

# Bowl and Towel



*Diaconate Community*

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

ADVENT 2014



## COMING EVENTS

- **Convocation**  
Jan. 17, 2015  
Marywood
- **Intentional Disciples**  
Jan. 28, 29 or 31
- **Annual Retreat**  
Sept. 25-27  
Temecula Creek
- **Ordination**  
Oct. 17, 11 a.m.  
St. Columban

## Convocation Jan. 17 at Marywood

The leading expert on the diaconate for the United States, Deacon Bill Ditewig, will speak at our annual convocation Jan. 17 at Maarywood Center.

Deacon Bill is the past Director of the Secretariat for the Diaconate at the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

He has a BA in philosophy, MA in education, MA in pastoral theology, and PhD from the School of Theology and Religious Studies at Catholic University of America.

He was a commander in the Navy serving in a variety of assignments around the



*Deacon Bill Ditewig recently joined other deacon directors in Region XI during a fall conference held at Christ Cathedral and hosted by the Diocese of Orange.*

world and earning several medals. Commander Ditewig was ordained a deacon in 1990.

He has authored several books and articles including many that are used in diaconate formation.

Deacon Bill is currently Director of Faith Formation, Diaconate and Pastoral Planning for the Diocese of Monterey.

Participants will also be selecting new members for the deacon personnel board.



*Deacon Bob Soikkeli blesses animals at St. Francis of Assisi School in Yorba Linda on the Feast of St. Francis.*

## RIP Deacon Bob Soikkeli

Funeral mass for Deacon Bob Soikkeli was celebrated Oct. 23 by Bishop Thomas Olmstead, bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix, at St. Germaine Church in Prescott, Arizona.

Deacon Bob was ordained in 2007 and served at Santa Clara Parish in Yorba Linda. Upon retiring from Northrup

Grumman, he became a school psychologist and served at St. Bonaventure School in Huntington Beach.

Deacon Bob served on the Deacon Personnel Board and became a certified spiritual director.

He and his wife Miriam moved to Arizona in 2013. Deacon Bob died on Oct. 9, 2014.

# Serving as deacon at Camp Pendleton

by Deacon Randy McMahon

About two years ago, in a conversation with my pastor, Father Reynold Furrell at Holy Trinity Parish, I learned of unmet needs for Catholics at Camp Pendleton.

He had received a letter that addressed the insufficient number of available active duty priests as the majority of them were deployed with Marine units to various areas of the world.

Recognizing that I might be able to assist, I requested and received faculties from the Archdiocese of the Military Services (AMS).

I learned that the mission statement of the Camp Pendleton Catholic community reads in part: ***“God calls all of us, the Catholics of Camp Pendleton, to be a welcoming, worshipping community of faith, hope, and love.”***

I came to see how unique community building is here compared to our parishes. This is a very transient community;

military members and their families move in and out with regularity. Fortunately, there is stability through the a civilian contract priest, Fr. Gerald Kasule, originally from Nigeria, of the Diocese of San Diego. He is very active facilitating faith community building amid the challenges of the military life style.

These challenges include three separate chapels at locations very distant from one another. Mass-goers are active duty Marines and sailors and their families, single military members (especially at the School of Infantry) and retired military members and their spouses.

And yet, the essence of parish life - Mass, sacraments, faith formation, liturgical ministries and awareness of the needs of the Universal Church - all exist.

I marvel at the dedicated liturgical ministers and catechists. As they transfer to new duty stations, others report in and the ministries

continue uninterrupted.

There is also a keen awareness of the military members who are deployed. I see their spouses at Mass with the kids where they find an understanding community that can help the loneliness and anxiety over the safety of their active duty spouses. They also find help with the challenges of single parenting.

I serve with another deacon who is from the Diocese of San Diego and who has been supporting this community for some time now.

I am finding new ways to serve as a deacon here.

One of my most memorable experiences was doing a baptism at the chapel with a video link to Afghanistan so that “Dad” could witness his child’s first sacrament.

This experience and this opportunity to serve are blessings to me for which I am most grateful to God.



Archdiocese for the  
Military Services

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new duty stations,  
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***Father Jim Fry (Retired from Diocese of Orange),  
Father Gerald Kasule (Senior Catholic Priest on Camp  
Pendleton) and Deacon Randy McMahon at Blinders  
Memorial Chapel. Deacon Randy is a retired Marine.***



## Deacon office will pay for attending discipleship day

In order to be sponsored by the diaconate office, deacons and wives must register before Nov. 21 for *Forming Intentional Disciples*.

They may attend Jan. 28, 29 or 31 presentations by well known presenter Sherry Weddell.

Sherry trains and leads an international team of teachers and trainers who have worked directly with over 85,000 ordained, religious, and lay Catholics in over 100 dioceses on five continents.

Registration instructions and more information are being mailed with this newsletter.

## \$956 from wives to Lights On

Members of God's Beloved deacon wives group recently presented Deacon Randy McMahon with a check for \$956 for *Lights On* ministry.

*Lights On* serves inmates as they are released from Orange County Jails late at night. They use a large RV to distribute hot coffee, food, clothing, phone access and bus passes.

God's Beloved collected funds at each of their meetings and decided to gift *Lights On* with their collection.

Deacon Randy can always use more help. You may contact him at [Duke41351@aol.com](mailto:Duke41351@aol.com) or at Holy Trinity parish.



*Bishop Vann enjoys a lighter moment with deacons at God's Servants meeting. Bishop shared about his personal journey to the Diocese of Orange and plans for Christ Cathedral. Deacons then viewed the new exhibit showing plans for the interior of the cathedral.*



*Deacon Jim and Sally Arnold outside of their winery, Triassic Legacy Wines, in Tehachapi which is located in the Diocese of Fresno. They can be reached at [ojimarnold@gmail.com](mailto:ojimarnold@gmail.com)*



*Diaconate Office associate Lucy Dominguez joins other young adult professionals at Contemplative Leaders in Action, a two-year faith formation and leadership development program rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.*



*Valeria Moreno of St. Cecilia Parish offers hospitality following memorial mass attended by approximately 50 people and celebrated by Father John Moneyppenny.*



*Eileen Yeager, Sister Carlotta DiLorenzo, CSJ, Sister Wanda Billion, MSC, and Deacon Greg Yeager gather for Mexican dinner prepared by God's Beloved for the Region 11 deacon directors meeting hosted by the Diocese of Orange.*



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THE DIACONATE OFFICE FUNDED THROUGH THE PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL

## Nominations now accepted for Class of 2019

**N**ominations are now being accepted from pastors for men they recommend and support to enter diaconate formation.

The men, along with their wives if they are married, will enter a six-month period of discernment which includes roundtable discussions, group and individual meeting with board members, writing an autobiography, psychological testing, and IPM core classes.

Forming the board that will make the selection and recommendations to Bishop Vann are Ruben and Socorro Barron, Deacon Gerry and Socorro de Santos, Deacon



*Father Ted Gabrielli, SJ, speaks to aspirants and wives during their visit of Dolores Mission in East Los Angeles. Dolores Mission preceded their trip to Home Boy Industries as part of a "border crossing" during second year of formation when the focus is Catholic social teaching through the JustFaith process.*

Chuck and Yolande Doidge, Deacon Mark Martin and Laurie -Steele Martin, Deacon Nicholas and Michelle Oh, and Annette Venegas.

Annette works in the parish faith formation office of the Diocese and Ruben is part of the team directing the second year of deacon aspirancy.