

# THE *Deacon Servant*

OFFICES OF DEACON SERVICES | DIACONATE FORMATION | ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE



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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT



*Deacon Mike Chmielewski*

As we enter the heat of the summer season, there seems to be a clear path of loosening pandemic restrictions. For more than a year diaconal ministries have been very different. Our charity and justice ministries, service to

those outside the walls of the parish, have been limited and in many cases totally halted. In particular, most visits to nursing homes, hospitals, the homebound, and hospices were closed off. Also stopped were meal programs for the hungry, as well as services and visits to the imprisoned. These limits left many deacons feeling very empty. Sadly, the recipients of our services were often devastated. Many of God's people rely on the diaconal service of prayer, presence, and sacrament. Without these ministries, there was much sadness and pain.

Deacons, however, were certainly not bored during the pandemic. Our call to serve at the altar in many parishes became a priority. As parishes began the comeback last June, deacons became a more valuable resource. Many served at Sunday prayer much more than usual. Some served at every Mass every weekend in order to accommodate the limitations on the presence of lay ministers. July of 2021 and things are changing. Many senior care facilities are opening to visits, as well as Word and Communion Services.

The common theme is "we missed you and your services so much." As we have returned to pray, bring God's Word, and feed others with the Bread of Life, tears of joy are a very common response. Although prison ministry and food programs are still very limited, there is hope for opening soon. It is important to return to our call to care for all of God's people, especially those outside the walls of the parish.

I am hoping that the joy of these ministerial opportunities are as strong for the deacons as they are for those on the receiving end. I have personally felt the joy in serving those that God has called us to serve.



Serving our parishes, presence at the altar, proclaiming the Gospel, and distributing the Eucharist are certainly part of our diaconal call. However, we are called into that special ministry of bringing Christ to people and places outside of parish liturgies. I invite

you all to ponder and reflect on our threefold call to service: Service to the Word, Service at the Altar, and Service of Charity and Justice. As the opportunity to find balance continues to grow in this pandemic, I encourage you all to ponder your call as "Christ Servant" to all God's people.

One word of caution. The virus is still alive. Although vaccinations have made life safer for many, there are still far too many who remain vulnerable. Be safe and be smart in all your ministerial services. Go and proclaim the Gospel with your life!

*Deacon Michael Chmielewski '09*

## STAYING ON THE ROAD WHEN DISCERNING THE PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION



Deacon Dale Nees

I have been reflecting a long time on what behaviors are essential to a formational community to sustain a posture of discernment regarding the permanent diaconate. I have arrived at three: accompaniment, adult-supporting principles, and accountability. Maritza Espino wrote a wonderful article about accompaniment to which I would like to

add a few thoughts about the other two.

Ann Healey points out in the book, *Forming Deacons*, that, “the formation program is a ‘hotbed’ for stress and growth.” She goes on “to note that because of resistance to change, several tensions can occur within formation:

1. The tension between individual and communal spirituality
2. The tension between the call to diaconal ministry and the responsibility to marriage and family, church community, workplace, and the larger community
3. The tension between fulfilling the requirements for study and engaging in self-directed learning
4. The tension between receiving evaluation from authority figures and becoming able and willing to evaluate one’s self and one’s peers
5. The tension between appearing and functioning adequately, and admitting one’s limitations, needs, and failures.”

Observing how those in formation experience these tensions

should surely reinforce that we must take these adult matters very seriously when supporting them. “Formation usually triggers a mourning process for what will never be, for new realizations about one’s limitations, and for the even yet-unexplored life of service ahead.” We need to find more opportunities to incorporate “discussions of the dynamics of loss and change...in the curriculum early in the program.”

In order for man to focus on the goal of being formed in the image of Jesus Christ, he must take accountability for his formation. I learned the following four steps to accountability from a book named *The OZ Principle*.

- Mustering the Courage to SEE IT: ...
- Finding the Heart to OWN IT: ...
- Obtaining the Wisdom to SOLVE IT: ...
- Exercising the Means to DO IT:

Therefore, without accountability, a man will find it difficult to see his opportunities for change, to assume **ownership** for them, to commit to what it requires of him to **work out** what must be different, and in the end to **do it**. Common behaviors considered “Below The Line” of accountability are “Wait and see; Confusion/tell me what to do; It’s not my job; Ignore/deny; Finger pointing; and Cover your tail.” This area leads to “self-victimization and failure.” When an aspirant or candidate is accountable to the formation, we say he is being “docile.” This is a good place to be since it increases his “awareness that discernment is a collaborative process.”

Deacon Dale Nees '09

## DEACON PERSONNEL BOARD

The Deacon Personnel Board met on June 8, 2021 via Zoom. Deacons present: R. Gulig, G. Nosacek, S. Campbell, R. Stanula, M. Chmielewski. Excused: C. Schneider. Also present: Fr. Jerry Herda.

We began with prayer and then the review and approval of the Minutes from our February 1, 2021 meeting. Then there was a brief formational discussion of Chapter 2, paragraphs 41-61, of the National Directory. The focus of the discussion was the importance of relationships with the Bishop, Diocese, priests/pastors, and other deacons.

We moved into specific deacon business including reviewing renewed covenants, late / overdue covenants, and potential

problem issues. Covenant renewals have been very difficult in this time of the pandemic. Many covenants have been renewed verbally for short time periods. As we slowly move away from the pandemic limitations and the availability of usual charity /justice ministry returns, covenants can now be planned with greater certainty. There was discussion about two specific deacons whose covenants were expired for nearly 2 years and that a special push was needed to bring them into compliance. Two Board members volunteered to address the deacons directly.

There was additional discussion about the adjustment of

► See **DEACON PERSONAL BOARD** (continued on page 3)

## INTENTIONAL ACCOMPANIMENT



**Maritza Espino**

The Joy of the Gospel *Evangelii Gaudium* was published on December 13, 2013 by Pope Francis. His Apostolic Exhortation invited the Church and the world to evangelize, but to evangelize with a new approach; he called this approach—the Art of Accompaniment. *“In a culture paradoxically suffering from anonymity and at the same time obsessed with*

*the details of other people’s lives, shamelessly given over to morbid curiosity, the Church must look more closely and sympathetically at others whenever necessary. In our world, ordained ministers and other pastoral workers can make present the fragrance of Christ’s closeness and his personal gaze. The Church will have to initiate everyone—priest, religious and laity – into this “art of accompaniment” which reaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex. 3:5). The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life. (Evangelii Gaudium, 169)*

In our Diaconate Formation Program, the goal of our team and faculty is to accompany the aspirants, candidates, and their families by walking along their side on their journey as they go through formation to become Deacons. The focus of this accompaniment is through the four dimensions of formation: Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, and Pastoral Formation. The heart of this accompaniment within each dimension is relationships—relationships of Trust, Prophetic Listening, and Prayer. Without genuine relationships of trust, we risk our Intentional Accompaniment to become a task to be completed. St. Paul wrote, “so deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8). Relationships of trust are vital if we are to be granted the privilege of having influence in the life of someone else. It is through this influence that we have the opportunity to intentionally accompany them

on their formation to be ordained as Deacons. As *Evangelii Gaudium* states “Spiritual accompaniment must lead others ever closer to God in whom we attain true freedom” (*Evangelii Gaudium, 170*).

Another vital tier of intentional accompaniment is called Prophetic Listening. The first time I learned and heard about Prophetic Listening was through an Evangelization Training. Prophetic Listening starts with listening to the one we are accompanying and to the Holy Spirit. We pay attention to the way the person we are accompanying describes their spiritual state and their attitudes towards God, faith and the world, looking for clues and insights into where they are in their journey of faith and discernment to become Deacons. As we listen and seek to understand, we also listen to insights the Holy Spirit give us. We trust God to tell us how to best accompany this person. If the Lord has asked us to participate in the mission to make disciples of all nations (*Matthew 28:18-20*), then it makes sense that He would let us in on his plan to make it happen. Our prayers for those we are accompanying, therefore, become more than just intercession on their behalf. As we pray for them, we ask the Lord for specific direction in how he wants us to lead them. In prayer, we can ask the Lord about those we are accompanying, “what is the next step on their formation as they discern their vocation to become Deacons,” and how we can help them take the next step (i.e. Aspirancy, Candidacy). The key is that, besides having a curriculum to fulfill the different dimensions of diaconate formation, we do not make our own plan and ask the Lord to bless it, but that we come to the Lord and give Him permission to lead the way on their discernment based on relationships of trust, Prophetic Listening, and prayer. In this way, we place ourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the inspirer of the plans for our accompaniment to our future Deacons. The accompaniment intentionally includes the whole family as together they journey with their husbands throughout their formation and discernment.

*Maritza Espino*

### ► DEACON PERSONNEL BOARD *(continued from page 2)*

the Class of 2020 to their new role as ordained deacons and to plan for second covenants. We also looked at the current deacon candidate class (16 men) potentially to be ordained in September 2022 with a special focus on their home parishes and potential long term assignments.

Fr. Jerry shared with the Board the new pastor assignments for June. We discussed pastor / deacon connections and

discussed the importance of positive relationships on the parish level.

Dcn. Gulig closed the meeting with a reminder of confidentiality, a review of upcoming events, and a closing prayer. The next Deacon Personnel Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at Noon and hopefully in person at the MMCPC.

*Dcn. Mike Chmielewski*

## VATICAN II AWARDS 2020

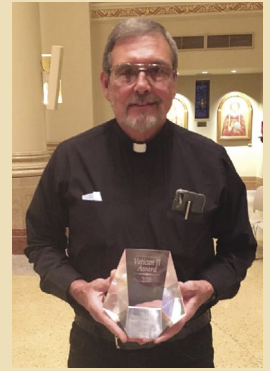
The Vatican II Awards for 2020, delayed by the pandemic, were finally celebrated on June 1, 2021 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Some covid restrictions were still in place but, as usual, it was a very special ceremony celebrating the gift of service to God's people in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. There were two deacons and a deacon spouse honored as recipients this year.

Deacon Terry Maack, ordained in 1988, is the recipient of the Service in the Diaconate Award for 2020. Terry has served at St. Peter Parish in Kenosha since his ordination. Twenty-five years ago he started a prison ministry program at the Kenosha County Detention Center. Terry continues to minister at the Center along with many of his Kenosha brothers. After his retirement from the auto industry, Terry took on a position at St. Peter's as the Administrative Assistant where he continues to serve. Terry also served the deacon community as the District / Senate representative for Kenosha / Racine for over 10 years.

Deacon Gary Nosacek and his wife Dr. Cindy Jones-Nosacek were recipients of the award for Service to the Missions. Gary, ordained in 2014, serves and prays with



*Deacon Gary Nosacek and his wife  
Dr. Cindy Jones-Nosacek*



*Deacon Terry Maack*

Cindy at Three Holy Women Parish, Milwaukee. They were supporters from afar of parish missionary efforts. In 2010, they made their first in-person mission trip, this one to Mexico. In 2018, they made their first of now regular trips to their sister parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Padibe, Uganda. Dr. Cindy is involved in multiple efforts to provide medical care and guidance to the village of Padibe. Dcn. Gary assists at Mass and ministers in any way he can with a special gift of bringing rain to the village.

Congratulations to Dcn. Terry, Dcn. Gary, and Dr. Cindy. Thank you for your care and service of God's people.

## DEACON SENATE

The Deacon Senate met on May 19, 2021 via Zoom. Deacons present: Starke, Wiese, Nees, Petrie, Campbell, Matthias, Paczkowski, Gundlach, Schneider, Chmielewski. Excused: Jansen. Guest: Susan McNeil.

Dcn. Starke opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the March 17, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved. Dcn. Campbell submitted a financial report prior to the meeting which included a projected budget for 21-22. He explained the overall plan and reported that financially the Council was in good shape. There is currently a balance in our checking account of \$6690.54.

Dcn. Nees, who also provided a formation report prior to our meeting, emphasized the need to seek out more men with interest in the diaconate. His office has recently held some parish informational sessions and they are very willing to offer more of these. He suggested that these sessions could be regional sessions and not just a parish session. Formation for 32 men is going well. The Administrative Assistant for the office, Charmaine Pfeifer, has moved into a parish ministry position and thus the Formation Office is looking for a new admin.

District reports followed noting that all the Districts had met via Zoom in late March or early April. A major point of

discussion was how future District meetings will take place: Zoom, in person, or some hybrid. There is a real "thirst" for in person meetings but the Zoom approach has seen guys attending the meetings who normally cannot attend in person.

Susan McNeil, from the newly formed Office of Catholic Social Responsibility, joined the meeting to give a brief overview of the new position. The new office is comprised of the offices of Hispanic Ministry, Black Catholic and Ethnic Ministries, Dignity of the Human Person, and Lay Ministry. Susan also shared some insights on the recent "Gift of Sunday" effort by the Arch. She also wants all Deacons to mark their calendar for October 23, 2021 as Archbishop ListECKI will be hosting and guiding a Synod Anniversary gathering.

Other business:

Deacon Day planning ongoing for September 25, 2021 at St. Joseph Parish, Grafton

Memorial Mass plans moving forward for October 24, 2021, 2 PM, at either St. James or Good Shepherd, Menomonee Falls.

## REST IN PEACE

**Deacon Daniel T. Zozakiewicz** died on April 27, 2021. Deacon Dan was born in Chicago on June 6, 1933. He graduated from Christian Fenger High in 1952. He attended Blackburn College 1952-54, served in the U.S. Army 54-56, honorably discharged as a PFC, then returned to college at DePaul University from which he graduated in 1959 with degrees in finance and economics. Professionally he was employed as a business manager or a building manager. He eventually retired from secular work in 1998 after 5 years as the business manager at Holy Family Parish, Whitefish Bay.

Dan married the love of his life, Barbara, on November 10, 1956 at St. Catherine of Genoa, Chicago. Together they had four children; Michael (Kathleen), David, Cathy, and the late Dan. He is also survived by 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Dan began diaconate formation in 1990 at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary. He was ordained a Permanent Deacon on June 11, 1994 by Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B. at the Cousins Center. Dan was assigned to his home parish, Holy Family, Whitefish Bay. In 1999 he was transferred to St. Robert Parish, Shorewood, and in 2006 was transferred to St. Catherine

of Alexandria, Milwaukee. He retired from covenanted diaconal service in 2011. In addition to liturgical services, Dan's passion was serving those in the hospital, homebound, and in long term care facilities. In addition, he served the deacon community as both a District representative and a member of the Deacon Personnel Board for multiple years.

Dan and Barbara had been living with their son Michael and his family in Hartford and in December of 2020 made a move to Florida to live with their other son David. In early 2021 Dan was diagnosed with a fatal form of leukemia which took his life on April 27, 2021.

Funeral services for Deacon Dan are on hold at this time. Barbara had a serious fall in April and has an ankle injury which prohibits any travel. Dan was cremated and the family is planning a Memorial Service for October 23, 2021 at St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish, Milwaukee.

Please keep Deacon Dan in your prayer. May He Rest in Peace! May our God offer comfort and peace to Barbara and their children, Michael, David, and Kathy as well as grand and great grandchildren.

## KNOW OUR DEACON

**Deacon Chester Moczydlowski** was ordained a permanent deacon in Milwaukee's third ordination class, 1978. He was initially covenanted with Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Milwaukee 1978-1987. In 1988 he was transferred to St. Barbara Parish (now St Raphael the Archangel) in Milwaukee where he served until his retirement from covenanted ministry in 1997.



*Deacon Chester Moczydlowski*

Chester was a military man for much of his life. He served in the Armed Forces for nearly 25 years and was a combat veteran of both Korea and Vietnam. He served in the Marines 1951-54, the Air Force 1955-63, and the U.S. Army 1964-75. Upon returning to civilian life, he worked as a security guard at General Electric and St. Luke's Hospital until fully retiring in 1988. Chester married Elizabeth in 1968 and helped raise her 4 children as a father. Elizabeth died in 2016.

Chet's true passion is visitation to the sick and chaplaincy service. These ministries were a significant part of his parish covenants as he served both at St. Luke's Hospital and the VA as a chaplain. Chet was certified by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains after completing 4 units of CPE. Even

now, as he approaches age 90 on December 4, Chet continues to serve as a volunteer chaplain at the VA Hospital.

Thank you Deacon Chester for your service to God's people.

*Dcn. Mike Chmielewski*

### ► DEACON SENATE *(continued from page 4)*

Deacon Retreat planners are meeting on May 20 to discuss the November Deacon Retreat.

The Redemptorist Retreat Center anticipates opening to a full house by our retreat.

Dcn. Scott Wiese is in planning with the Office of World Missions for a deacon mission trip to the Dominican Republic in 2022.

The meeting ended with prayer including two special intentions. One for Dcn. Al Lazaga '92 recently diagnosed with cancer. The other in thanksgiving for the priesthood ordination of Dcn. Doug Gundlach's '18 son Garrett as a Jesuit, scheduled for June 12, 2021 at Gesu Parish. The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Zoom on July 21, 2021.

## Prayer Requests

Deacon Richard Hiller`75	<b>RECENTLY DECEASED AND THEIR FAMILIES</b>
Jeri Petro, wife of Dcn. Greg`12	Barbara Ode, widow of Dcn. LeRoy`77, February 22, 2021
Deacon Dick Govek`92	Dcn. Dan Zozakiewicz`94, April 27, 2021
Deacon Sy Regan`75	Martha Kustner, widow of Dcn. Chuck`75, May 6, 2021
Deacon Steve Hayes`04 and wife Karen	Virginia Schimmels, widow of Dcn. Tom`84, May 24, 2021
Kathy Marx, wife of Dcn. Keith`07	Clementine Chmielewski, mother of Dcn. Mike`09, June 14, 2021
Sara Bowen, widow of Dcn. Mike`12	Joan Gates, widow of Dcn. Joseph`98, May 28, 2020
Deacon Dave Pollak`96	Gary Brown, deacon aspirant, July 13, 2021
Deacon Al Lazaga`92	Dcn. M. Larry LaFond`83, July 13, 2021
Barbara Zozakiewicz, widow of Dcn. Dan`94	
Cathy LaFond, widow of Dcn. Larry`83	
Deacon Ralph Wisniewski`88	



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### September 11, 2021

Ordination for Class of 2021  
10 a.m. at the Cathedral

### September 25, 2021

Deacon Day with Dr. Tom Thibodeau on Servant Leadership  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
St. Joseph Parish, Grafton  
Bishop Schuerman presiding at Mass

### October 23, 2021

Archdiocesan Synod Renewal gathering  
MMCP

### October 24, 2021

Memorial Mass with Fr. Jerry Herda  
Good Shepherd or St. James, Menomonee Falls

### November 4-7, 2021

Deacon Retreat with Dcn. Steve Kramer  
Redemptorist Retreat Center



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