

Bowl and Towel



Diaconate Community



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- More than 17,000 deacons now in United States
- Aspirants, wives begin detention ministry
- Deacon Steve Greco on the radio
- 714-NEW-HOPE
- God's Beloved hosts first retreat for deacon wives
- Deacons begin God's Servants ministry



Note the placement of his stole last Holy Thursday as Pope Francis washes feet at Casal del Marmo Prison near Rome. The Holy Father broke with tradition by washing the feet of a Muslim woman.

Diaconate continues to grow in U.S. and world

The number of permanent deacons in the United States has increased by approximately 2 percent per year over each of the last 10 years according to the latest CARA study.

The number has grown to 17,325 in 2013 from 898 in 1975. Worldwide, CARA reports 39,564 deacons

growing from 309 in 1970.

The study shows more than one in five in the U.S. are financially compensated for their work in ministry. Of those who are paid, 16 percent are responsible for one or more parishes under Canon 517.2 which permits bishops to entrust the care of a parish to a deacon. The statistics regarding

those who are compensated show that 25 percent are for full time work such as religious education director or youth minister.

Twelve percent work in non-ministerial positions such as business or finance.

Almost three in 10 work as chaplains, 14 percent in hospitals and 15 percent in prisons.

Aspirants begin detention ministry



Santa Ana City Jail

“To see their hands come out of the cells and to look at their faces brings me an amount I joy that I cannot express.”

As part of their first year of formation, deacon aspirants and some of their wives have begun their ministry internship in Orange County jails.

Here are the comments of aspirant Miguel Espinoza regarding his experience at Santa Ana Jail:

“We were very motivated to see how hungry and happy our brothers were to hear the Word of the Lord and receive communion.

“To see their hands come out of the cells and to look at their faces and see that God is there brings me an amount of joy that I cannot express.

“I thank God for giving us this beautiful gift and experience.”

Aspirant Jose Pulido, also at Santa Ana Jail, reports:

“During the process of getting prepared to enter the jails, I had lots of expectations that were not realized. That might be the reason why I left sad while I was

heading back home. Thanks be to God that I reflected. Jesus gave me peace because I was able to understand that he was showing me the needs of the people and my mission.

“At this time, I feel lots of peace, and I am ready to take on this mission that God has given me.”

Reporting on his service at Juvenile Hall, aspirant Mark Murphy writes:

“When they entered the room hand-cuffed and with their heads lowered, our hearts sank. Our 17-year-old son Keith was at home asleep with no comprehension that this place even existed. They could be his little brothers and sisters.

“It was hard to imagine how they got here, what their lives were like on a daily basis, and what their future might hold. It became obvious that all of these questions were beyond the scope of our assignment. Our opportunity was to be with them now, fully present during

this short hour. A smile, a handshake, or a kind gesture might be a glimpse for them of Christ’s love.

“Deacon Denis’ homily was heartfelt. Their faces ranged from delight to wonder. What are these people doing here on Sunday morning singing and praying.... WITH US?

“At communion, Denis invited all to come forward to either receive the Eucharist, or to receive a blessing from his wife Peggy. It was deeply moving to watch them come forward.

“We watched Peggy place one hand on their shoulder, bless them with her other hand, and speak to them so intimately. It was probably the next best thing to getting a hug from mom.

“Did we accomplish anything? The question is above our pay grade. Love is not measured by circumstances changed. At times all we can do is accompany someone on the journey. And we did. We showed up and cared. The rest is details.”

County offers assistance in navigating health services

The County of Orange has implemented a toll free number, **855-OCLINKS**, to help connect people to the many health services offered throughout the county. Assistance is also offered at their website at www.ohealthinfo.com/oclinks

The service, offered in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, links callers to appropriate assistance regarding mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, prevention and intervention for all age groups. The new program is funded by the Prop 63 Mental Health Services Act. Full color flyers and wallet cards in three languages can be ordered through the website.

Rosy Stock, the wife of candidate Michael Stock, is one of the designers and directors of this new service. She made a presentation on 855-OCLINKS at our recent deacon convocation.

Rest in Peace Bob Mackey

One of the pioneers of the diaconate, Deacon Robert “Bob” Mackey, died Jan. 23, at the age of 96. His funeral mass was celebrated at San Antonio de Padua Church in Anaheim Hills.



Deacon Mackey

Deacon Bob was ordained May 19, 1977, by Bishop

William Johnson when the Diocese of Orange was only one year old. He and his wife Flo moved to Carlsbad, California in 1984 and Bob was incardinated into the Diocese of San Diego in 1989. Bob and Flo eventually moved back to Orange County where they settled in San Antonio Parish.

Deacon Steve Greco to host radio show

Deacon Steve Greco’s evangelization ministry continues to expand as he soon will host a one-hour radio show, *Empowered by the Spirit*, on Tuesday evenings on KHPY, 1670 AM.

The program is sponsored by The Sower Catholic Ministry (El Sembrador Ministries) of Los Angeles. Steve has already appeared on ESNE-TV for two shows.

714-NEW-HOPE

Catholic Charities Orange County is now sponsoring *New Hope Counseling Center*, a longtime service of Crystal Cathedral Ministers that has saved thousands of lives. The 24-hour hotline for people in crisis is easy to remember: 714-NEW-HOPE or www.newhopenow.org



Deacon wives gather for the first ever wives retreat as part of God’s Beloved ministry. The retreat was held at the Doubletree Club Hotel and directed by Joyce Cottage. Reaction to the retreat from those who attended was unanimously positive. “Now the real work of the retreat begins....to spread God’s love and peace to others,” said Sharon Andersen.



Deacon Joe Sullivan (brown hat) and members of his parish, St. Bonaventure in Huntington Beach, prepare for their annual Life-a-Thon bike ride. All the money raised, \$2000 to \$3000 in past years, goes to the Life Center in Santa Ana. This bike ride along with Run-for-Life days at their parish school raise awareness of crisis pregnancy centers as well as money, according to Deacon Joe.

Casa to honor Robin

Personnel board member Robin Griffin will be honored as Mother of the Year by Casa Teresa at a May 8 dinner at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel.

More information for the dinner at www.casateresa.com



Father Bill Cao, and Deacons Kalini Folau, Jose Ferreras and Guillermo Torres celebrate the new year at St. Justin Martyr Parish



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THE DIACONATE OFFICE FUNDED THROUGH THE PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL

God's Servants ministry off to a roaring start



Veteran deacons and deacon "newbies" gather for the first *God's Servants* meeting at the Diocese of Orange Pastoral Center.

Over 50 deacons gathered on Saturday morning, Jan. 11, for the first ever meeting of *God's Servants*, a new ministry to serve the needs of deacons in the Diocese of Orange.

After a delicious breakfast

prepared by members of *God's Beloved* wives ministry, the men identified topics that they would like addressed during the three remaining meetings of this initial year.

The topics include ministries (success stories, best

practices, resources, common needs); relationships (support and encouragement, dealing with emotions, re-charging our batteries); and discernment (vision and excellence).

Newly-ordained deacons and their mentors are expected to attend these gatherings, but all deacons are encouraged to participate also. "We all need mentoring," said one of the deacons.

The next *God's Servants* meetings are scheduled for April 12, July 12, and Oct. 11. All are Saturdays and will run from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the Pastoral Center.