



DIAKONIA

Volume II Number 3

October 2016



Upcoming Events

Rite of Lector

Saturday, October 1, 2016
5:00 PM

St. Bernard Church, Hastings

Annual Marian Celebration

Sunday, October 2, 2016
3:00 PM

St. Benedict Church, Johnstown

Fall Pastoral Conference

October 17-19, 2016
Seven Springs Resort, Champion, PA

Day of Recollection

With Father Bernard Ezaki, M. Div. M.A.

Saturday, March 11, 2017
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

St. Bartholomew, Wilmore

Chrism Mass

Monday, April 10, 2017

11:00 AM (arrival time is 10:00 AM)

How NOT to Carry Your Cross

Written by Father Bernard J. Ezaki

Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

—Luke 9:23

If I am not mistaken, Philip Yancey declares in his book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, that this saying of Our Lord is the one most often repeated in the Gospels. What does it mean when Jesus tells us to take up our cross and to carry it? Well, I suppose one way to answer that question is to examine the three things I tend to do when I don't carry my cross.



First, instead of carrying my cross, I can drag it behind me and whine. My friend Mary is a rather accomplished pianist. Once when she was quite young, she was part of an orchestra scheduled to perform under the baton of a very distinguished conductor on the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory. Here's what she told me:

Moments before the concert, I was hit by a wave of intense nervousness and self-doubt. The conductor, perceptive man that he was, noticed my anxiety and strode over to the piano to speak with me. What he said, however, was not the usual pep talk I had expected. Instead of saying, "Ah! Everything will be okay; you'll be fine," his words were totally devoid of sympathy and consolation. "Young lady, do you know what your problem is?" he said. "You are laboring under the misconception that the audience is out there to hear you perform. Well, you're wrong. They're not here because of you. You're just a little ____! They've come to hear Mozart, and you're going to give them Mozart whether you like

Annual Diaconate Retreat

June 11 - 15, 2017

Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA

Begins Sunday with Registration at
3:30 PM and ends Thursday after the 10:00
AM Closing Mass

Quick Links

[National Directory](#)

[Liturgy of the Hours](#)

[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

[Daily Reflections](#)

~BIRTHDAYS~

OCTOBER

06 Anne Gibson
10 Tom Beavers
11 Herman Lux
14 Michael Anna
14 Tom McFee
15 Ted Janisko
16 Kevin Nester
18 Linda Ivanits
19 Bill Underhill
28 Patricia Hornick

NOVEMBER

06 John Concannon
07 Allan Duman
09 Dan O'Dowd
11 Anne Dalla Valle
16 Cindy Gibboney
16 Patricia Killoren

DECEMBER

01 Sherry Ahearn
05 Tom Boldin
12 Connie Young
13 Nancy Pyle
22 Sally Sroka
23 Gary Gill
23 Penny Nester
27 John Szwarc
29 Carol Papinchak

~WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES~

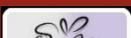
Jim & Karen Janosik
10/10/70

Jay & Nancy Pyle
10/13/61

Don & Cindy Giboney
10/19/2007

Fred & Kathleen Weaver
10/22/60

Tom & Shirley Boldin
10/23/71



hear Mozart, and you're going to give them Mozart whether you like it or not." The conductor strode away before I could reply. Believe it or not, his words had the desired effect. They were just what I needed to hear. They pulled me out of my self-centeredness and made me focus on the joy I could bring to others.

I'll never forget Mary's story. It reminds me of my mom. My mother hated whining. As a child, whenever I would whine, she'd say, "Bernard, snap out of it. Everyone has problems." If she were General Patton, she probably would have slapped the soldier, too. If I am to carry my cross, I must not drag it behind me and whine.

Second, instead of carrying my cross, I can look for ways to make it lighter. Now don't get me wrong. If I have a headache, I reach for the aspirin! As the son of a surgeon, I am the last person to deny that medical science is a gift from God. That's not what I'm talking about.

During my last year as a teacher at Bethlehem Catholic High School, I, who always taught sophomores, was assigned to cover a class of seniors whose teacher was gone for the day. The teacher had posted the assignment on the whiteboard. As soon as I pointed this out to the students, they dutifully took out their textbooks and got to work—all except one. There he was, off to the side, a newly transferred student, arms folded across his desk, head down. I went over to the young man and gently said, "Are you all right? Do you need to go to the nurse?" He replied, "I'm okay. I just can't see the assignment from where I'm sitting." "What?" I erupted. "You can't see the assignment, so you're choosing not to do it? You obviously don't know to whom you are talking." The class exploded in laughter. "If I would have pulled that stunt on my father, he would have sent me to the moon. Get up! Walk over to the board. Write down the assignment, and get to work." That boggled my mind. Here was a kid who was perfectly capable but was trying to find an easy way out. How will he respond when life sends him real difficulties?

Maybe you've seen the cartoon called "Carry Your Cross" on the internet. Several people are walking, each individual carrying his own large cross. One young man, however, is obviously not a happy camper. He says, "Lord, it's too heavy. Please cut it down a little." With that, he takes out a saw and cuts off a portion from the base of his cross. He proceeds, shouldering his cross with all the rest, but still he is not satisfied. "Lord," he prays, "please cut it down a little more. I'll be able to carry it better." Again, the fellow hacks off a little more of his cross. "Lord, thank you so much," he says. Now the guy is actually singing as he carries his cross, clearly much shorter than all the rest. Suddenly, the cross carriers come to a deep crevice in the landscape. Our singer is caught off guard and blurts out, "Huh?" All the others make the happy discovery that their crosses are long enough to act as bridges to span the gulf. They cross over easily, leaving our cross cutter behind. "Ah! It's too short," he cries out in despair. "I can't cross." Sometimes carrying our current crosses prepares us for the future challenges that life throws our way. After all, as the saying goes, "A smooth sea never made a skillful sailor." If I am to carry my cross, I must not seek to make it lighter.



Kevin & Penny Nester
11/13/92

Gene & Barbara Neral
11/17/62

Scott & Diane Little
11/25/2000



Tom & Andrea Beavers
12/28/91

Chris & Vickie Conner
12/30/2000

THE BOOK SHELF



Mother Teresa: An Authorized Biography

by Kathryn Spink

Saintly Deacons

by Owen F. Cummings

Mother Teresa: In My Own Words

by Mother Teresa

Essays on Woman

by Edith Stein

Abandonment to Divine Providence

by Father Jean-Pierre de Caussade, S.J.

Prayer: Our Deepest Longing

by Ronald Rolheiser

The Church of Mercy

by Pope Francis

Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life

by Henri J. M. Nouwen

The Catholic Way: Faith for Living Today

by Archbishop Donald Wuerl

Eucharist

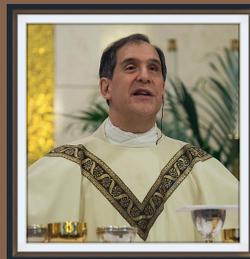
by Robert Barron

"Now Is the Time of Mercy"

Third, instead of carrying my cross, I can wield it as a weapon to attack others. That describes me to a "T" as a brand-new teacher at Bethlehem Catholic High School. I was angry with Bishop Welsh for assigning me to teach. I was angry with God for having deprived me of good eyesight. What did I do? I am ashamed to say it, but I took my anger out on my students. I was not above screaming, yelling, spewing out sarcasm, and even throwing an occasional desk! Ah, that poor Class of 1992! They are about forty-two years old right now, and some of them are probably still in therapy! The only thing that could knock me out of my victim mentality was the terrible realization that I myself as a victim was capable of making victims. God, forgive me! If I am to carry my cross, I must not use it as a club to clobber others.

Our Lord told Sister Faustina Kowalska, "Those who are like Me in the pain and contempt they suffer will be like Me also in glory." In other words, without the cross, there can be no crown. If we can avoid whining, taking the easy way out, and venting our spleen on anyone who happens to be in the vicinity, I think we'll go a very long way toward complying with Our Lord's command to take up our cross daily and follow Him. The choice is simple: Either I carry my cross or I become one!

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Reverend Bernard J. Ezaki, M. Div., M.A. is currently the Parochial Vicar at Cathedral Church of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown, PA.

After attending Moravian College, Harvard Divinity and St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Father Ezaki was ordained a priest on June 4, 1988. Born legally blind, Father Ezaki acknowledges that the secret of Christian joy is nothing less than gratitude. At age 45 years old, he discovered in a book a sentence that changed his life, "***I'm not grateful because I'm happy; I'm happy because I'm grateful.***"

Learn more about Father Ezaki and his writings at:

<http://www.apologyanalogy.com>



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with Father Bernard Ezaki, M. Div., M.A.

Saturday, March 11, 2017

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

St. Bernadette Church, Allentown, PA

**DIVINE MERCY IN THE SECOND
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DVD SET**

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www.LighthouseCatholicMedia

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A Stephen Minister comes alongside a hurting person and meets with that person on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support. Men are paired with men; Women with women.

Over the years, well over one-and-a-half million people have benefited from the one-to-one, Christ-centered care of a Stephen Minister. This care is entirely confidential-no one knows the identity of a care receiver except for his or her Stephen Minister and the pastor or Stephen Leader who paired the two.

Stephen Ministry training is part of the curriculum in **Diaconal Formation** since ministry to those in crises is an element of the Deacon's vocation. It is mandatory for all active Deacons so that we can better serve the Body of Christ in Charity. The program is also designed to motivate the laity to caring ministry should the parish become fully involved as a Stephen Ministry parish.

[Parish Assessment Needs For Care](#)

Learn How Stephen Ministry
Can Meet Those Needs

For more information on
Stephen Ministry,
contact Deacon Michael at:

michael.russo@atlanticbb.net

St. Bartholomew, Wilmore
More Information To Come

MAY HE REST IN PEACE



Deacon James F. Leap

Deacon James F. Leap, Garvey Manor, Hollidaysburg, formerly of Altoona, passed away Wednesday August 24 at UPMC Altoona, after a brief illness. He was 92.

Deacon Jim was born July 9, 1924 in Altoona, son of the late Roy and Alice (McCann) Leap. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Patricia (Pressler) and numerous nieces and nephews.

A 1942 graduate of Altoona High School, Deacon Jim was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran of WW II. He retired from Conrail as an accountant with over 30 years of service. Deacon Jim was a member of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, where he served as deacon from 1992 until 2013.

Deacon Jim enjoyed reading, working on the computer and staying active with church activities, including past memberships with The Legion of Mary and The Nocturnal Adoration Society. He had also been a member of the Swiss Club, where he served as past secretary and treasurer.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, August 29 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, Bishop Mark Bartchak presided.

*Eternal rest grant unto our Brother Jim, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen*

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Before founding the Missionaries of Charity, Saint Teresa of Calcutta was a sister of Loreto for

nearly 20 years, serving as a teacher





Saint Teresa of Calcutta
Canonized September 4, 2016
Feast Day September 5

in Calcutta. While on a train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling - she experienced a powerful moment of prayer in which she received what she

described as "a call within a call." Jesus was asking her to give up the life she knew to care for the "poorest of the poor" on the streets of Calcutta.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta founded the Missionaries of Charity to provide "wholehearted and free service to the poorest of the poor." She began by offering food, a bath, or even just an embrace to the people she encountered in the slums of Calcutta. She wanted to serve "Jesus in His most distressing disguise." But she could not do this without a commitment to a radical life of prayer, even through the trials of a life of service and moments of doubt. Prayer helped her remember that Jesus, who suffered and thirsted on the Cross, was the same Jesus who was suffering in the poor on the streets.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta's tireless efforts on behalf of God's most vulnerable children made her the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and a model for millions worldwide devoted to the Struggle for human life and dignity.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been a friend of the Missionaries of Charity for nearly 50 years and today partners with them around the world. In Ethiopia, where the sisters have 18 homes, CRS supports their ministry by providing food, shelter and social services. CRS also works on behalf of Catholics in the United States to relieve the suffering of poor and vulnerable people around the world. Let St. Teresa of Calcutta be a model to us all.

Find out more at www.crs.org/get-involved.



To read more about Saint Teresa of Calcutta and Catholic Relief Services go to www.crs.org

Bearing Witness to the Gospel of Christ...

The Power of Community

By Deacon Tom McFee



Did you know that Catholic Relief Services (CRS) offers clergy ongoing formation in Catholic social teaching and global solidarity to deepen vocational understanding of justice and service to the poor?

Did you know that CRS provides presentations and workshops based on papal and episcopal documents which can be tailored to meet the needs of deacons?

Did you know that CRS has an opportunity to enhance your own ministry by becoming a Global Fellow?

To find out more, please click on the following links:

[CRS Clergy Webpage](#)

[Year of Mercy Webpage](#)

[Sacramental Resources](#)

[Resources for Ministry Through the Year](#)

[CRS Resource Center](#)

[Parish Resource Flyer](#)

All Saints Day

November 1 - Holy Day of Obligation



All Saints' Day, is a solemn Holy Day of Obligation celebrated annually by the Catholic Church on November 1. This day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained Heaven.

Originally the word "saint" was synonymous with "martyr". After a martyr's death, local Christians endeavored to bury the body in a tomb that would be accessible to the faithful.

On the anniversary of the martyr's death, Christians would gather to pray and celebrate the Eucharist "in memory of those who have gone before".

Eventually the memorial celebration of martyrs occurred in local churches that did not have tombs. By the fifth century, there was already a feast of "all saints" in the East. By the eighth century the church of "St. Mary to the Martyrs" in Rome, seems to have celebrated a similar feast. In the ninth century, Pope Gregory IV officially changed the date of the feast to November 1.

Christians who led heroic gospel-inspired lives were often acclaimed after their death as a saint by a local church. The theology and the celebration of the feast emphasizes the bond between those Christians already with God and those still on earth. The feast points to our ultimate goal - to be with God.

Reference from The Harper Collins, Encyclopedia of Catholicism

RITE OF CANDIDACY

As Permanent Deacons, we are called to walk a delicate line between two separate worlds. We have one foot in the secular world and as ordained clergy we have the other foot firmly planted within the Church.



Deacon Tom McFee

Those of us married with families and secular jobs; have to navigate the many twists and turns of being married with all the responsibilities that come along with it. Often times we are faced with the overwhelming challenge of keeping our pastor and families happy at the same time. In order to be a good husband, I like to refer to the saying, "Happy Wife...Happy Life".

Experience has served me well. It is never a *wise move* to say to your wife after she has spent two hours preparing a nice dinner, "I don't really like fish, and I think I will just have cereal. That was not a good night in our house!

Many men in today's world are trying to raise children, make ends meet, juggle career and family obligations without the benefit of a life of faith. Finding themselves caught up in the secular world and all of its demands without faith can lead to a life of frustration and loneliness.

As men of faith our view point is different. Whether it is our upbringing, the desire to know truth or the striving to seek God's will, it is the gift of faith that is the driving force in our lives. We understand at the most fundamental level that when God calls, we need to answer. Our salvation depends on it.

Mere words are inadequate in describing this. For me there was the persistent call to serve others, often in ways that I found to be uncomfortable. God kept putting me into situations in my daily life where I was confronted with the reality of others suffering. Sometimes I would become angry with God and would say to him (in prayer), "Why did I have to see that person suffering so much?"

Now I understand that Jesus was inviting me to be His presence in the world and asking me to be a servant in the Church. Jesus called me, a sinful man, to minister to the suffering and the lonely using my God-given talents. God has called me to make a positive difference in the world. Becoming a Permanent Deacon was the perfect way for me to follow God's will for my life.

It is not always easy. Some days during Morning Prayer I find myself at the top of the list of intercessions because I feel inadequate for the challenges that are before me. Working as a prison chaplain I rely constantly on the grace of God.

I am blessed with a life filled with joy much of the time and the grace of knowing where my happiness comes from. God has given me a truly wonderful and patient wife, (with me she needs a lot of patience) and two awesome children who are happy and successful adults. There is so much I am thankful for.



Bishop Mark accepted Allan Duman (pictured with his wife Joanna) as a candidate for the Permanent Diaconate Saturday, September 3, 2016.

Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Church in Hollidaysburg where the Duman's are members.



"One who serves is not a slave to his own agenda, but ever ready to deal with the unexpected, ever available to his brothers and sisters and ever open to God's constant surprises."

"...dear deacons, if you show that you are available to others, your ministry will not be self-serving, but evangelically fruitful.

To read more excerpts from Pope Francis Homilies click on [The Holy See](#)

I also find great joy in serving at Mass. The Eucharist is my source of grace and hope. Also I am very blessed to serve the Church as a deacon on a full time basis. This is a gift to me from God and I am grateful to be in this position.

Over time I have come to realize the source of strength and grace built right into my life as a Permanent Deacon in our diocese. It is our Diaconate Community. My brother deacons, along with their wives and families are a wonderful gift to me.

When feelings of anger and frustration arise in my life as a deacon, I look forward to the next time I will be together with my brother deacons. Being together refreshes me, renews my spirit and helps me focus on my purpose and calling as a Deacon.

I believe that this gift of community is our most precious asset and sadly one of the most under used gifts we have. We need each other. We need to support each other. We need to laugh together. The funniest stories I've ever heard have come from my brother deacons.

Within our community we find comfort and new purpose as we seek to grow in our vocations to be servants to all in the name of the Lord Jesus. As our lives are so busy all the time...I believe deeply that we need to take advantage of the opportunities we have to come together.

During these times of community, whether it be a funeral for fellow clergy, a special Diocesan Liturgy, ongoing formation or our annual retreat, we come together for fellowship and prayer allowing us to grow in our function as people called by God to be servants.

When the faithful of our diocese see our Diaconal Community, they see a strong witness of faithfulness, and, experience firsthand what it means to answer the invitation of Jesus to be a visible sign as His servant. The faithful witness the spiritual power of our community of faith.

God Bless You!
Deacon Tom

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Day 1: Depart USA

Day 2: Arrive in Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Haifa, Stella Maris, Bahai Gardens.

Day 3: Galilee: Cana, Nazareth, Basilica of the Annunciation.

Day 4: Tiberias, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Mt Beatitudes, Magdala Center, Caesarea Philippi.

Day 5: Jordan River

Day 6: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Mt Olives, Church of the Visitation, Shepherd's Fields, Church of the Nativity.

Day 7: Chapel of Ascension, Pater Noster, Palm Sunday Road, Dominus Flevit, Gethsemane, Mt Zion, King David's Tomb, Palace of Caiaphas.

Day 8: Via Dolorosa, St Anne's Church, Ecce Homo, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Notre Dame Center.

Day 9: Bethany, Jericho, Mt Temptation, Dead Sea.

Day 10: Return Home

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