

Deacons of Manitoba Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 9 September 2023

Words from the Archbishops



Dear Deacons,

As I write this message in September, I am sitting at my computer with a glass of red wine. The reason I am mentioning the wine is for the reason of Evangelization, old and new. The wine is important because it came my way as a gift from the Benedictine Sisters in Manitoba during their 'Open House' at their new monastery, just completed, situated in the Archdiocese of St. Boniface. You are all aware by now of the sale of St. Benedict's Monastery Retreat House and Conference Center, in West St. Paul, just north of Winnipeg. The Sisters, after much discernment, and realizing that their numbers and ages made continuing these ministries very difficult, decided to sell and rebuild a smaller monastery to suit the needs of their community. The Red Wine (or white if one prefers) was a simple gift when I attended their open house on September 17th.

This open house, however, was not the traditional one because the Sisters, true to the charism of hospitality taught by Saint Benedict, have offered the same gift to all of the neighbours around their street and have invited these same neighbours to come and visit the Sisters in their new residence. I am sure that these neighbours were quite surprised to receive a visit on their doorstep by these nuns bearing wine and an invitation "to come and see" (Jn. 1:39). Do you remember how Jesus went around teaching that the Kingdom of God is near (Matthew 24:14)? Well, the Sisters may not have used that same language but the visit to each house and the offer of wine, was all about the nearness of God, and the majority of people visited probably had little of a Church connection!

Deacons, does the above little episode connect with you and your ministry? Does it not teach that simple Christian hospitality can go a long way? Does it not remind us that our witness to Christ and to the Church is not to be hidden? And does it not tell us to not be afraid to go out and connect with those who are not only physically in need but also spiritually? Please excuse me if I go to finish my rather tasty glass!

In Christ,

+Richard Gagnon
Archbishop of Winnipeg

Words from Deacon James

Our work is unending. Our service to those in need should reflect Jesus' examples. It is ours to carry on, as a part of our Christian duty, initiated by our baptism. First and foremost, our love for the Lord and continued prayer returns love with a relationship that provides us with all that we need.

It is important to begin our service to our families and ensure that our love begins there with forgiveness, support, encouragement, and just wanting the best for them in all they do. It is with their support and love returned to us that we, as deacons of the church, can carry out our promise of service to the community at large, to build the Kingdom of God here on earth.

The timeless truth is that Christ's love for us should affect the way we love one another.

Deacon Jim Frater



**DEACON COMMUNITY OF MANITOBA
COMMUNITY NEWS SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023
CAROL MACKENZIE-GRUBER**

Hello Dear Deacons and Wives,

My name is Carol MacKenzie-Gruber. I am the widow of Deacon John MacKenzie of St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish, Brandon. I have been asked to write 'Community News' for our newsletter. In order to do that effectively I need you to send your news to me for future articles. It can be of the social nature or about your ministry or family life, whatever you wish to share with the community. I look forward to hearing from you.

I do have a couple of items for this newsletter. On June 30, 2023 Christopher Pugh of St. Augustine of Canterbury Parish was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Archbishop Richard. Deacon Michael Thibert was the Deacon of the Mass and vested Deacon Christopher.

Our congratulations to Deacon Christopher and be assured of our prayers for your ministry. The mass was a joyous occasion, capped off by a lovely reception prepared by the Catholic Women's League. Deacon Chris is serving at St. John Brebeuf Parish.

Deacon Michael and Deacon Christopher



Deacon Christopher with Archbishop Richard and Father John Okosun of St. Augustine of Canterbury.



In July, **Deacon Conrad and Jeannine Plant** celebrated Conrad's 80th birthday, actually May 12, and their 60th anniversary of marriage coming up on Nov 19. Belated Happy Birthday Conrad, and early Happy Anniversary, Conrad and Jeannine. Our congratulations to you both, and may God continue to shower His Blessings upon you in the years ahead.

Suggestions or comments:

Please do let us know how to do better with the newsletter through email: fraterjim218@gmail.com or michaelmartincordova@yahoo.com