



# Deacon News

Diocese of Davenport    Fall 2011    Volume 1    Issue 3

They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them.

Acts 6:6

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## From the Diaconate Office

Deacon David Montgomery, Director of the Diaconate

Thank you for your support during the transition process in the Office of the Diaconate. I appreciate the work Bob continues to provide in his new position as Deacon Director Emeritus.

Bob will continue to use his office on the third floor in Clergy Services and his office phone number will remain the same, 563-888-4256. I will continue to use my office on first floor in my dual role as Director of Communication and my phone number remains the same, 563-888-4222.

A couple of changes are occurring in the status of deacons. Deacon Julian Gutierrez and his wife, Maria, are moving to be closer to their children in Alexandria, VA in the Diocese of Arlington. He has purchased a house and will be ministering in the parish of the Good Shepherd Catholic Church and working as a translator for the local school district.

Deacon Mike Moetsch and his wife, Kathy, have moved from the Arch Diocese of Dubuque to Le Claire. He has taken a job with John Deere as a Manager of Hazmat Transportation & Phytosanitary Customs. Please welcome them.

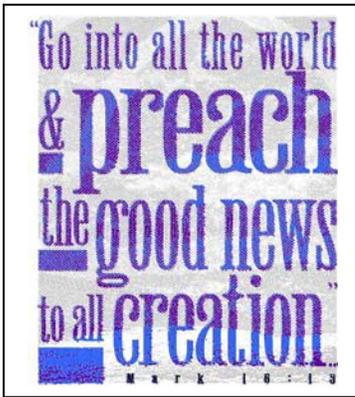
The 2012 annual retreat for deacons and their wives has been set for Oct 26-28 at The Lodge in Bettendorf. Br. Cyril Drnjevic, OSB, and his team will be presenting the retreat, *Earthen Vessels Marriage Retreat* for deacon couples. Additional information will be available at our Oct 2011 retreat and can also be found at:

[www.earthenvesselsrenewal.org](http://www.earthenvesselsrenewal.org)

For those deacons who cannot attend with their wives, another retreat, open to all deacons and their wives, is being planned for the spring of 2013.

Some of the projects underway in the office include compiling the *Deacon's Handbook of Policies and Procedures* and the creation of the three-year post-ordination formation process.

On a final note, please know that you can contact me at any time by calling 563-349-1814 (cell).



### Important Dates

Fall Clergy  
Overnighter  
November 7-8 2011

Spring Study Day  
TBA

Chrim Mass  
February 26, 2011  
Sacred Heart Cathedral

Deacons and Wives  
Annual Fall Retreat

Earthen Vessels Marriage  
Retreat  
October 26-28 2012  
The Lodge, Bettendorf

## Deacon Formation

### Deacon Frank Agnoli

This past summer, our 13 candidates for the diaconate were installed as Lectors. I had the pleasure of teaching their first two weekends this year – an Introduction to Liturgy class where we covered the foundations of liturgy and sacraments as well as the sacraments of initiation. This year will be heavy on liturgy: we will also have a 2-weekend course on the Eucharist and the first liturgy practicum next semester. During the first liturgy practicum the candidates will learn how the deacon functions at Mass and at the various forms of Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside of Mass. Next year, in Practicum II, they will learn how to preside at baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

For your own continuing formation, you may want to take a look at some of the texts that we are using for the liturgy classes:

Chauvet, Louis-Marie. *The Sacraments: The Word of God at the Mercy of the Body*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-0814661437

Irwin, Kevin. *Models of the Eucharist*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2005. ISBN-13: 978-0809143320

Martinez, German. *Signs of Freedom: Theology of the Christian Sacraments*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2004.

Mitchell, Nathan. *Meeting Mystery: Liturgy, Worship, Sacraments*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2006. ISBN# 978-1-57075-674-0

Baldovin, John F. *Bread of Life, Cup of Salvation*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003. ISBN-13: 978-0742531796

Preaching has been an important component of this formation program. During the second year of candidacy, the men began preaching at the Liturgy of the Hours using the assigned reading. This year, they are preaching using one of the Sunday readings for the formation weekend (the first reading at Saturday morning prayer, the second reading at Sunday Evening Prayer I, and the Gospel at Sunday morning prayer). Next year, they will preach on all three readings. In addition to a summer study day that I did for them on preaching, they will have a formal homiletics course in December and then journey to St. Meinrad's for a week-long homiletic intensive this summer – after they've been installed as Acolytes.

Again, for your own formation, perhaps these texts on preaching might be helpful:

DeBona, Gueric. *Preaching Effectively, Revitalizing Your Church: The Seven-Step Ladder Toward Successful Homilies*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2009. ISBN-13: 9780809146024

Egan, Harvey D. and James Wallace, eds. *Preaching in the Sunday Assembly: A Pastoral Commentary on "Fulfilled in Your Hearing."* Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780814633465 (this book contains the US Bishop's *Fulfilled in Your Hearing* as an appendix)

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## Deacon Formation - continued from page 2

Wallace, James A. *Preaching to the Hungers of the Heart: The Homily on the Feasts and Within the Rites*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 2002. ISBN-13: 9780814612248

Wilson, Paul Scott. *Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999. ISBN-13: 9780687023950

If you want to keep up with Class VI, check out our webpage: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/dcnclassvi.htm><http://www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/dcnclassvi.htm>

### Class VII

We are also beginning the inquiry year for Class VII, with information sessions

## Preaching: Know Thyself

### Deacon Frank Agnoli

According to Parker Palmer, a noted writer in the field of education, “we teach who we are.” It is also true that we *preach* who we are. Just as teachers must know themselves before they can teach with integrity, preachers must also be intentionally self-reflective. If we preach who we are, we must first *know* who we are—or we risk coming across as disingenuous, or even hypocritical.

Why? Because what’s on the inside is going to make its way to the surface, and affect our preaching—our listeners—whether we know it or not. Our biases (acknowledged or not), our wounds (attended to or not), our faith (or lack thereof) will affect how and what we preach. It is no lie that all preaching is, at some level, autobiographical! The messenger is part of the message.

If we preach who we are, and we **seek** to preach intentionally (which the good of our assemblies require), then we must

scheduled in each deanery. At these sessions, inquirers are briefly introduced to the theology and history of the diaconate, the role of deacons in our diocese, and plans for the formation program. Our application packet is also handed out. Here is the schedule of sessions; if you know of any potential candidates please send them our way, or to our website.

We have a general formation page (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/dcnformation.htm>) as well as a page specific for class VII (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/dcnclassvii.htm>).

attend to the forces and relationships which have shaped us: our linguistic and preaching ancestors; our past life and work experiences; our “gifts, wounds, joys, fears” and our “interests, associations, achievements, failures” in an intentional manner. Schlafer’s book (listed below) is an excellent tool for exploring these issues individually... or as a community. Perhaps groups of deacons and their wives may want to work through this book together?

### Resources:

Palmer, Parker J. 1998. *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher’s Life*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers.

Resner, André, Jr. 1999. *Preacher and Cross: Person and Message in Theology and Rhetoric*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

Schlafer, David J. 1995. *Your Way with God’s Word: Discovering Your Distinctive Preaching Voice*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications.

### Inquiry Sessions

October 30<sup>th</sup>  
St. Patrick, Ottumwa

November 19th  
St. Joseph, Dewitt

December 4th  
Chancery  
St. Vincent Center  
Davenport

Schlafer, David J. 1995. *Your Way with God’s Word: Discovering Your Distinctive Preaching Voice*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications.

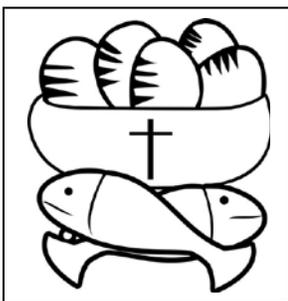
How you explain the preaching *ministry to someone? What is it that we are doing when we preach? In more academic terms: What is your theology of preaching? E-mail me and send me your favorite metaphor for preaching (“Preaching is like...”); I’ll include them in this series ( [agnoli@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:agnoli@davenportdiocese.org) ).*

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven

Ecclesiastes 3:1

“Receive the Gospel of Christ, who’s herald you have become.

Believe what you read, teach what you believe practice what you preach.”



## This and That

Deacon Bob McCoy

***There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1***

Solomon's observations on life as recorded in Ecclesiastes remind us that God has a plan for all people. His words prompt us that we need to appreciate God's timing of events in our lives, thus providing cycles of life, each with its own work to be done.

The years I have spent working in the Diaconate Office have passed quickly in retrospect. I suspect that phenomena is part of the aging process. The Diaconate has matured as we as deacons have accepted new responsibilities, both within parishes and in service to the larger outside community. Each formation class has built on the experiences of the previous classes. The curriculum has been expanded to meet the changing needs and challenges of ministry.

Each of us regardless of how long we have been ordained, need to take seriously the obligation to improve the pastoral, liturgical, theological and spiritual dimensions of our lives. Continuing education is becoming more essential each year for all of us. Remember as the Bishop told each of us at ordination:

“Receive the Gospel of Christ, who’s herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, practice what you preach”

In essence, our ministry must be grounded in our personal relationship with Christ. My hope for the future of the Diaconate is that we may all continue to improve that relationship. Please keep Deacons Frank and David in prayer as they continue to lead and improve the quality of our efforts to serve Christ and our diocese. Please continue your support of our deacon candidates and their families through prayer and deed.

My sincere thanks to all deacons, deacon candidates, spouses, children and friends of the Diaconate in the diocese for your prayers, support and good wishes for Pat and I over the years.

We look forward to seeing each of you at a future deacon gathering.

I hope to update our deacon community records now that I have more time. If you have any photos or written records of individual deacon accomplishments, please let me know. We have a rich history of the Diaconate in the diocese which needs to be preserved.