

# Bowl and Towel



Diaconate Community



VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

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## COMING EVENTS

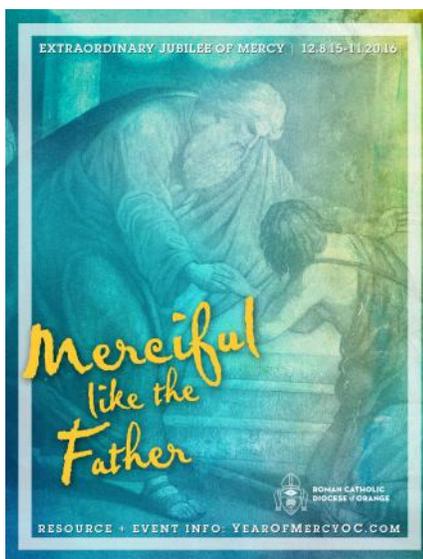
- **God's Beloved Day of Reflection**  
Saturday, Feb. 13,  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **God's Servants**  
Saturday, Feb. 13,  
8:30 a.m. - 12 noon
- **Aspirants Retreat**  
March 4 - 6  
Viña de Lestonnac
- **Candidates Retreat**  
April 15 - 17  
Casa de Maria
- **Community Potluck**  
Friday, July 22  
St. Vincent de Paul
- **Deacon Retreat**  
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1  
Temecula Creek

## Beloved and Servants enter new year

**G**od's Beloved will host deacon wives for a Lenten Day of Reflection on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Christ Cathedral Cultural Center. The day of enrichment, prayer, reflection and sharing will be directed by Dr. Cathy Shinhofen who has worked extensively with deacons and deacon wives.

The day will include breakfast and lunch and all presentations will be simultaneously translated into Spanish.

Please register before Feb. 5 with Lucy Dominguez at [ldominguez@rcbo.org](mailto:ldominguez@rcbo.org) or (714) 282-3035.



**G**od's Servants, our ministry for deacons, will host their first meeting of the year on Saturday, Feb. 13, the same day as the God's Beloved Lenten Day of Reflection.

The men will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude by noon at the Pastoral Center.

The deacons will begin a year long focus on the Corporal Works and the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

### Handbook updated; available on [rcbo.org](http://rcbo.org) website

**A**long with an updated photo directory, the Diocese of Orange Deacon Handbook has also been updated to include a new retirement policy, history of the Orange diaconate, and liturgical changes based on the New Roman Missal. Steps for access are: [rcbo.org](http://rcbo.org), CONNECT, FIND A MINISTRY, DIACONATE, and Deacon Portal. Contact the diaconate office for user name and password.

## Sister Marianna: Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord...

**S**ister Marianna Gemmet, CSJ, who was diaconate director from 1988 to 1991 and also assisted with spiritual formation of candidates from 1979 through 1982, died on Jan. 21.

Sister Marianna was a great gift to candidates, deacons and wives in the early years of the Diocese of Orange. She developed strong spiritual roots for the Orange

diaconate and helped to greatly improve the selection process.

Many remember one her favorite sayings, "all is gift."

Sister Marianna entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange in 1957 serving in education and vocations. She served in the leadership of her congregation for ten years.



Sister Marianna Gemmet, CSJ

# The deacon wears a badge



"I felt I was living an episode from the TV series *Cops* each week."

by Deacon Randy McMahon

As deacons we are called to serve in a variety of capacities, just as Christ was called. And you **never** know where that might be. The opportunities "POP" up when you least expect them.

For example, many of you know that I had served in detention ministry, inside conducting communion services and outside serving newly released incarcerated with *Lights On* for over ten years. I have also served in support of our veterans on Camp Pendleton in a variety of ways including RCIA.

I have always tried to bring the love of Christ to all our sisters and brothers. Plus, I have always tried to be open to God's call to a new direction. That happened recently.

I attended the Orange County Sheriff's Department "Citizens

Academy," a 12-week program which showed me how the Sheriff's Department actually serves our community "on the ground." To say it opened my eyes was an understatement. I felt I was living an episode from the TV series *Cops* each week. I was totally unaware of **so** much that they do, all of it positive. I walked away with a greater appreciation of these dedicated men and women.

I was introduced to a program called the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). These individuals support the OCSO in various areas of law enforcement that can be done by volunteers without taking deputies away from more important issues. RSVP members are **sworn** members of law enforcement. They conduct operations such as home security checks, traffic control, parking enforcement

and many other needs that don't require a deputy. This allows deputies to do their primary responsibility, keeping us safe.

I have now been doing this for about a year. It has been a very satisfying experience because it has allowed me to be out in the community dealing directly with our brothers and sisters helping them in their needs. Yes, this has meant feeding their spiritual needs on occasion, but that is not necessarily part of the responsibilities. We do what Christ calls us to do.

This program is not restricted to San Clemente where I live. It is available in other locations, but perhaps under another title. I would highly encourage my brother deacons to check out this type of program in their part of the diocese.



Lieutenant Dave Moodie, Linda McMahon and Deacon Randy McMahon at Orange County Sheriff's San Clemente Sub Station.

## Beverly Doubledee selected for board

**B**everly Doubledee, the wife of Deacon Richard Doubledee from St. Phlip Benizi Parish, has been selected by deacons and wives to represent them on the Deacon Personnel Board.

Beverly begins a three-year term replacing Mary Patronite who decided not to continue for a second term.

The board deals with ministry reviews, transfers, change in status, and most post-ordination matters.

### *I'd Rather See A Sermon*

*I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.*

*The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear, Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;*

*And the best of all preachers are the men who live their creeds, For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.*

*I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done; I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.*

*And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true, But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do; For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give, But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.*

- By Edgar A Guest

# A mission trip the the Philippines

by Deacon Steve Greco

**I**n October, I co-lead a mission to the Philippines with Father Bill Adams from Whittier.

It was organized by a Filipino group called "Spirit of Praise." Our goal was to minister to the "poorest of the poor" and to bring the word of God to the Philippines through teachings, services and healing masses.

Overall, we gave over 30 teachings and had two masses a day, on average, for 15 days with healing services that followed. We worked with Missionaries of Charity orphanages, Sisters of the Poor abandoned elderly, and the "Badjao," who are abandoned children in Davao. They are in temporary housing pending medical treatment.

These are the poorest of the poor, and have nothing. They often have tumors or other conditions that require treatment. We prayed over each of them individually with the love and hope of Christ!

After landing in Cebu, we went to the Cebu Detention and Rehabilitation Center. In their unique form of rehabilitation, they teach the inmates to dance in unison to popular songs such as "Thriller."

We showed up at a time for a special performance for TV and newspapers. After a few songs, prison officials asked me to address the 750 to 800 inmates. With the cameras on, I told them that I

traveled 8,000 miles to tell them how much Jesus loves them and has forgiven them. I went through Ephesians chapter one that because of Christ, they were holy and spotless. They responded with clapping and shouts of joy!

yard and began preaching fervently about God's love and forgiveness. That they were children of God. Loved unconditionally! Forgiven! That God was preparing a place for them in heaven. They responded



Cebu inmates before dancing in unison as part of their rehabilitation.

After a short break, they were back performing. Then one of the head people in the prison asked me, unexpectedly, if I wanted to address them where they were outside in the yard and pray for their healing.

I said yes, not knowing what I would say. As we began walking down to them, the skies opened up to a huge downpour. It was the tail end of a typhoon that had landed in the North.

The prison official told me to address them under shelter. Suddenly I felt the presence of the Lord and the Holy Spirit. I felt God telling me to tell the official to wait two minutes. Incredibly, at what seemed to be exactly two minutes, the rain stopped! I went into the

enthusiastically with one "Amen" after another. I then led 800 men and women inmates into a prayer of total surrender to Christ. They responded loudly clapping their hands!

Father Adams closed the session with nearly 800 inmates mates raising their hands praising God! What an incredible experience! I felt very blessed and honored to be there serving God and the poor.

I love the Filipino people. They are very warm and loving with tremendous faith and family values.

There are many more stories of God's love on the mission. I look forward to returning next year!



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THE DIACONATE OFFICE FUNDED THROUGH THE PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL

## Thanksgiving 2015: *Carne Asada* under the bridge

*by Rick Torres, deacon candidate*

Thanksgiving 2015 will be one of the most memorable days of the year for my son and me. We spent the afternoon with over a dozen teenagers feeding the homeless living under the freeway bridges in Orange County.

The teens were inspired and led by their friend, Miguel Espinoza Jr. Miguel's father Miguel Sr., a deacon candidate, inspired his classmates to sponsor the endeavor. They quickly funded 50 pounds of *carne asada* for the event.

The food included all of the fixings to make tacos. Coffee, snacks, and deserts were provided by the teens. Clothing and even dog food were available for their pets.

The food was strategically stationed at the brow of the Santa Ana Riverbed off Chapman Avenue where we were on level ground and close to the roadway for visibility and safety.

My 26-year-old son and I escorted the teens as they walked the riverbed from bridge to bridge. Approximately 80 people were fed that day, and all were very grateful.

One of the most heart wrenching moments of the day came when a storm drain pipe started releasing water into the riverbed. I thought they were going to take their belongings to higher ground, but they were

collecting the water for cleaning purposes.

It perturbed me that some of the richest people in the nation live just a few miles away. However at the end of the day, I was inspired by these teens exercising the Corporal Works of Mercy.

May their actions inspire many to act, vote, and pray on behalf of the less fortunate.

