer and registration form is included at the end of this newsletter.

St. Meinrad Retreat - September 2021



The 2020 St. Meinrad retreat was cancelled because the Abbott has closed the main church to visitors and will not allow any of his monks to conduct retreats through the rest of 2020 due to COVID. Deacon Michael Brock has the guest house already reserved for the 2021 retreat. It will be conducted Sept 14-16, 2021 with Fr.

Eugene as retreat master. Please send an e-mail to Deacon Michael Brock at dcnbrock.mh@gmail.com if you wish to have a room reserved.

Virtual Retreat: “The Deacon as the Voice and Model of Hope in Challenging Times.”



As announced in last month’s newsletter, deacons from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Diocese of Covington have been planning a “virtual retreat” to attempt to fill the spiritual void left by not attending an in-person retreat this year. This retreat will consist of six pre-recorded presentations, one every other day for two weeks starting the first week of November. They will be viewed by participants individually. The following day, participants will come together in a Zoom meeting forum to join in a discussion of the presentation.

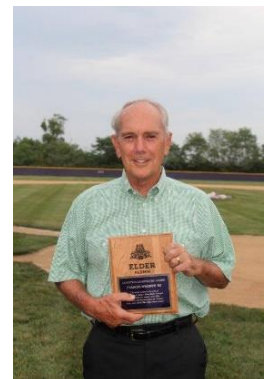
The presenters and topics for the retreat have been set. They are:

- ❖ Msgr. Frank Lane - “The Role of the Deacon in Revolutionary Times”
- ❖ Fr. Eric Woods - “The Loss of the Sense of Sunday and the Eucharist as the Transforming Sacrament”
- ❖ Deacon Mike Cassani - “The 4 Levels of Happiness”
- ❖ Deacon Royce Winters and Mr. Andrew Musgrave - “Open Wide Our Hearts - How Do We Love Our Neighbors?”
- ❖ Deacon Dave Shea - “The Joys, Challenges, Issues, and Obstacles for Your Life as a Deacon”
- ❖ Fr. Matt Summe - “Where Do We Go From Here?”

Registration for this virtual event will be coming out in a separate e-mail. We hope many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to deepen your spiritual life even though the pandemic keeps us apart.

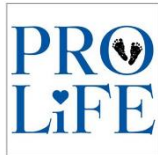
Congratulations Deacon Francis Wagner: Elder High School Christian Leadership Award

Deacon Francis Wagner was honored by Elder High School as the 2020 recipient of the Elder High School Christian Leadership Award. Deacon Francis, a member of the Elder class of 1963, was given the award at a ceremony on September 1. The Award is given in the name of Rev. Urban J. Stang, a former Elder Principal. It is awarded to a member of the Elder community who best exemplifies the Christian values upon which Elder High School is



based. Francis, your brother deacons congratulate you and offer our thanks for your fine example of what it means to be a Christian leader.

Life Chain Sunday October 4



Sunday October 4 is Life Chain Sunday, a day in which Christians gather to pray for an end to abortion and support for adoption as the loving option. It is a silent, prayerful, non-confrontational event in which we simply stand on sidewalks holding a sign provided by the Life Chain and pray facing traffic. We may stand or sit, socially distant, 10 feet apart except for families, etc. Masks are encouraged. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness to the Gospel of Life to the thousands who drive by us in their cars!

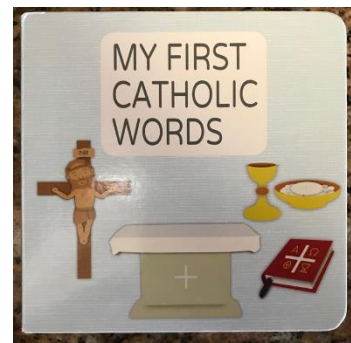
The location for the 2020 Life Chain is the intersection of High Street and Martin Luther King Blvd. in Hamilton, Ohio. It will take place from 2-3:30 p.m. on October 4. Signs will be available at the government services corner. Please come as baby's lives are at stake. Call Deacon Mike Mignery at (513) 867-1832 for further information.

Joyful Little Catholics

Deacon Mike Hinger (St. Maximilian Kolbe, Liberty Twp) and his wife Kathy want to pass along a new opportunity to catechize our young people. Their son Zack has created a company to produce children's Catholic board books.

Fellow Deacons...

As parents & grandparents, when we see one of our children or grandchildren do something truly inspiring, we want to shout it from the rooftops. Well, I guess I am no different. Check out my son Zack's new website:



<https://www.joyfullittlecatholics.com>

and his new venture into authoring high-quality Catholic board books for young children. The cover of the first book is pictured above. Please visit the website for ordering information.

Blessing of the Bikes Coordinator

The annual Blessing of the Bikes takes place on the Sunday after Mother's Day in May. Deacon Greg Cecere has coordinated the clergy for this event for many years. Due to Deacon Greg's health concerns, he is looking for a deacon to help coordinate the clergy. If you can help, please contact Deacon Greg at gjecere@sbcglobal.net or Deacon Clif Perryman at deaconclif@gmail.com. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Update on Clerical Attire Policy

The draft policy for Deacon Clerical Attire was presented to the Presbyteral Council on August 31. Following that meeting, the Council asked me to poll the deacon community to inquire how much interest there was in this policy. As you recall, I had already polled all of you at the very outset of this process. So I had that information readily available. As a reminder, the results of that poll were 77% of deacons in favor of allowing deacons the option to wear clerical attire, and 23% who were not in favor.



I gave that information to Archbishop Schnurr. He informed me he will present it to the Council at the next meeting on October 19. I will keep all of you informed as I get more information on this.

Necrology - September

October 1, 1997	Alice Schmiesing	
October 2, 1996	Deacon Orien Stokes, Jr.	Ordained 7/3/82
October 3, 1999	Deacon Thomas Kiley	Ordained 7/28/79
October 3, 2008	Deacon Paul Reeves	Ordained 7/3/82
October 3, 2016	Deacon Raphael Simmons	Ordained 7/28/79
October 9, 2016	Linda Shaffer	
October 12, 2014	Patricia Lutz	
October 18, 2015	Deacon Leonard Baltes	Ordained 7/28/79
October 18, 2006	Deacon Arthur Kronenberger	Ordained 7/25/76
October 28, 2005	Dottie Westerfield	
October 31, 2009	Deacon John Taylor	Ordained 6/20/87

This Month's Humor ...



Cartoon by Inherit the Mirth

Office of the Diaconate Phone and E-mail:

Deacon Mark Machuga
Office 513-263-6641
mmachuga@catholicaoc.org or
deaconoffice@catholicaoc.org

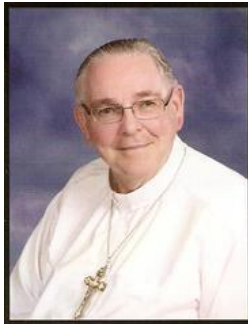
If you need Mark after hours or on the weekend:
Cell Phone 513-324-8873

Deacon Retreat October 2-4, 2020

“Ministering in Hope During Challenging Times”

A Diaconal Retreat for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

The year 2020 has been unprecedented in its impact on every dimension of our lives. Our personal spiritual lives and the life of the Church have borne similar impact. How do we, as ministers in the Church, convey a sense of hope to our brothers and sisters? How do we maintain our own sense of hope as we deal with the myriad challenges that these uncertain times present to us? Our retreat this year will explore these topics and seek to provide that hope which seems to have vanished.



Retreat Master – Father David Zink

Father David Zink has served the Archdiocese of Cincinnati as a priest for 30 years. He is a former parish priest, serving at St. Louis, St. Nicholas and several other parishes. Father Zink provides regular commentaries for Radio Maria, part of a worldwide network of Catholic radio stations. He also serves as spiritual director to the St. Joseph Chapter of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites.

Father Zink has joined us on previous retreats as the celebrant at Mass and as a confessor. His zeal and appreciation for the permanent deacons of the Archdiocese has always been apparent. We are blessed to have him serve as our Retreat Master for this year's retreat.

October 2 – 4, 2020

The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein

2365 St. Johns Rd, Maria Stein, Ohio 45860

NAME: _____

PARISH: _____

CITY: _____

- COST: \$125.00 per person (Single room) \$90.00 Deacons in Senior Status
 \$45.00 commuter I am willing to be in the choir
 I will be staying for lunch on Sunday I have special dietary restrictions
 I am willing to be a lector, prayer leader, deacon at Mass I play an instrument and will serve as a musician at liturgies

Checks made payable to the *Office of the Diaconate*

Mail To: 100 East Eighth St., Cincinnati, OH 45202 Attn: Mark Machuga

Registration Deadline: September 18, 2020

For office use only: Amount Enclosed: _____ Check Number: _____ Date Received: _____