

Bowl and Towel



Diaconate Community

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

EASTER 2014



COMING EVENTS:

- *God's Beloved*
May 17 Diocesan Pastoral Center
- *Candidates retreat*
May 30-June 1
Santa Barbara
- *Pentecost*
June 8
- *Annual Pot Luck*
June 13 at Holy Family Cathedral
- *Jack Jezreel presentation*
June 16 at St. Philip Benizi
- *God's Servants*
July 12 Diocesan Pastoral Center
- *Annual Retreat*
Sept. 26-28
Temecula Creek

We, the Deacons of the Diocese of Orange, are humble instruments called to joyfully serve those in need by bringing God's love through our compassionate presence.

Printed above is the new mission statement of the Deacons of Orange crafted at the second gathering of *God's Servants* April 12 at the Marywood gym.

The morning was facilitated by aspirant Mark Murphy. Here he expands upon each part by using words and phrases shared that day.

Humble instruments -

We live in the center of the community where we share the journey of life and are made aware of the needs of many. We are authentic, living truthfully to who we really are.

Called joyfully to serve -

We seek to do whatever God asks of us and are dedicated to pleasing Him.

Those in need - We serve by teaching, being a voice for



One group of deacons collaborate to help craft a new Orange deacons mission statement during God's Servants meeting in the Marywood gym.

the voiceless, creating community and offering freedom in Christ.

God's love - We are linked to God through the Church and seek to bring God's joy, peace, hope and love to all we encounter. We seek to be more like Christ, imitators of his way.

Compassionate - We desire to be a safe haven for all to

find God's love. We accomplish this by being approachable, friendly, open and good listeners.

Presence - We are fully presence with our hearts, minds and entire beings. We are in prisons, hospitals, the work place and church. Wherever there is need, we are present, whether we are "on duty" or just hanging out.

The joy of coming face to face with Christ

by Deacon Al Scaduto

Every Lent is a time of reflection and seeking a closer relationship with Christ.

Therefore, Linda and I would like to share with you an experience that we had on a recent missionary trip. We traveled to the slums of Kingston, Jamaica, where we worked with Fr. Lung and the brothers of the Missionaries of the Poor. We helped them feed the homeless in the streets and the handicapped in the centers they operate.

On our first morning, we were assigned to Bethlehem House where the brothers care for 60 extremely handicapped orphaned children. Our task that morning was to hydrate 20 children. We went about from crib to crib giving water to each child. Whenever we could, we picked them up to help them swallow.

Due to their physical and mental condition, they usually were not capable of responding. However, a loving touch, or gentle word would often result with a faint smile.

After giving water to about 10 children, we came upon a crib with a little child propped up against a pillow. His name was "Baby Bobby."

This beautiful child sat in his crib looking up at us with big dark eyes and a radiant smile. Linda tried to give him water, but he pushed it aside. He reached up with his one and only deformed little hand and

grabbed her wrist and pulled himself closer. "Do you want me to pick you up?" Linda asked. He pulled harder. She picked him up and he wrapped his little arm around her and snuggled as if to say, "Don't ever let me go."

Our eyes filled with tears as we realized this little love bug, who had been abandoned by his mother, will never know her love. So with tears rolling down her cheeks, Linda cuddled and carried him as she finished tending to the other children. The joy we experienced in being able to offer these children love and care was so amazing. It's these moments when we feel exceptionally close to our Lord.

We were blessed to care for the children and meet Baby Bobby. His loving nature moved us in ways that are not easy to explain.

Jesus told us, "...Whatever you do to the least of these, you do unto me." Working with MOP gives us the opportunity to touch Jesus. When we look into the eyes of those children and their elderly, we are confident that we are looking into the eyes of Jesus and He is smiling back at us.

We go to Jamaica to help and care for the broken, the sick, the elderly and the poor, but at the end of every trip we are overwhelmed by the fact we are the ones who are healed. These trips are emotional and

sometimes difficult, but they are the most memorable and faith fulfilling we have come to know.

Each encounter makes us realize that every human being is a gift from God and to be treasured. The gift that the "forgotten of the world" offer us is a sense of being in the presence of Christ. This is the reason we go back year after year.



Jesus asks us to love and care for each other and scripture tells us our good works will bring us closer to the Lord. Pope Francis said recently, "Poverty is learned by touching the flesh of the poor Christ, in the humble, the poor, the sick and the children."

There are people of all ages, just like Baby Bobby, who are asking themselves, "Does anyone really care?"

Many organizations in Orange County need our help to respond to that desperate question. Perhaps this Lenten season we all might consider seizing the opportunity to experience the joy of coming face to face with Christ by reaching out to the forgotten here in own community.

"There are people of all ages, just like Baby Bobby, who are asking themselves, "Does anyone really care?"

JustFaith creator here June 16

“Pope Francis and the Integration of Mission in the Life of a Parish” will be the topic of Jack Jezreel’s presentation Monday, June 16, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at St. Philip Benizi Parish in Fullerton.

Jezreel is the founder of JustFaith Ministries and a popular and excellent speaker. RSVP to Lucy Dominguez at ldominguez@rcbo.org or (714)282-3035.

Details set for 2014 retreat

Father J. Patrick Foley, who has conducted numerous retreats, missions and days of recollection, will direct our 2014 deacon retreat Sept. 26-28 at Temecula Creek Inn.

Ordained in 1973, Father Foley has served in parishes, campus ministry and as a high school and college teacher. Among his many degrees, he holds a PhD in formative spirituality from Duquesne University.

Retreat registration materials will be sent in early summer.

God’s Beloved, God’s Servants

God’s Beloved wives ministry will have their monthly meeting 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 17, at the Pastoral Center.

God’s Servants deacons ministry will host their third meeting on Saturday, July 12, from 9 a.m. to noon also at the Pastoral Center. All deacons are invited to attend.



On behalf of the deacons of the Diocese of Orange, Mary and Deacon Frank Chavez accept the Hearts on Fire Award from Father Felix Just, SJ, and Sister Barbara Ostheimer, SND, of the Loyola Institute. The Institute annually recognizes outstanding Christians whose contributions to spirituality, community service and Christian leadership have been inspired by their formation in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.



Matt and Patti Calabrese, Cynthia and Miguel Sanchez, Bob and Mary Kelleher, and JoAnn and Jerry Pyne enjoy a meal together during this year’s Religious Education Congress. Many deacons were able to earn many ongoing education hours by attending the annual convention held at the Anaheim Convention Center.

A Variation of Sound by Joanna Lee

A shabby man holding a “VETERAN” sign caught my eyes
as I was waiting for the traffic signal at the freeway exit

Eyes out of focus, somehow unaware of the traffic noises and dusty wind
at a junction where multiple roads entangled each other

Glancing at the sky, he smiles grimly
I find myself looking at the sky with him
Alas - I could see his childhood house there
I could hear the laughter of his mother
White clouds passing through the blue sky

Pow, Pow, Pow
An 18-wheeler running down the road with incredible noise
And that hurt my ears

Suddenly, the street changes to a war zone
A chaos with explosions and smell of gun powder
The man puts his head between his knees
and covers his ears with his hands

The laughter of his mother fading away
The war is still going on



Diaconate Community
Diocese of Orange

Pastoral Center
13280 Chapman Ave.
Garden Grove CA 92840
(714) 282-3037
FAX (714) 282-3029
E-mail: fchavez@rcbo.org



THE DIACONATE OFFICE FUNDED THROUGH THE PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL

Well done, good and faithful servant

Over 1000 people gathered with Sally Sullivan and her family on April 26 at Queen of Angels Church in Newport Beach for the funeral mass of Deacon Neill Sullivan.

Ordained in 1979, Deacon Neill was a pioneer in the Diocese of Orange diaconate and, along with his wife Sally, served as a role model for other deacon couples.

Among many ministries, Neill was committed to detention ministry and was the founder, along with Sally, of Casa Teresa, a shelter for homeless pregnant women. In the past 38 years, Casa has been home to over 5,500 women and children.

Casa has grown to four distinct programs: parenting, transformation, adoption and emergency maternity shelter.

Neill died at home on April at the age of 87 with his wife and their seven children present.



Sally and Deacon Neill Sullivan