



'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.

Just 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

Modeled 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.

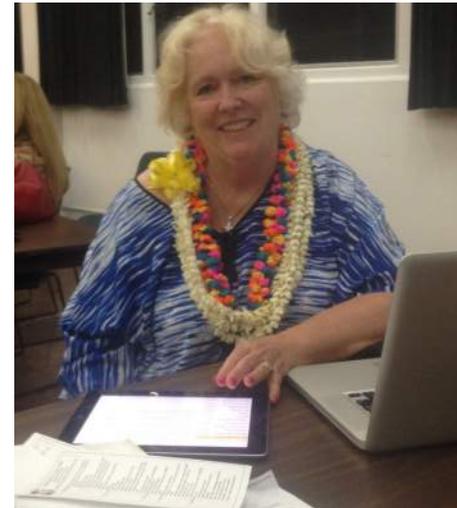
Nick and his *Joyful Servants* classmates was ordained Oct. 26, 2013.



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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THE DIACONATE OFFICE FUNDED THROUGH THE PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL

Candidate families serve *Kids Around the World*

As 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 Check out the KIDS website at 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.