



*Heavenly Father,
since the time of the Apostles
you have inspired the Church
to commission certain mem-
bers to assist in a special
way in the pastoral mission of
Christ. Bless the deacons
and all other ordained
and non-ordained ministers
that they may be humble
and faith-inspired in their
service. We ask this through
Christ, our Lord. Amen*

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Deacon News

Diocese of Davenport

2022

From the Diaconate Office: Year in Review

Heralds of the Good News

Wow! What an exciting time for the deacons in the Diocese of Davenport. On July 9, 2022 Bishop Zinkula ordained 7 reputable men as deacons for our diocese.



Please welcome to the diaconate: L to R: Deacon Andrew Reif, Deacon Mike Linnenbrink, Deacon Gary Johnson, Deacon Angel Hernandez, Deacon Andy Hardigan, Deacon Kent Ferris, and Deacon Ryan Burchette

What an exciting time for these 7 men and their families. Each of these newly ordained deacons has been given a diocesan assignment as well as being assigned to a parish. These works of charity cover an array of needs within our diocesan ministries: Courage/Encourage, Catholic Rural life, mental health, Hispanic outreach (2), Jail outreach and the diocesan evangelization office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Chrism Mass April 3, 2023 Sacred Heart Cathedral
- Spring Retreat Saturday-Sunday April 22-23, 2023 in **Riverside, IA.**
 - Deacon Council Meeting with the Retreat
- Fall Convocation October 21-22, 2023 **Sacred Heart Cathedral**

As one class ends, another begins!

In August Class IX began the journey of discerning God's will for their lives. 18 men entered the aspirant stage of diaconal formation. During this period the aspirant and their wife are introduced to the rigors of prayer, study, and action. A time for growing in their marital commitment while trying to discern the implications of diaconal life and family life.

These 18 aspirant couples do not journey alone. Mentor couples from our diaconal community have once again stepped up to accompany the aspirants in this journey. Deacon Steve Barton has once again agreed to manage the field experiences for Class IX. These field experiences reflect all of the years that we as deacons have served the needs of our diocese and beyond. This means that many of you will be asked to share your ministerial and spiritual life with the aspirants. Thank you for your willingness to be accompaniers.

Special Responsibility

The National Directory states: the director must be familiar with the diaconate-its history, theology, and practice...parish experience...practical skills and experience in formation, curriculum development, adult educational methodology, vocational discernment, supervision, and administration. Deacon Frank truly fits the job description and we thank him for his dedication and ministry to our diocese and beyond.



Joy of the Gospel

“Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles [and their successors] continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time...the mission which the Lord Jesus continues to entrust to the Pastors of his people, is a true service.” National Directory 25. Our Pastor in this year of the Lord, Bishop Thomas Zinkula.

Bishop Thomas



Convocation 2022
Eucharistic Revival



Deacons attending the Deacon Convocation 2022



Deacons and wives pictured with diaconal formation instructors:
Dr. Corinne Winter and Dr. Ella Johnson

Deacon Happenings in the Diocese

Tractorcade 2022



Deacon Dan Freeman blessing tractors during a pit stop at St. Mary's in Wilton, IA

The annual WHO Tractorcade was welcomed to Wilton, IA on June 14, 2022. St. Mary's Parish volunteered to host a hospitality stop along the parade route. Deacon Dan Freeman the PLA at St. Mary's decided it would be a nice gesture of welcoming if the tractors and the riders were given a blessing. Deacon Dan put out a call for blessing help. Deacons Terry Starns and Jeff Schuetzle volunteered to help. 400+ tractors and many more riders were given a blessing for safe travels in this life.

This endeavor was inspired by our Deacon Council initiative on evangelization. It was a fun-filled, sweat drenching 90+ degree day. The Tractorcade featured tractors across the decades of farming in Iowa. Participants were treated with a myriad of sweet treats and refreshing drinks. The mountain of goodies was spectacular and Dcn. Jeff for sure had his fill of oatmeal raisin cookies.

It was also one last time to serve with Dcn. Terry Starns who would soon be moving back to Wisconsin to be closer to family. Dcn. Terry has been instrumental in building up the diaconate for our diocese since his ordination in 1982. Two stints as Director of the Diaconate as well as a PLA for St. Andrews Parish in Blue Grass among other ministerial assignments. We thank Dcn. Terry again for his service to his diocese and for his mentoring, wisdom and friendship.

The Peripheries Mass at Conesville



Deacons Kent Ferris and Angel Hernandez assisted Father Guillermo Treviño with Mass at the Conesville park on the evening of Sunday, August 6th.

The additional Mass was offered as another option for migrant farm workers in the area. Those in attendance were primarily parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Columbus Junction but who are so grateful when Mass is offered in their small community.

Deacon Class 8 formation included some formation using their Spanish speaking skills. Buenos Nachos became a favorite class motto. The following is a reflection by Deacon Kent Ferris on how his formation helped nurture multicultural ministry.

My first exposure to the Spanish language was back in high school. I came away with some knowledge of vocabulary, but never achieved even a level of being conversant.

I started my work at the Diocese in 2009. My responsibilities include supervising the staff at the Immigration Office. Though not necessary, I have always felt there could be moments by knowing Spanish could be of some help.

Through the Deacon Formation Program, we received both formation sessions on vocabulary, pronunciation and common phrases for praying and ministry, we also became very familiar with Liturgy of the Hours in Spanish. This was of great help to me.

I sought the opportunity to continue to learn Spanish in discussions regarding my parish and diocesan assignments. At this point, I preach every two weeks at both English and Spanish Masses in my two assigned parishes. Additionally, I am assigned to Hispanic Ministry for my broader assignment. I have great respect for those involved in this ministry to the fastest growing demographic in our diocese. I hope to have a language immersion experience early next year.

Deacon Andy Hardigan's Immersion Experience



Deacon Handy Hardigan—Los Posadas

Deacon Andy has been assisting at most of the Spanish Masses at JCPOP in Clinton. Following are the words of Deacon Andy on diaconal formation in Spanish.

Through my formation process, our class learned more about the beauty of the Liturgy and Vatican II. During formation, we learned the basics of Spanish, prayed liturgy of the hours in Spanish as well as English as well as shared readings in Spanish during the formation class masses. All of these allowed for those who were not fluent in Spanish to become more comfortable in doing so when it came time to do so as a Deacon. Yes, some of us, including me, butchered the words we were speaking and praying, but, like any other learning, helped us to grow. By the end of formation, I became much more comfortable in being a Deacon at Mass and doing so in Spanish. When I did it for the first time, shortly after ordination and although I was very nervous, I was prepared to do so and, with the power of the Holy Spirit, was able to fully and actively participate at the Liturgy both as part of the community and as a Deacon.

Deacon Andy was asked to help pray the Los Posadas and on one of the nights led the rosary. Unfortunately, the blizzard of 2022 did not allow for the completion at the church. A celebration was then planned for February 2, 2023 with a meal and a rosary.

Deacon Andy has been instrumental in providing weekly Eucharistic adoration and a rosary in Spanish.

Fr. Paul Appel our pastor presides at a Spanish Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays eve-



From the writings of Deacon Angel Hernandez:

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego in the year 1531 in Tepeyac. Two miracles occurred during her appearance.

1. The flowers that St Juan Diego picked up were not indigenous to the region
2. The Blessed Virgin showed her image on the tilma of St Juan Diego

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has left all the faithful mesmerized and it has the scientific community puzzled. How can an image that came from a tilma where roses were dropped be so intricate and so well-detailed?

Like I said in the beginning it is a miracle, it is our God's kingdom breaking into our world and showing us his love.

Not too long ago, scientists put a high-resolution camera on her original image at the basilica in Mexico City to see how the image was imprinted on the tilma. In the end, they were still puzzled by the mystery but with the technology, they used they were able to see fine details in her eyes. Her eyes show a reflection of St Juan Diego and the Bishop.

Our Lady appeared to a simple man walking to Mass and her image is the only image that our Lady has shared with us in the entire history of apparitions. Her image represents our native and Christian cultures as she continues to show us the unity and identity of God's people....

Pilgrimage on Two Wheels

By Deacon Matt Levy

A pilgrimage is a journey, often into an unknown place, where a person goes in search of new or expanded meaning about themselves, others, nature, or a higher good, through the experience. It can lead to a personal transformation, after which the pilgrim returns to their daily life. My most recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land started on two wheels and then ended on the very marble slab on which our Lord was laid to rest in the Holy Sepulchre.

My two wheeled pilgrimage was over 1200 km, or roughly 750 miles in length. 50,000 feet of climbing, or roughly 3 Mt. Everest's. Self-supported, non-stop, in under 90 hours. Temperatures in the 100's, winds at 60mph, rain, hail, flash flooding, in a desert, four sunrises, and being chased by Arabian wolves, on a bike!

The Israel 1200 km Brevet (a timed, long distance road cycling event) is held every four years, usually one year prior to the Grandmother of all Brevets, Paris Brest Paris. It is an international event attracting riders from all over the world. This year we had 14 countries represented in the event, with 50 registered riders, only 12 will finish. This would be my second attempt. In 2018, a sandstorm of biblical proportions on the second day made riding impossible for 10 hours. Over 80% of the field were caught in the storm and were forced to abandon or DNF (did not finish) because the remaining time to finish would not be possible. This was the first time in 30 years that I would DNF. I was determined to go back and finish this ride. The four years between these two events don't appear to be much, but as I just turned 64 years old in August, the difference was exponential. My ego is writing checks and my body is finding it hard to cash them!

I relied on prayers from friends at home and prayers that I said while riding. I wanted to quit 4 different times and thank God these times did not synchronize with my riding partner wanting to quit or we would have quit. I stayed focused on Jesus and finishing what I had started four years earlier. I wanted to complete this pilgrimage. I wanted to be transformed. With humility and perseverance I learned a great deal more about myself and what defines me. I don't entirely believe that the journey can be used to define our lives. I believe that we can use our lives to define our journey and lead others along the way. I entered more deeply into the lives of those around me and I saw the depths of God's love and compassion, in the amazing sights of the Holy Land but also in the faces of my brothers and sisters, Jews, Arabs and Christians alike. I know that lives were changed for the better, I know that relationships were healed that were once broken. I know that opportunities were taken to expand my limitations, I know that I was blessed by my gifts and wanted to share in being a blessing to others, I know that without a doubt I was broken, but not forgotten or forsaken, and I believe with all my heart that within this pilgrimage I was given an oppor-

Deacon Retirements 2022



Dcn. Mike Sheil

Deacon Mike Sheil Class of 1988 retired from active ministry after 34 years of service to the Diocese of Davenport and the people in Clinton County.

Deacon Mike has been blessed to serve many different rural and small town parishes in Clinton County. Over the years Mike's relatability has fostered many life-long friendships.

Deacon Mike and wife Pat have been models of service to our diocese.

On a personal note: Pat Sheil volunteered her nanny services to Class V allowing our children to be with us throughout formation. Their sacrifice has not been forgotten.



Dcn. Ray Hilgendorf

Deacon Ray Class of 1992 retired from active ministry after 30 years of service to the Diocese of Davenport and the people in Clinton, Ia.

Hospital, nursing home and hospice care are just a few of Deacon Ray's ministry of service. Deacon Ray's quiet demeanor continues to provide reassurance during difficult times in our pilgrimage through life.

On a personal note: Ray and Marilee were our mentor couple during formation. We have valued their friendship for over 25 years.

In Memorium



Deacon Bob McCoy

Robert "Bob" McCoy was born March 18, 1937, in Clinton, Iowa, to Charles Francis McCoy and Mildred Bryant. Bob graduated Davenport High School in 1955, studied Pharmacy at the University of Iowa and received a master's from St. Ambrose University. He served in the U.S. Army from 1960-1997, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He married Patricia Volk on December 27, 1961.

Bob was ordained a Deacon in 1992, and served at St. Paul the Apostle and Sacred Heart. He also served the Diocese as Diaconate Director and Formation Director for Deacons. He was on the boards of Churches United - Quad Cities and the National Association of Diaconate Directors.

Bob was among the original employees at Illini Hospital, serving as Pharmacy Director. He finished his career as a pharmacist at the Rock Island Arsenal.

Survivors include his wife, Pat; children Kathi (Bob) Scott of Grimes, IA, Mike of Atlanta, GA, Mary Beth (Steve) Haugen of Denver, CO and Carole (Will) Johnson of Centennial, CO; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, and



Deacon Bill Donnelly

Bill was born on July 18, 1930 in Lake Forest, Illinois, a son of Lillian (Hilbrant) and William G. Donnelly, Sr. He graduated from Loras Academy in Dubuque in 1948. Bill proudly served our country in the Army. He was a talented athlete and played baseball and football during his time in the service.

He was united in marriage to Louise Kloppenborg on October 26, 1957 at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, Davenport. They have shared over 64 years of marriage and memories together.

Bill was ordained to the diaconate for the Diocese of Davenport on June 6, 1988 by Bishop Gerald O'Keefe. He served St. John Vianney Parish from 1988 until his retirement in 2012. He also served as a Bettendorf Police Chaplin for many years.

Deacon Bill was a member of the Knights of Columbus and formerly of the Bettendorf Optimist Club.

Deacon Bill enjoyed a good round of golf, playing racquetball, hunting, fishing, and a competitive game of Scrabble. He was also part of a weekly group of men that played cards.

Those left to honor his memory are his loving wife, Louise, Bettendorf; children: Michael (Lori) Donnelly, Iowa, Mary (Glen) Storey, Oklahoma, and Paul Donnelly, Minnesota; a daughter-in-law, Kaley Donnelly, Washington; grandchildren: Nathan (Mattia) Martin, Amanda Hintze, Lisa (Ryan) Willis, Matthew (Bonnie) Donnelly, Amy (Kevin) Derochie, Joseph (Taylora) Donnelly, and Andrew Donnelly; great-grandchildren: Valery and Ella Martin, Luke, Levi, and Ava Willis, Jack and Miles Donnelly and Finnly, Ian, and Quintin Derochie; a brother-in-law Orville Fleckenstein and a sister-in-law, Julie Donnelly.

He was preceded in death by his son, William G. Donnelly III, an infant son, John Joseph, his parents, and siblings: Mary Fleckenstein and James Donnelly. May they rest in peace.

Deacon Council News

In 2021 the Deacon Executive Committee with the approval of Bishop Zinkula established three initiatives to pursue during our term in office. The initiatives are listed below.

1. Enabling Deacons to Minister to Each Other
2. Growing the Diaconate
3. Helping our Bishop Evangelize

Dovetailing on these initiatives are the 3 year USCCB Eucharistic Revival, the 7 year Laudato Si action plan capped off with our 3 year Synod. From the synodal listening process, 3 major themes were identified.

1. Youth and Family Engagement
2. Welcoming and Belonging
3. Church Teaching and Tradition

Welcoming and Belonging was chosen as an overarching theme for guiding all of our initiatives. As deacons in our parishes and our communities we have a primary role in fostering a welcoming community while building relationships that leads one to knowing that they truly belong to our community of faith. The council will be seeking your ideas and utilizing your expertise and skills in creating a Church where all are welcome.

Deacon Council Elections

Deacon Council officers hold office for a term of two years. The current officers were elected and installed in October of 2021 and their terms will expire this October of 2023. Joe Welter, who is the Vice-president, will succeed Dan Freeman as President.

The Executive Committee, which includes Dan Freeman, Ed Kamerick, Matt Levy, and Joe Welter, are accepting nominations for the offices of:

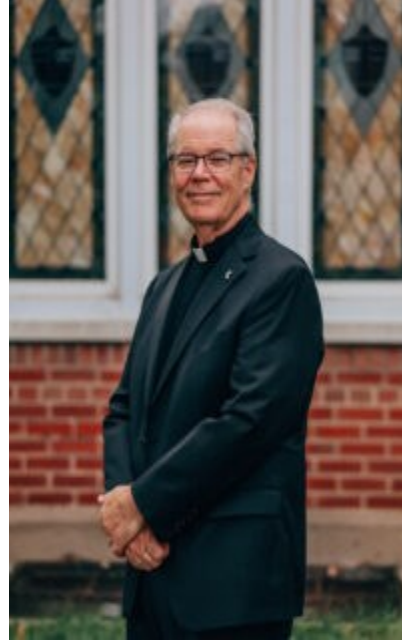
Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

So be thinking about nominating yourself or another qualified person for one of these offic-

The Office



Speaking of offices there has been a change in the diocesan diaconate office. Director pf the Diaconate Mike Snyder discerned a call to the priesthood. Bishop Zinkula gave his blessing to Deacon Mike's request. In August, Deacon Mike began his studies at Sacred Heart Seminary in Hales Corner, WI. Below is an email from Mike that was shared at our October Convocation. Here are his words:

A quick update about seminary. My initial jitters are behind me now that I have completed some papers and received good marks. I am enjoying my time here, away from all the noise and distractions of the world. I find myself not paying any attention to weather forecasts, gas prices, or any of the political noise. Not only do I not need to, but I don't have time!

My classes include The Pentateuch; The Prophet Books; Sacramental Theology for Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Anointing; Pastoral Counseling; Patristics; Theological Reflection; and a paper research/writing class. I meet with both my Spiritual Director and Formation Advisor every two weeks. I am on the Mass and LOH schedule every 3 weeks, and give the homily once in that week. Next semester I will get a parish assignment and will preach two weekends a month.

My typical day includes 2 1/4 hours of prayer and Mass, 3 hours of class, and about 6 hours of study. Count daily chores and meals, that pretty much fills my day. The classes are pretty tough; lots of reading and paper writing like the MPTh program at SAU, but at another level deeper .

I pray for the Davenport deacons and aspirants every day, and pray that your wives continue to put up with you and make you look good! Your role is vital for the success of the Church.

Your brother in Christ,

Mike

Thank you Mike for your years of service to the Directors office.

What Say You?



Deacon Jeff Schuetzle

The Bishop's Chief of Staff Deacon David Montgomery left a message for me to call him. I assumed that it was to set up a our 20 year reunion of ordination to the diaconate. It was not what I expected. He was asking me to consider taking the position of Director of the Diaconate for our Davenport diocese. "Let me pray about it and then I'll consult with Dawn!" Her reply, "It's your decision." My prayers were answered after meeting with Deacon Mike. Throughout the pandemic Dcn. Mike created many spreadsheets and calendars to guide the diaconate office. Whew!

Below is a brief bio that I wrote for the Catholic Messenger.

Family: Wife Dawn; three children, daughter Allison and her husband Doug and their daughters Sophie and Lillie; son Ryan and his wife Ashley; and daughter Emily and her husband Matt and their daughter Ivy.

Occupation: Retired as a Quality Control Subject Matter Expert from ADM after 39 years.

Ordination date: June 8, 2002

Parish assignment: Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Clinton.

Describe your diocesan deacon assignment: Since 2003, I have been a pastoral minister for the Arch community where adults with intellectual disabilities reside in spiritually based homes and apartments. A community where I truly feel at home.

How did you know you were being called to the diaconate? I was about 10 years old, attending a Catholic wedding in Welton, when my Uncle Gene asked me whether I had ever thought about being a priest. No, I had never given it a thought, but God had. Through the years, his invitation would come to mind but I would resist. In 1992, after 10 years of marriage, Dawn became Catholic with one condition — that we would become involved in the church. Through the RCIA, my faith was reawakened and reignited. Little did I know what Dawn meant by involved! I stayed involved in the RCIA and, in 1996, the Ministry Formation Program (MFP) was offered. Father Ron Young asked me to consider the diaconate as a new class was being formed. My mentors Betty Mantsch and Sister Teresa Kunkel inspired me to say "yes" to God's persistent call to His ministry.

What is the most rewarding aspect of being a deacon? Sharing God's love in the joys, blessings and sorrows of life here on earth with the people I encounter. Inviting people to encounter Jesus through the joy of the Gospel and the sacraments of the church. Helping others to develop and sustain a loving relationship with our living God through his Son, Jesus Christ. Walking with them as they grow in their faith through prayer and retreats (Christian Experience Weekend, Oremus and Christ Life). There is great joy helping others to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in the sacred moments of everyday life. There are no coincidences in life. It is the Holy Spirit offering a God incident or as a friend says a God wink!

What is the most challenging aspect of being a deacon? It breaks my heart seeing people suffering with the challenges of life without knowing their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Moving Forward

- In the future editions of this news letter I'll be sharing some of my goals and aspirations for the ministry and life for permanent deacons in our diocese.
- The Deacon Happenings is devoted to sharing a page of your life story as a permanent deacon.
- Please, please, please share with me your exciting endeavors in sharing the Joy of the Gospel throughout the diocese. Include pictures whenever possible.

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