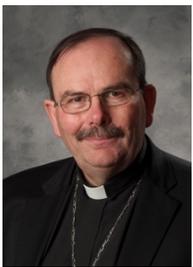


Deacons of Manitoba Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2 August 2020

Words from the Archbishops

Most Reverend Albert LeGatt, Archbishop of St. Boniface



Greetings to all of you as you strive along with everyone else serving in the Church to live by this motto: “Business as usual – in a completely different way”. And the “business” of deacons, as always, is to serve those in need, in any need, as a sacrament (sign) of Jesus Christ, the Servant.

The present discussions between Archbishop Gagnon, myself, the Executive of the Association of Deacons of Manitoba and members of the Formation Team, are moving towards being centered on the direct relationship between the bishops and each their own community (college) of deacons. Together, how can we best discern the situation of those in need in our dioceses, and how can each deacon individually, but also the diocesan community of deacons as a whole, best respond to one need or another.

This has roll-out consequences for both the Formation Program and for the relationship deacon-parish-pastor. Exciting stuff! And within it all the desire that deacons not be confined to minister in silos, each within their own parish, but that rather together, we, bishops and colleges of permanent deacons, find ways to truly respond to the multiple poverties and suffering all around us. Thus, we will light the way for the whole Church to become more diaconal, more of a servant like our Lord.

31.07.2020

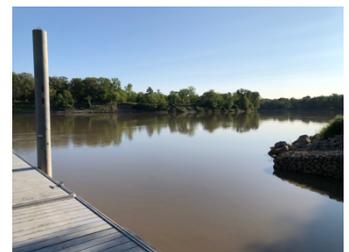
Words from Deacon James

Hello again! The response to the first newsletter has been very favorable.

The purposes are to keep communication open between our deaconate community and a free flow of ideas. Remember, communication is two way and any feedback is welcome, or if anyone wants to share with the community feel free to do so. We will do our best to include it in the next issue.

September is coming fast and traditionally it is the beginning of the church year pastorally speaking. This is a good time to evaluate our service to the church and the marginalized. Maybe, stretch ourselves to beyond our comfort zone to become more of a presence in the parish at large beyond the pews (leave that to the priest). Prayer for guidance in any endeavor can direct our actions and provide the opportunity complete with all the skill needed.

Deacon Jim Frater



Words from a deacon in a rural community



We extend our August greetings to all from Portage la Prairie.

As people of faith we are called to love GOD and also to love our neighbour. For many of us, ministry to the vulnerable, forgotten and hurting has been limited or halted. My visits to the elderly & shut-ins have been almost non-existent. That does not mean we are defeated by this virus that has reached all parts of this planet. The Lord has inspired us to spend more time in prayer individually and together. The chosen moments are when Tara and I join together to praise GOD and His incredible mercy. I am sure we all have stories to share during these challenging times, but the one I will share is in relation to a fellow member of creation.

Two weeks ago, I stepped out of our house to leave for work. I was unlocking our truck when from the sky something fell onto the roof and then onto the hood of the vehicle. What I saw was an incredibly colourful hummingbird that was laying on its back fluttering its wings in distress. Stunned, I attempted to aid this little bird onto its feet gently. It appeared to suffer no major injury but, it seemed weak and winded. I called on the real medic and asked Tara to bring out some sweet water. I calmly fed this small marvel with the tip of my finger for 5+ minutes and then our youngest cat appeared from the back of the truck. Thankfully this bird had enough strength to fly off at 1/10 speed to an oak tree.

From this early morning experience, GOD hugged me multiple times as I travelled into work. When I arrived, only 2-3 minutes late that is when I received a holy headlock from the Lord. My amateur translation is this: care, treat and embrace my children the same way you did for My little hummingbird. Since then, the hummingbirds are always present when we pray outside, or even in the living room where they observe/join us in prayer.

Let us continue to labour in the Lord's field/vineyard and to do so with joy and a whole lot of thanksgiving.

Peace!

Deacon Rick Ryzner

Words to ponder

“To be ready to serve, we need a healthy heart: a heart healed by God, one which knows forgiveness and is neither closed nor hardened. We would do well each day to pray trustingly for this, asking to be healed by Jesus, to grow more like him who “no longer calls us servants but friends” (cf. Jn 15:15). Dear deacons, this is a grace you can implore daily in prayer. You can offer the Lord your work, your little inconveniences, your weariness and your hopes in an authentic prayer that brings your life to the Lord and the Lord to your life. When you serve at the table of the Eucharist, there you will find the presence of Jesus, who gives himself to you so that you can give yourselves to others.” (Pope Francis, Homily during Jubilee Mass for Deacons, May 29, 2016) <https://saltandlighttv.org/blogfeed/getpost.php?id=70278>

Suggestions or comments:

Please do let us know how to do better with the newsletter email: jrfrater@mymts.net or michaelmartincordova@yahoo.com