

# Bowl and Towel



Diaconate Community

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2014



## COMING EVENTS

- Deacon Community Retreat - Sept. 26-28
- God's Beloved - Saturday August 16
- God's Servants - Saturday, Oct. 11
- Memorial Mass - Monday, Nov. 10, St. Cecilia Parish
- Sept. 8 and 10 - Aspirant, Candidate, IPM Classes begin
- Convocation - Saturday, Jan. 31, Pastoral Center

## Deacons: a letter from the Bishop

*Dear brothers in the Lord,*

I was recently reviewing the June "News Letter" of the Committee on Divine Worship from the USCCB, when I noticed that there is a section dedicated to the ministry of deacons, *The Role of Deacons in the Liturgical Life of the Church*.

I would highly recommend it as it is both what I would call a "refresher" and a time of reflection on your ministry.

Since so many of us are often asked for blessings of various kinds, I would especially point to the section in this article on "Blessings." Let us never underestimate the importance of these requests or in fact, the power of blessings for home, individuals and other occasions.

Unfortunately, I believe,



*Bishop Vann agrees to a photo with a "man from the crowd" after Our Lady of Guadalupe Delhi confirmation.*

the use and appreciation of blessings has diminished in what I would call the "Anglo" culture, and we have the Vietnamese and Hispanic cultures to thank for still having a sense of the importance of these sacramental moments.

An important part of diaconal and priestly ministry is to continue to use and educate about the importance of blessings.

Most importantly reading this section was a time for me to thank all of you for all of your work and

dedication in all of our liturgical and pastoral activities this past year. Lent, followed by Easter season, confirmations and ordinations are especially times when the liturgical ministry of our deacons is very important to all of us. I am especially grateful for the deacons who assist me on a regular basis at Holy Family Cathedral and at other locations as well.

I hope that all of you have a very blessed and restful summer with your families, and I look forward to the moments that we have to be together in prayer, worship and other events later or this coming fall.

God bless you always and thank you for all that you accomplish for the Lord and His people in your ministry of "Word and Charity."

*Gratefully yours in the Lord,  
Bishop Kevin W. Vann*



**‘Mary Magdalene modeled for us what it was to be a servant. What it is to be a deacon.’**

# The diakonia of Mary Magdalene

*Homily given by Deacon Deacon John Gerke of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati at the NDICE (National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education) convention on the Feast of Mary Magdalene.*

**J**ust as we heard in today’s Gospel: God chose. Not the upcoming head of his new Church, Peter, to receive that gift...that honor. Not the disciple who he had a deep and abiding love for.....John. Nor any other person of authority, or importance, or influence or power.

God chose Mary Magdalene. A simple person with no status, with no authority who had come to do what it was hers to do. To anoint his body. To care for him To serve him..

One last time...Mary Magdalene modeled for us, what it was to be a servant. What it is to be a deacon.

In that simple act of loving...of caring for our Lord...Even when, to all appearances... ....That he was dead.....Dead forever....That the dream.....of Jesus as Messiah....Of Jesus as Lord and Savior...And even perhaps the Son of God had died in shame on that cross at Calvary.

Mary had simply come to do what it was hers to do. To serve. Simply. With Love. With care. With humility. And with Faith....

Let us all pray, brothers and sisters, that God will give us the grace to love without expectation of being loved in return. To care for all without the expectation that care will be rewarded.

And to do, simply, what it is ours to do. To do as Mary Magdalene did.

To Love, to serve, to care for the Body of Christ...here on Earth  
God’s people...

To be a deacon.

## Deacons encouraged to begin regular deanery meetings

**M**odeled by the deacons of Deanery 2, deacons in the Diocese of Orange have been encouraged to begin meeting regularly by deanery.

The Deanery 2 representatives explained their process to those gathered for a God’s Servants meeting on July 12.

The presenters said their meetings were excellent times for sharing best practices and resources, and providing support for recently ordained men.

They also said it was important to rotate the parish location of the meeting and the facilitator who also provided a meal for the meeting.

Following the presentation, those in attendance met by deanery and discussed the potential dates and location for their first meetings.

Deanery 2 members offered to assist new deanery groups including attending their first meetings.

Priests of the diocese gather

by deanery each month and send a representative to monthly Council of Priests meetings. The structure has served as an effective tool for communication with each other and with the Bishop.

The Diocese of Orange is divided into seven deaneries based on geography.

For example, Deanery 1 includes all the parishes in the City of Santa Ana while Deanery 7 includes most of the “beach” parishes,



## Deacon Minh to serve Tribunal

Deacon Minh Tong has been appointed as a Canonical Auditor serving the Office of Canonical Services especially with Vietnamese cases.

Bishop Vann also approved Deacon Minh as an Advocate and Procurator. He was ordained in 2013 and is assigned to St. Boniface Parish.

## Arnold's moving to their vineyard

Deacon Jim and Sally Arnold are relocating to Tehachapi, California, in order to operate a vineyard they recently purchased. Their new residence and vineyard are located in the Diocese of Fresno.

Deacon Scott Ford from St. Bonaventure Parish is replacing Jim at Queen of Angels Parish.

## Deacon Sherg is scout chaplain

Deacon Nick Sherg of St. Martin de Porres Parish has been appointed by Bishop Vann as Scout Chaplain for the Boys Scouts of American in the Diocese of Orange.

Nick has extensive experience in scouting including earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Along with his wife Lisa, Nick has also served as a school volunteer and in parish youth ministry programs.

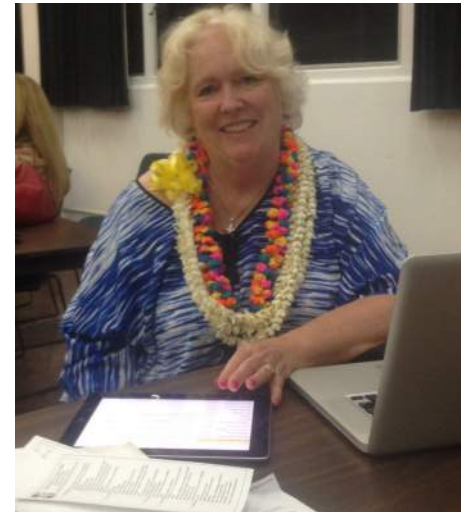
Nick and his *Joyful Servants* classmates was ordained Oct. 26, 2013.



Members of the Class of 1999 gather to celebrate their fifteenth anniversary at the Brü Grill & Market in Lake Forest. Also present was Sister JoAnn Tabor CSJ, deacon director at the time of their ordination. "It was a magical night," said Georgeann Lovett.



Deacons Miguel Gonzalez and Rafael Romero prepare their plates during annual potluck June 13 at Holy Family Cathedral.



Marianne Greco prepares one of her presentations as part of a three-day retreat for group leaders of the Hawaiian Islands given by Marianne and her husband, Deacon Steve Greco. The retreat took place at beautiful St. Stephen Center in Kaneohe on the Island of Oahu. The retreat theme was Empowered by the Spirit and attended by 60 leaders.



Candidate Pete Lauder welcomes his new grandson, Adam Robert Reilly, born on July 4. Adam is Pete and Jan's fourth grandchild.





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**Diocese of Orange**

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**THE DIACONATE OFFICE FUNDED THROUGH THE PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL**

## Candidate families serve *Kids Around the World*

**A**s part of their June spiritual formation day, candidates, wives and other family members prepared food packages for *Kids Around the World* who eventually would be ship them to hungry children around the world.

Each package contains casseroles which are a rice and soy mix fortified with 21 vitamins and minerals, 6 dehydrated vegetables, and chicken flavoring. The ingredients are accepted world wide and preparation only involves cooking with boiling water.

In order to sponsor a packaging event, contact Mike Stock at [MikeS@kidsaroundtheworld.com](mailto:MikeS@kidsaroundtheworld.com) Check out the KIDS website at [kidsaroundtheworld.com](http://kidsaroundtheworld.com)



**Members of the Class of 2015, Hands of Christ, prepare food packages for Kids Around the World on Father's Day at St. Edward the Confessor Parish in Dana Point.**