



Deacon Couples Retreat - Space Available



Space is still available for the Deacon Couples retreat October 10-12, "Checking Our Spiritual Pulse," at the Bishop Lane Retreat House. Deacons of the Diocese of Rockford are required to attend one annual retreat. Per the changes to the required 25 hours of Ongoing Formation, hours for attending one retreat are not to be calculated into these hours. Should you elect to attend an additional retreat within the year, hours for one retreat can be applied to your 25 required hours. The revised Ongoing Formation Hours form does provide an area to indicate your attendance of the required retreat. The Office for the Permanent Diaconate offers two retreats each year at no cost to you so can meet the requirement for your annual retreat.

We are pleased to have Rev. Msgr. Charles Beebe and Sr. Diane VandeVoorde, OSF of the Diocese of Peoria, as retreat masters for both retreats. Registration forms were provided with the July newsletter and are also available on the Deacon Web site at www.DeaconRockford.org.

Deadline for the couples retreat is **September 19**. You are encouraged to register sooner than later as space is limited. To date, 21 couples have registered for the Couples retreat. Attending the Deacon Only retreat earlier this month were 65 permanent deacons. Look for highlights for both retreats in the October issue of Deacon News.

For planning purposes, an abbreviated agenda follows:

Friday -

6:30 - 7:30 PM Registration/Room Check-in

7:45 PM Evening Prayer/Chapel, Introduction to retreat theme, concludes with prayer service with reflection question.

Saturday -

8:00 AM Morning Prayer/Chapel with breakfast following

9:15 AM first session, sessions throughout day; 5:30 PM dinner, 7:00 PM opportunity for reconciliation followed by Evening Prayer

Sunday -

8:00 AM Morning Prayer followed by breakfast; 9:00 AM Session, 11:00 AM Mass and conclusion of retreat.

Lunch will not be served on Sunday.

Please note that due to the nature and structure of the retreats, you are asked to be present during the retreat hours and avoid leaving during the day.

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

Canon Law: Tuesday, September 23, October 7, 21, November 4, and 18; 6:30 - 9:00 PM at the Diocese of Rockford Administration Building. Qualifies for 10 hours of ongoing formation credit. You must attend all sessions of this course.

Theology of the Deacon: Saturday, October 4; 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Qualifies for 4.5 hours of ongoing formation credit.

Church History: Saturday, October 18 (Church During the Reformation); 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM at the Diocese of Rockford Administration Building. Qualifies for 4.5 hours of ongoing formation credit. The remaining Church History class; Church in the Modern Times, will be available during the Spring semester.

World Religions: Saturday, November 15 and December 6; 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM at the Diocese of Rockford Administration Building. Qualifies for 9 hours of ongoing formation credit. You must attend both sessions for this class.

Space is limited for the above classes. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office to reserve a space for any of the classes offered above. At the time of registering for a class, please verify if a textbook is required for the respective class/course. Instructors will often assign pre-reading assignments prior to the class.

Deacon Formation: Informational Meetings for the Class of 2014

The Office for the Permanent Diaconate will soon be opening the application process for the Deacon Formation Program for the next Aspirancy class, Class of 2014. We would like to ask your assistance in spreading the word about the upcoming informational meeting for those who might be interested in applying for the next Deacon Formation program. The application process for the new class begins by attending one of the three mandatory

informational meetings. Please note: if the man interested in applying is married, his wife is required to attend the meeting with him. A sample bulletin announcement is enclosed with this letter.

Informational Meetings will be scheduled for Saturday, November 8, November 22 and December 13, 2008. They will be held at the Diocese of Rockford Administration Building, Rockford, 1:00 - 3:00 PM.

As a deacon, you are the best person to notice who in your parish would be a good candidate for the diaconate.

On The Formation Front

Candidates, Aspirants and their wives will gather Saturday, September 13 to begin the next year of formation. The Candidates, Class of 2010 will begin their fourth year of the five year program. The Aspirants, Class of 2012 will begin their second year of Aspirancy. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey of growth and discernment.

Deacon Wives Colloquium II

A group of 19 deacon wives again gathered together Saturday, August 23, 2008 at the Diocesan Admin. Bldg. to continue building a network and getting to know one another. The morning began with Msgr, Schwartz celebrating Mass prior to the meeting. The meeting began with a brief summary from the first meeting held in June and then continued with the primary focus of the meeting, "Networking."

The objective was to reach an understanding of the necessity of building a program for networking. As a

result of this meeting, it was decided that a Deacon Wives Directory and Diocese of Rockford Diaconate Directory be developed. You should have received a Deacon Data Collection Form (Salmon color) and if married, a Deacon Wife Data Collection Form (yellow). Please complete these forms and return back to the office no later than September 30, 2008.

Although, we have not yet scheduled another meeting, we are hopeful to schedule a meeting in November. Watch the Deacon Calendar for the next scheduled meeting. All Deacon Wives are invited and encouraged to attend.

Are you staying informed?



The Office for the Permanent Diaconate makes every effort to communicate with you and keep you informed. There are two opportunities to stay informed. First, on average, a monthly issue of Deacon News is prepared and distributed for the purpose of necessary communication within the deacon community of the Diocese of Rockford. Deacons receive the newsletter via email or via U.S Postal Service. Topics include clarification of certification requirements, ongoing formation opportunities, Q & A of A Deacon At Mass, Ministry Agreement and Ongoing Formation Form requests and status, etc.

Also included with the newsletters may be retreat registration forms, revised ministry agreements with your personalized ministry agreement status, and ongoing formation forms just to name a few.

Second, a web site has been established for you to access at your convenience. Please note: **the address for the Diocese of Rockford Deacon Web Site has changed.** The new web site address is www.DeaconRockford.org. User name and password information for the "Members Only" section remains the same. We are hopeful you will find this new address easier to remember.

The web site includes such things as past issues of the Deacon News, Ongoing Formation Opportunities, Diocesan Theological Institute detail, Ongoing Formation Hours and Ministry Agreement forms, etc. The web site will soon be utilized for information purposes such as meeting or cancellations, providing and obtaining information, etc. If you haven't already, please take some time and familiarize yourself with the site.

The office makes every effort to provide communicate and information to you. You are encouraged to take advantage of the above information opportunities.



Deacon Tom Hawksworth - Getting the Word Out

Renewal Ministries, March 2008

Renewal Ministries, dedicated to fostering renewal and evangelization in the Catholic Church by helping people know the personal love of God in Jesus and grow in holiness through a weekly television program, The Choices We Face, daily radio programs, Food for the Journey and Fire on the Earth; through parish missions, seminars and conferences, books, tapes, CDs, and videos, and through mission work in more than 25 countries. Their aim is to strengthen and equip Catholics for evangelization and ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Deacon Tom Hawksworth is witness to this mission. The March 2008 issue of the *Renewal Ministries* newsletter featured an article about Deacon Hawksworth and his efforts in "getting the Word out." In 2001 he took the program tapes down to Aurora Community Television and asked them to run the show throughout the year on the public access channel. Deacon Hawksworth also decided to write a short column in the Holy Angels' Church bulletin entitled "The Choices We Face." Seven years and 359 columns later, both the television show and his column have become familiar and effective means of "getting the Word out" to the folks in Aurora, IL.



Diaconate Calendar 2008 / 2009

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Couples Retreat	October 10 - 12, 2008	Bishop Lane
Deacon Formation Informational Meeting for Class of 2014	November 8, 2008 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Diocesan Admin. Bldg.
Deacon Formation Informational Meeting for Class of 2014	November 22, 2008 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Diocesan Admin. Bldg.
Deacon Formation Informational Meeting for Class of 2014	December 13, 2008 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Diocesan Admin. Bldg.
Deacon Assembly Day	February 28, 2009	Cathedral of St. Peter