DEACON NEWS

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Class of 2010 Admitted into Candidacy

The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran celebrated Mass and the Rite of Candidacy for the Class of 2010 Saturday, February 23, 2008 at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Monsignor William Schwartz, Director and several pastors of the candidates concelebrated. This is the first public recognition as they near completion of their third year of a five year program.

During the Rite of Candidacy, the men were asked of their desire to prepare themselves in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and his Body, the Church. They all responded affirmatively.

We ask your prayers and support for these men, their wives and families as they continue to discern their call to the service in the Church.

We Welcome the Class of 2010:

Top Row L to R: Steve Pulkrabek, St. Peter / S. Beloit; Michael O'Connor, SS. Peter & Paul / Cary; Douglas Kremer, St. Mary / E. Dubuque; James Hall, Holy Angels / Aurora; Bob Stephenson, St. Patrick / Rockford; and Rev. Msgr. William Schwartz, Director.

Bottom Row L to R: Anthony Keppler, St. Mary / E. Dubuque; Curtis Fielder, Church of Holy Apostles / McHenry; Loc Nguyen, St. Mary / Elgin; William Stankevitz, Holy Cross / Batavia; Ignacio Badillo, St. Peter S. Beloit; and William Riseley, St. Bridget / Loves Park. Not pictured: Jerry Ryndak, St. Charles Borromeo / Hampshire.

Annual Deacon Assembly Day

Attending this year were 111 deacons, 8 candidates and 58 wives, making this year the largest attended Assembly Day.

The day began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas G. Doran Following Bishop Doran's address to those attending, Monsignor William Schwartz began the day recognizing those deacons in attendance celebrating milestone anniversaries as permanent deacons, introducing our two newest deacons to the diocese, Deacons John Nelson and Mark Chaplin, and the Candidates, Class of 2008, who are to be ordained May 24, 2008.

Monsignor made the following announcements: The Symposium for Priests and Deacons of the Diocese of Rockford will be Friday, September 12, 2008 at Giovanni's Restaurant and Convention Center. Christopher West will present "Created and Redeemed," a seminar based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

Two Ongoing Formation programs were announced. Pontifical College Josephinum is providing a distance learning program on line for the diaconate. Those interested are to contact the office to facilitate registration. The Diocese of Rockford Diocesan Theological Institute was introduced. The institute is an ongoing formation opportunity for the graduates of Ministry Formation as well as for the Permanent Diaconate. Classes will be offered on Saturday's and possibly week nights from Fall to Spring. Course offerings for 2008/2009: World Religions, Jesus of Nazareth, Spiritual Direction, The Gospels, Theological Reflection, Fathers of the Church, Church Teaching on Life Issues, Church History, Lead Like Jesus, Vatican II Documents, Meeting Christ in the Liturgy. Registration, dates and additional information will be available in late spring. *Continued on page 2*

Please Welcome Deacon John Nelson and Deacon Mark Chaplin to the Diocese of Rockford. Deacon John and Mrs. Katherine Nelson come to us from the Diocese of Rochester, New York. John and Katherine reside in McHenry and serve at St. Patrick Parish, McHenry.

Deacon Mark and Mrs. Laura Chaplin come to us from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati but was ordained in the Diocese of Jefferson City, MO. Mark and Laura reside in Sugar Grove and serve at St. Gall Parish, Elburn.

Please offer them a warm welcome.

Annual Deacon Assembly Day

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Unique to this Assembly Day were table assignments. Because we are a "community of strangers," deacons, candidates and their wives were separated and assigned to tables away from classmates and parishes. Monsignor Schwartz used this opportunity, when most deacons of the diocese were present, to learn what is needed. He began with asking *"What are the gifts that are evident in the diaconate of the Diocese of Rockford"*? After discussing as a table, each table answered aloud with: "self denial, service to parish, diversity, empowerment, spirituality," just to name a few. Each person was then asked to write responses to the question *"What are the challenges facing our diaconate today?"* Each person wrote down challenges. After more table discussion, each table wrote their top three responses on a large easel sheet, taping them to the wall for viewing. Some of the challenges presented were: Education, parish / pastor support, spiritual support, wife participation / programs just to name a few.

Following lunch, the new diocesan directories were distributed by Elvira Duffey, Carol Fast and Linda Cooper. If you were unable to attend, you will receive your new directory via regular mail. After discussing the challenges, they were then asked to "Keep It Real" and offer ideas and suggestions. After more table discussion, a designated person wrote down their ideas and suggestions. A spokesperson for each table presented their ideas. Some ideas and suggestions offered were: Mentoring for Deacon wives, Deanery Meetings using an agenda / specific purpose, establish a Diaconate Diocesan Board to serve as a consultative group to Monsignor Schwartz.

After reviewing all the materials, deacons and wives will each receive a questionniare in the near future. You will be asked to complete the questionnaire and return to the office. The information will be used to go forward in the next step.

Keeping you informed ...Ordination: May 24, 2008

The Class of 2008 will be ordained Permanent Deacons May 24, 2008 along with the Seminarian ordinandi. Attending ordination is by ticket only. Due to space constraints, the Class of 2008 were each alloted only 14 general and 11 family seating tickets. Limited space also allows for only 22 permanent deacons to vest. The candidates provided us with names of deacons from their parishes as well as relationships formed during their five years of formation. Thank you for your understanding.

Continue to pray for the Class of 2008 and their families as they near completion of five years of formation and begin their service as deacon.

Ongoing Formation Hours Form

Enclosed is a revised Ongoing Formation Hours Form for your use. Active deacons are required to attend one retreat annually. Ongoing Formation Hours do not apply for attending one retreat. Should you opt to attend a second retreat within the same year, you may add the hours of one retreat to your ongoing formation hours. All active deacons of this diocese are required to complete 25 clock hours annually.

Pre-Nuptial / Annulment Class

Deacons wishing to assist in preparation of Pre-nuptial / Annulment paperwork must receive certification. Deadline for registration for this class is April 4, 2008.

The class will be held Saturday, April 19, 2008 at Newman Center, DeKalb 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM. The test, required to take and pass, is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2008 at the Diocesan Admin. Bldg. at 9:00 AM.

Diaconate Calendar 2008

Event	Date	Location
Pre-Nuptial / Annulment Class	April 19, 2008	Newman Center, DeKalb
Pre-Nuptial / Annulment Test	April 26, 2008	Diocese of Rockford Admin. Bldg.
Permanent Deacon Ordination	May 24, 2008	Cathedral of St. Peter
Deacon Retreat	September 5 - 7, 2008	Bishop Lane
Couples Retreat	October 10 - 12, 2008	Bishop Lane
Priest / Deacon Symposium	September 12, 2008	Giovanni's - Rockford

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Deanery Confirmation Update

Due to schedule changes, please review the following schedule making sure it is correct. If you have communicated a change with the office and it is not reflected, please contact the office. We have recieved clarification of the number of deacons needed for each Confirmation and have noted it accordingly on each date. Priority is given to deacons appointed to participating parishes.

Please review the confirmation schedule carefully, making note of all vacancies and contact the office with your willingness to assist or corrections. Letters of instruction will be sent to deacons assiting prior to each Confirmation.

Deanery Location Date Time

DeKalb NIU, Holmes Student Center 3/9/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Christ the Teacher, St. Mary, DeKalb; St. Mary, Sycamore; St. Patrick, Rochelle; SS. Peter & Paul, Virgil;Vietnamese Ministry.

1. Steve Puscas 2. Jim Dombek 3. Mark Chaplin 4. Tom Petit 5. Hans Rokus 6. John McPhee 7. Greg Urban 8. Jim Newhouse **LIST COMPLETE**

DeKalb NIU, Holmes Student Center 3/9/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Charles, Hampshire; St. Gall; Elburn; St. John, Somonauk; St. Mary, Maple Park; St. Paul, Sandwich; St. James, Lee.

1. Steve Puscas 2. Jim Dombek 3. Mark Chaplin 4. Tom Petit 5. Hans Rokus 6. John McPhee 7. Greg Urban 8. Jim Newhouse **LIST COMPLETE**

Freeport St. Thomas Aquinas Church 3/30/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Holy Cross, Stockton; St. Wendelin, Shannon; St. Joseph, Lena; SS. John & Catherine, Mt. Carroll; St. Ann, Warren; St. John, Savanna; St. Mary, Freeport. Eight deacons needed for this date.

1. Randy Fast 2. Dick Mulcahey 3. Vince Drees
4. Marty Czerniewski 5. Chuck Cooper 6. Dick Dinneen
7. Bill Lemmer 8. Dan Goetz **LIST COMPLETE**

Aurora Aurora Central Catholic H.S. 4/5/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Holy Angels, Sacred Heart; Aurora.

1. Dick Groom 2. Mike Zibrun 3. Ray Weaver 4. Ignacio Felix
5. Tom Petit 6. Greg Urban 7. Tom Hawksworth **8.**

Aurora Aurora Central Catholic H.S. 4/5/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Peter, Geneva.

1. Mike Zibrun 2. Ray Weaaver 3. Ignacio Felix 4. Tom Petit
5. Greg Urban 6. Tom Hawksworth **7. 8.**

Aurora Aurora Central Catholic H.S. 4/6/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Annunciation, O.L.G.C., St. Mary, Aurora.

1. Dick Groom 2. Ray Weaaver 3. Norb Szudarski
4. Ignacio Felix 5. Tom Petit 6. Bruce Watermann 7. Greg Urban
8. Ray Martin **LIST COMPLETE**

Aurora Aurora Central Catholic H.S. 4/6/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Holy Cross, Batavia

1. Norb Szudarski 2. Ray Weaaver 3. Ignacio Felix 4. Tom Petit
5. Bruce Watermann 6. Greg Urban 7. Ray Martin **8.**

Sterling Newman H.S. 4/19/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Patrick, Dixon; St. Mary, West Brooklyn.

1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard
5. Kevin Prunty 6. John Kellen 7. Dan Goetz 8. Jim Lopez **LIST COMPLETE**

Sterling Newman H.S. 4/19/08 4:00 PM Includes the following parishes: St. Patrick, Amboy; St. Anne, Dixon.

1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard
5. Kevin Prunty 6. Dan Goetz 7. John Kellen 8. Jim Lopez
LIST COMPLETE

Sterling Newman H.S. 4/20/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Mary, Sterling; St. Ambrose, Erie; St. Catherine, Prophetstown.

1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard
5. Jim Lopez 6. John Kellen 7. Bill Lemmer 8. Dan Goetz
LIST COMPLETE

Sterling Newman H.S. 4/20/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Andrew, Rock Falls, Sacred Heart, Sterling, Immaculate Conception, Fulton.

1. Terry Wagner 2. Larry Zitkus 3. Ron Szakatits 4. Sam Berard
5. Jim Lopez 6. John Kellen 7. Bill Lemmer 8. Dan Goetz
LIST COMPLETE

McHenry Marian Central Catholic H.S. 5/3/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: SS. Peter & Paul, Cary; St. Joseph, Harvard; Sacred Heart, Marengo; St. Peter, Spring Grove.

1. Hans Rokus 2. Jack O'leary 3. Lou Farinella 4. Art Holt
5. Bob Anchor 6. Cy Grossmayer 7. Greg Duffey 8. Joe Kayser
9. John McPhee 10. Mike Boyce 11. Tony Koss 12. Phil Emmert
LIST COMPLETE

McHenry Marian Central Catholic H.S. 5/3/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Margaret Mary, Algonquin; St. Mary, Huntley; St. Joseph, Richmond.

1. John McPhee 2. Cy Grossmayerr 3. Hans Rokus 4. Don Miller
5. Lou Farinella 6. Tom O'Brien 7. Bob Anchor 8. Art Holt
9. Armand Ferrini 10. Gene Schubert 11. Greg Duffey
12. Howard Fischer **LIST COMPLETE**

McHenry Marian Central Catholic H.S. 5/4/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: Holy Apostles, St. Mary, McHenry; St. Mary, Woodstock; St. Elizabeth, Crystal Lake.

1. Ed Morrison 2. Joe Kayser 3. Jim Devona 4. Jack Roder
5. Hans Rokus 6. Art Holt 7. John McPhee 8. Greg Duffey
9. Allen Bondi 10. Cy Grossmayer 11. Jim Woeste 12. Joe Phelan
LIST COMPLETE

McHenry Marian Central Catholic H.S. 5/4/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Thomas, Crystal Lake; St. John, Johnsburg; St. Patrick, McHenry.

1. Ed Morrison 2. Jim Devona 3. Hans Rokus 4. John Nelson
5. Art Holt 6. Greg Duffey 7. Allen Bondi 8. John McPhee
9. Joe Kayser 10. Cy Grossmayer 11. Mark Raz 12. Tom O'Brien
LIST COMPLETE

Elgin St. Patrick Church, St. Charles 5/17/08 10:00 AM
Includes the following parishes: St. Catherine, Dundee; St. Thomas More, Elgin.

1. Greg Stevens 2. Steve Fox 3. Bill Whitehead 4. Marty Hetzel
5. Paul Iwanski **6. 7. 8.**

Elgin St. Patrick Church, St. Charles 5/17/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. John Neumann, St. Charles.

1. Marty Hetzel 2. Greg Stevens 3. Lou Farinella 4. Paul Iwanski
5. Steve Fox 6. Bill Whitehead **7. 8.**

Elgin Elgin Community College 5/18/08 1:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Joseph, Elgin.

1. Norb Szudarski 2. Jack Roder **3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.**

Elgin St. Patrick Church, St. Charles 5/18/08 4:00 PM
Includes the following parishes: St. Patrick, St. Charles.

1. Norb Szudarski 2. Jack Roder 3. Bill Johnson **4. 5. 6. 7. 8.**