



## Deacons, Candidates and wives of the Diocese of Rockford begin the celebration of Advent and Christmas

Although the response for attending this year was low, it may have been a blessing. It was the night before our annual Deacon Christmas party, when the midwest experienced the seasons first winter storm. Sleet, ice, wind and snow caused power outages across the diocese into Sunday.

The group of 54 began by celebrating Mass together with Monsignor Schwartz as main celebrant and Fr. Les Echevia, pastor for SS. Peter and Paul concelebrating. Following Mass, this year's committee, Deacon Jim and Mary Newhouse, Deacon Joe and Jan Kayser, Deacon Don and Marian Brunette and Deacon John and Ellie McPhee began the party with "Deacon Bingo", allowing everyone social and get acquainted time.



Special acknowledgement for those in attendance this year were members of the Class of 2008 and Class of 2010. Deacon Bob and Lois Bracken were also present. Deacon Bracken, a member of the first class of Permanent Deacons ordained in the diocese in 1975 celebrated 32 years as a permanent deacon this year. Deacon Ed Lober was remembered while welcoming his wife, Millie, and thanking her for the years of service Ed gave to the diocese.

The spirit of giving by our deacons and wives came through as the Christmas tree was surrounded by canned goods and toys. These items were given to a local food pantry and the Fox Valley Pregnancy Crisis Center.



### Ongoing Formation Hours Due

As 2007 comes to an end, please remember to complete your annual Ongoing Formation Hours form and send in to this office by December 31.

As a reminder, active deacons are required to submit 25 ongoing formation hours annually. Please refer to pp. 70 of your Deacon Handbook for the categories and distribution of hours as they apply to your hours. You can view a sample form on pp. 109.

If you are in need of an Ongoing Formation Form, you may enlarge pp. 110 of your Deacon Handbook or access the form from the deacon website in the members only section at [www.opdrfd.org](http://www.opdrfd.org). The username is `rfddeacon` and the password is `scripture`, all lowercase letters.

### Preaching Certification

Deacons who are in need of Preaching Certification to preach on Sundays and other Holy Days must contact the office no later than January 31, 2008. Certification is granted after successful completion of an appropriate class and successfully delivering a prepared homily before the Most Reverend Thomas Doran.

Those who have contacted the office will be notified after January 31 and assigned a topic for preaching, and given a date to preach before Bishop Doran as well as additional information.

Certification is available for deacons who have attended and fulfilled the required preaching classes or have come from outside the diocese and have not yet completed the certification process.

### Pre-nuptial and Annulment Certification opportunity

Deacons wishing to become certified for Pre-nuptial and Annulment preparation are invited to attend the class with the Candidates in formation.

The class will be held Saturday, April 19, 2008 at the Newman Center, DeKalb, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM. Attending the class also qualifies for 4.5 hours of ongoing formation credit.

The test, required to take and pass for certification, is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2008 at the Cathedral of St. Peter at 9:00 AM.

To attend this class you must contact the office to register. The next opportunity for this class will likely not be for two years or more.

**Of Interest:** Permanent Deacons requiring Preaching Recertification for 2007 have a final opportunity for recertification before expiration notification is sent to pastors. The Homiletics III class for those in formation is available for recertification. Class dates are: Saturday, Feb. 9, 16, March 8 & 29, 9:00 AM - noon at St. Mary, Durand. As a reminder, you must attend all classes for recertification. Participation of this class also receives 12 hours of ongoing formation credit. Please contact the office if you wish to attend.

**Annual Deacon Assembly Day:** Please reserve Saturday, February 23, 2008 on your calendar to attend the annual Deacon Assembly Day. You will receive registration and schedule information for that day in January. Candidacy I, Class of 2010, will be admitted into Candidacy during Mass at Assembly Day.

**Ongoing Formation Opportunities:** The following classes have been made available for Ongoing Formation Credit:

**Ecumenism:** Tuesday, January 8, 15, 22, 29, and Feb. 5 6:00 - 8:30 PM at Newman Center, DeKalb. Qualifies for 12.5 hours of ongoing formation credit.

**Deacon as Teacher:** January 19, 2008, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM. at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Qualifies for 4.5 hours of ongoing formation credit.

**Advanced Morality:** Tuesday, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1, 6:30 - 9:00 PM at the Diocesan Administration Building. Qualifies for 12.5 hours of ongoing formation credit.

Please contact the office to reserve a space for any of the ongoing formation classes mentioned in this newsletter.

## Sacrament of Confirmation given in Deanery Celebration during the Centennial Celebration Year

Letters were sent out at the end of November providing explanation of the continued centennial celebration for the diocese which includes the Sacrament of Confirmation given in Deanery celebration.

Please remember the office communicates with parishes a minimum of 30 days prior to a scheduled Confirmation date. Due to the Deanery Celebration calendar, all parishes will require notification for their respective date. We would ask that you review the following schedule and notify the office with your willingness to assist. Please pay special attention to the needs for February 17 and February 24 as the date for communicating with the parishes in the deanery is right around the corner. The office appreciates the response from deacons offering their willingness to assist.

Special Note: Please plan to bring an Alb, Stole and Sincture when assisting at these Confirmations.

<u>Deanery</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Deanery</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>Freeport</b>	<b>St. Thomas Aquinas Church</b>	<b>2/17/08</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Sterling</b>	<b>Newman H.S.</b>	<b>4/20/08</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
1. Randy Fast 2. Dick Mulcahey 3. Vince Drees 4. Marty Czerniewski 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.				1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
<b>Rockford</b>	<b>Boylan H.S.</b>	<b>2/24/08</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Sterling</b>	<b>Newman H.S.</b>	<b>4/20/08</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
1. Rich Gerdeman 2. Ron Magee 3. Peter Calgaro 4. Randy Fast 5. Dick Mulcahey 6. Marty Czerniewski 7. Jim Hudzinski 8. Bob Sweeney 9. Bill Bronzi 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.				1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
<b>DeKalb</b>	<b>NIU, Holmes Student Center</b>	<b>3/9/08</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>McHenry</b>	<b>Marian Central Catholic H.S.</b>	<b>5/3/08</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
1. Steve Puscas 2. Jim Dombek 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.				1. Jim Devona 2. Joe Kayser 3. Hans Rokus 4. Jack O'Leary 5. Lou Farinella 6. Art Holt 7. Bob Anchor 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
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<b>Aurora</b>	<b>Aurora Central Catholic H.S.</b>	<b>4/5/08</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>McHenry</b>	<b>Marian Central Catholic H.S.</b>	<b>5/4/08</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
1. Dick Groom 2. Mike Zibrun 3. Ray Weaver 4. Ignacio Felix 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.				1. Ed Morrison 2. Jim Devona 3. Jim Woeste 4. Jack Roder 5. Hans Rokus 6. Art Holt 7. Tom O'Brien 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
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<b>Aurora</b>	<b>Aurora Central Catholic H.S.</b>	<b>4/6/08</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Elgin</b>	<b>Elgin Community College</b>	<b>5/17/08</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
1. Dick Groom 2. Ray Weaver 3. Norb Szudarski 4. Ignacio Felix 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.				1. Marty Hetzel 2. Greg Stevens 3. Lou Farinella 4. Paul Iwanski 5. Steve Fox 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
<b>Aurora</b>	<b>Aurora Central Catholic H.S.</b>	<b>4/6/08</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Elgin</b>	<b>Elgin Community College</b>	<b>5/17/08</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
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1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard 5. Kevin Prunty 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.				1. Bill Johnson 2. NORb Szudarski 3. Jack Roder 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.			
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