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**Believe what
you read,**

**Teach what
you believe,**

**Practice what
you teach.**

Reflections on Diaconal Ministry

Ordained as a Deacon, Appointed to Serve as a Pastoral Life Director

By Deacon John Langmead

I was ordained a deacon in June 1999 to the threefold ministry of Sacrament, Word and Service. The motto that I choose to reflect my vision for ministry was “Lord, Make Me a Blessing.” I am sure I didn’t know exactly what that meant, but I had confidence that as my ministry unfolded, its meaning would become clear to me.

For 5½ years after my ordination I served on the parish staff at St. William of York Parish as the Director of Religious Education. In late fall 2005 Cardinal Keeler appointed me to the position of Pastoral Life Director (PLD) at St. Rita Parish in Dundalk. My appointment is for a period of six years or until a pastor is appointed, whichever comes first.

When Bishop Rozanski officially installed me in this position in February 2006, I told him that I had a sense that God had been preparing me for this my whole life although I didn’t know it. I had much to learn about being a PLD, but I knew I was in the right place.

When we are ordained, we conclude our promises to the Archbishop with the words “with the grace of God.” I can truly say we are able to be successful in our ministry, regardless of our specific assignment, only “with the grace of God;” as a PLD, I would add “and also with an understanding and supportive wife and parish staff.” I am blessed to have both.

The position of PLD is one of trust and broad responsibilities. We are basically re-

sponsible and accountable for everything that goes on in the parish. After being in the position for about three months, I remember telling my pastor at St. William’s, my home parish, that I never fully appreciated all that he did until I became a PLD.

In many ways, we are like a lightning rod. I don’t say this in a negative way but as a reality. Parishioners hold the parish leader accountable for everything that goes on in the parish. Being responsible does not mean that you have to do everything yourself; in fact, you can’t. You need an adequate and competent staff and you must empower them to function fully in their position.

I always tell my staff that we are a team, co-workers in the vineyard, and we all work hard to function that way. Our focus is to serve the needs of our parishioners doing all that we can to create an environment where they can live out the fullness of the call of their Baptism.

We work within the larger community to collaborate on making God’s kingdom more of a reality by serving the needs of the poor and working for justice. I also collaborate with the pastoral leaders of the other Catholic communities within our immediate area to assure that the fullness of the sacramental and catechetical ministries of our Church are available to all the Catholics in our area now and in the future.

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FROM PAGE 1

My diaconal ministry probably isn't much different than yours. I am engaged liturgically and sacramentally. I assist at as many of our weekend liturgies as possible. I prepare couples for the Baptism of their children and do Baptisms. I prepare couples for the Sacrament of Matrimony and officiate at weddings. My wife and I are a Sponsor Couple in our Marriage Preparation Program. I fully exercise my ministry of the Word by prayer, study, preaching, teaching and, I hope, living. My ministry of service/charity focuses on social justice, outreach to the poor, those in prison and visiting the sick and homebound. In all I do, I try to place a priority on presence and availability to others, especially in their time of need.

I mentioned at the start my vision for my ministry as a Deacon and that I didn't know fully what it meant for me. Just recently I became aware that a song titled "Make Me a Blessing" was written in June 1999, the month I was ordained. Certain lyrics go as follows: "Out of my life, may Jesus shine, carry the sunshine where darkness is rife, make the sorrowing glad, tell the sweet story of Christ and His love." My life as a Deacon and a PLD has, with the grace of God, given me opportunities beyond my wildest dreams to do just this.

I pray that I have been a blessing. I do know that others have been much more of a blessing to me than I could ever be to them. They, especially my wife, my supporters, the parishioners of Saint Rita's, my staff, those we serve, and the members of my Deacon Prayer Group have truly blessed me. I pray that those whom you serve, have and will always be the same for you. ♦

The Deacon's Call

Newsletter of the Baltimore Deacon Community

September–October 2010

Issues are published bimonthly, in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for articles is on the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Your comments and ideas for future newsletters are welcome. We need articles! Please consider writing a brief article on an aspect of your ministry or a review of a book you have read or a film you have seen.

We also need brief items for the "Great Deacon Resources" feature — just a title, author, and a sentence about why it's a great resource. Please email comments to any member of the Communications Committee:

Mark Soloski, Chair

Will Witherspoon

Jan Smith

Dean Lopata

Angela Martin

IS GOD CALLING YOU ...

... to ministry in the Deacon Community?

The Deacon Communications Committee is in urgent need of one new member who can provide practical experience and input in organizing and updating the deacon community's web pages on the Archdiocese of Baltimore web site.

This does not involve writing or design. We are looking for someone who can provide input into how best to organize the deacon portion of the web site and who is familiar with the process for uploading new content to the Internet.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore's website currently is undergoing a major redesign. Please look at the existing pages. **If you have ever thought you could help make them better — we want to hear from you.** Please help us improve how the Baltimore deacon community is viewed on the internet.

The web site can be an important avenue for recruiting new vocations, facilitating continuing formation, and sharing important information among ourselves, and evangelizing the outside world.

If you have web skills, please share your gifts with your deacon brothers. Contact Mark Soloski, 410-664-4654 or msoloski@archbalt.org today. ♦

Unbound: Freedom in Christ Healing Conference Coming to Baltimore

by Deacon Lee Benson

Last year my wife, Debra and I read the book *Unbound* by Janet and Neal Lozano. The book profoundly affected us and gave us new insights into ways to experience a deeper relationship with God.

We realized what an inaccurate understanding of ourselves in the light of Christ we had. *Unbound* showed us ways to reclaim our true identity in Christ and live our lives in the freedom Christ gives to us.

After reading the book we attended an *Unbound* conference in suburban Philadelphia. We learned about the five keys that form the basis of the *Unbound* model of prayer. We also received prayer during the conference

SEE PAGE 3

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

September

3rd.....	Henry & Mary Davis (55)
11 th	James & Kay Barth (7)
11 th	Francis & Mary Ann Laws (39)
17 th	Frederick & Maureen Bauerschmidt (22)
18 th	Gary & Ellen Dumer (23)
19 th	Michael & Joyce McCoy (51)
26 th	Kevin & Donna Bagley (29)
27 th	Gary & Virginia Ingold (35)
29 th	Edison & Carmen Morales (31)
30 th	Joseph & Patricia McKenna (38)

October

1 st	Thomas & Cindy Beales (32)
9 th	Harbey & Nancy Santiago (17)
13 th	Philip & Jacquelyn Seneschal (20)
15 th	Herman & Loretta Wilkins (32)
18 th	John & Chris Ames (35)
18 th	Frederick & Marge Schoennagel (52)
26 th	Anthony & Armella Norcio (36)
28 th	John & Janet Comegna (42)
28 th	James & Maureen Westwater (49)

FROM PAGE 2

using those same five keys as a guide for our prayer. During the prayer we forgave people in our lives, renounced the lies and deceptions about ourselves that we had accepted, asked God to close the door to those lies and deceptions and prayed that God would bless us in a new and special way.

Debra and I both experienced a release from things that were holding us back from a deeper relationship with Christ. As a result of the conference Debra and I came away with a closer relationship with God and one another. We also learned how to pray with others and assist them as they go through the five keys.

In July we showed the *Unbound* conference on DVDs at St. Ignatius. We joined with several parishioners in prayer and they experienced a greater freedom in their lives. We see them regularly and they continue to tell us how much *Unbound* has blessed them.

With Archbishop O'Brien's approval, the *Unbound* conference will be given on Nov. 5–6 at St. Agnes, Cantonville. To register and learn more about the conference visit the website www.heartofthefather.com.

We would encourage anyone who desires more of God in their life and wants to share God with others to attend this conference. If we can answer any questions please contact us at labdon70@gmail.com. ♦

From the Deacon Personnel Board SETON VICARIATE MEETINGS

By Deacon Fred Mauser

A few years ago the Deacon Personnel Board (DPB) replaced what had been sporadically held town meetings with regular Vicariate deacon meetings. These meetings have been well attended because of the strong support of the bishop, because they are held locally, and because the agendas have been pertinent and of interest to the deacon community (not to mention the food!).

In the Seton Vicariate, we have settled into a rhythm of meeting in the Fall and Spring, with two meetings each season, one in the eastern part of the vicariate (typically St. Louis, Clarksville) and one in the west (typically St. Joseph, Hagerstown). Normally our meeting agenda is shared by topics of interest to Bishop Rozanski and issues the DPB wishes to communicate/discuss.

At our recent meetings Bishop Rozanski spoke of the changes in pastorates and the archdiocese's emphasis on regional planning. He then introduced Maria Johnson, AoB Director of Hispanic Ministries. Maria stressed the need to be welcoming to newly arrived Hispanics. She said that real integration doesn't happen until the second generation and that it is important that we facilitate that transition, by allowing Hispanics to express themselves in liturgy, by supporting devotions they love, by providing English classes, etc.

The DPB representatives for the Seton Vicariate — Skip Comegna, Dean Lopata, and Fred Mauser — reported on recent and upcoming DPB activities: the very successful May Retreat at Bon Secours, Marriottsville; the May elections; the June Planning Session, laying out goals for next year; the June picnic; a big 'thank you' for getting all your Letters of Understanding in; and the Oct. 2 Day of Enrichment at St. Louis, Clarksville.

These meetings of Seton Vicariate deacons and wives are a great opportunity to strengthen our relationship with Bishop Rozanski and deepen our awareness of his plans for the Seton Vicariate. They also allow valuable cross-communication between the DPB and the deacon community and improve our individual ties within that community.

Be looking for the next set of meetings in November. ♦

Special Dates to Remember

BIRTHDAYS

September

1 st	Ray Britt
1 st	Lawrence Matheny
1 st	Michael McCoy
1 st	Anthony Norcio
6 th	Gary Dumer
6 th	Richard Kunkel
7 th	John Martin
9 th	Martin Wolf
10 th	Paul Ciesla
11 th	Ed Kernan
12 th	Philip Seneschal
13 th	George Sisson
18 th	John Langmead
19 th	Henry Davis
19 th	Robert Lehr
19 th	Mark Ripper
21 st	Frederick Bauerschmidt
22 nd	Jack Connor
23 rd	Kevin Brown
24 th	Kevin Bagley
25 th	Robert Hacker
26 th	Gary Lee Fumer
27 th	Clifford Britton
27 th	Douglas Nathan
29 th	James Monaghan

October

1 st	Edward Sullivan
6 th	Michael Baxter
8 th	Robert Baker
8 th	Robert Shephard
13 th	John Ames
14 th	J. Edward Bee
15 th	P. Gregory Rausch
17 th	James Prosser
18 th	Larry Wilson
22 nd	Nickolas Pitocco
29 th	Paul Mann
31 st	James Clack

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

September

6 th	Robert Baker (1992)
6 th	Joseph Jensen (1984)
7 th	Peter Barbarnitz (1996)
8 th	Charles Hiebler (1984)
8 th	Robert Lehr (1984)
9 th	Michael Misulia (1978)
13 th	J. Edward Bee (1986)
13 th	Stephen Cooley (1997)
13 th	John Coster (1986)
13 th	Gilbert Hartlieb (1986)
13 th	Robert Lynne (1986)
13 th	J. Donald MacKnew (1986)
13 th	Richard Strine (1986)
13 th	C. Richard Swann (1986)
13 th	Verdan Wiedel (1986)
15 th	J. Kenneth Pivec (1974)
15 th	Paul Shelton (1986)
17 th	Nicholas Feurer (1983)
17 th	Daniel Kopczyk (1983)
18 th	Jack Connor (1995)
19 th	Richard Morris (1983)
23 rd	Robert Keenan (1972)
23 rd	Edward Stoops (1972)
23 rd	Theodore Gross (1974)
24 th	John McKenna (1987)
25 th	Karl Bayhi (2004)
29 th	William Fallon (1984)
29 th	Gary Lee Fulmer (1998)
30 th	Robert Keeley (1978)

October

1 st	Paul Ciesla (1982)
8 th	Richard Novak (1977)
12 th	John Manley (1976)
15 th	Matthew Podniesinski (1989)
15 th	Alan Rose (1989)
24 th	David Conley (1986)
24 th	Henry Davis (1986)
24 th	James Mann (1986)
24 th	McKenna (1986)
24 th	Richard Montalto (1986)
24 th	Frank Rongione (1986)
27 th	James Mann (1986)
28 th	John Boscoe (1989)
28 th	Robert Hacker (1989)
28 th	Charles Hicks (1989)
28 th	Loren Mooney (1989)
28 th	J. Donald Murray (1989)
28 th	Alan Rose (1989)
28 th	Darrell Smith (1989)
29 th	Hugh Mills (1989)
29 th	John Rafter (1983)

Corrections

Frank O'Keefe's ordination date listed in the July–August newsletter was incorrect. The correct date is July 12, 1980.

Frank and Mary Jean O'Keefe's wedding anniversary was inadvertently omitted. They were married on July 17, 1971.

IN MEMORIAM

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord ...

Leo Nuedling	Sept. 11, 2001
Melvin L. Baranoski	Sept. 15, 2000
Earl A. Smith	Sept. 9, 2007
Raymond A. Bullinger	Oct. 11, 2001
John F. Naughton	October 12, 2008
George T. Jenkins	October 22, 2009
Bertrand Michael	October 30, 2006

FILMS OF NOTE

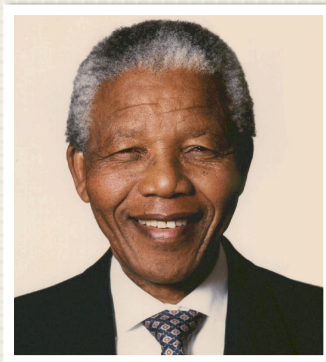
by Deacon John R. Martin

I recently had the pleasure of watching the movie *Invictus*. I am a sports fan and a sucker for a feel-good movie with a happy ending, so I entered into this movie experience expecting to root for an underdog team that, against all odds, overcomes adversity and wins the championship. I was not disappointed; however, to rate this movie's value and impact on these attributes alone would be a serious injustice. *Invictus* engages the sensibilities and forces the viewer to come to grips with a part of recent history that perhaps we would like to forget.

The setting for the movie is South Africa in the early 1990s. The white minority rule known as apartheid has just ended and Nelson Mandela has been elected the country's first black president. Mandela now faces the challenge of how to unite his country, which for years has endured severe race hatred by many of the minority white Afrikaners toward the majority black population.

I must confess to having been very ignorant of this part of our modern history and of the man known as Nelson Mandela. I knew him to have been a leading political activist who had fought for the rights of black Africans against white rule and that he had been imprisoned for these activities, but that is all I knew. This movie does an excellent job in helping the viewer to understand the character, moral fiber, and the courage of Mandela.

Morgan Freeman gives an impressive and moving performance as Nelson Mandela, showing how Mandela refused to let the years of racial hatred and abuse against his fellow black Africans control him or to let bitterness take hold of him.



He refers to a poem he read while in prison by William Ernest Henley, called "Invictus." The word *invictus* means "unconquerable" and the words of the poem are what sustained him during his imprisonment. In the darkness of the small prison cell, he would continually refer back to this poem which begins:

*Out of the night that covers me
Black as the Pit from pole to
pole
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.*

Mandela experienced the dark night of the soul that other great spiritual leaders have experienced and came out of the darkness, strengthened and committed to living in the light and leading others out of darkness.

Mandela decides to use the country's love of its favorite

sport, rugby, as the means by which he will unite the country. The team known as the Pembrook is made up almost entirely of white players, with only one black member. The team captain, played by Matt Damon, is a white Afrikaner who himself is struggling to learn how to live in a new South Africa where whites and blacks live together in equality.

The team, due to its own apathy has not been doing very well, and Damon is on the verge of being ousted as captain. But Mandela sees something in the young man and reaches out to him. He challenges him to be more than he thinks he can be and places the mantle of participating in the uniting of blacks and whites in South Africa squarely on his shoulders.

Mandela also faces criticism and resistance from newly appointed black officials, who find it hard to let go of their bitterness and anger toward the white Afrikaners. Despite all, he stands his ground and remains firm in his belief that the only way the country can heal is to work together and to treat each other with dignity and respect.

I came away from this movie, not only feeling good, but deeply moved and with a newly realized respect for the man Nelson Mandela and for the Christ-like values that motivated him, sustained him, and guided him in the service of his countrymen, both black and white. ♦

DON'T MISS THE DEACON DAY OF ENRICHMENT — OCT 2 IN CLARKSVILLE

The DPB invites all deacons serving in the Archdiocese, and their wives, to attend the 2010 Deacon Day of Enrichment on Oct. 2, 2010, at St. Louis Church in Clarksville. This time together represents a wonderful opportunity for us to share and revitalize our ministries—please make a special effort to attend.

Registration materials have been sent to all deacons and wives. Please return the completed registration form to the Division of Clergy Personnel as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. The cost for you and your wife can be taken from the annual education allowance provided by your ministry site.

The theme for this year's Day of Enrichment will be "The Theology of the Body," presented by John S. Grabowski, Ph.D. A graduate of

Franciscan University of Steubenville, Dr. Grabowski earned his Ph.D. at Marquette University, and has served on the faculty of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. for the past 18 years. He has published widely in the areas of moral theology, marriage, and bioethics.

The day will begin at 9 a.m., with Morning Prayer starting at 9:30. Holy Mass celebrated by Archbishop O'Brien will commence at 10:15 a.m. Please bring your alb and stole.

The Renewal of Commitment for all deacons and Rite of Candidacy for the deacon class of 2013 will take place during the Mass.

Dr. Grabowski's presentations will begin after lunch. The schedule is as follows:

12:30 P.M. — Session 1

*In the beginning:
The body created and fallen*

1:30 P.M. — Break

2:00 P.M. — Session 2
*Blessed are the pure of heart:
The body in redemption*

3:00 P.M. — Break

3:30 P.M. — Session 3
*The sincere gift of self: Implications for
Christian life and ministry*

4:30 P.M. — Break

5:00 P.M.
Evening Prayer & Memorial

5:45 P.M. — Social

6:30 P.M. — Dinner

Don't this opportunity renew your commitment and share fellowship with the deacon community. ♦

COMMITTEES

Deacon Personnel Board

Chair: [Fred Mawser](#)

Policy Committee

Chair: [Frank Zeiler](#)

Communications Committee

Chair: [Mark Soloski](#)

Ongoing Formation Committee

Chair: [Skip Comegna](#)

Placement Committee

Chair: [Kevin Reid](#)

Are you are interested in serving on a committee? Just email the appropriate committee chair.

Current Emmaus Groups

St. Ephrem Fraternity

2nd Tuesday of each month
10 a.m. — Immaculate Conception
Contact: [Deacon John Gramling](#)
410-823-0694

Harford County - St. Stephen

4th Friday of each month
7:30 p.m. — St Mark, Fallston
Contact: [Deacon Simon Driesen](#)
410-457-0451 or
[Deacon Chuck Hicks](#)
410-879-2496

St. Lawrence

3rd Friday of each month
8:15 a.m. — Shrine of the Sacred Heart
Contact: [Deacon Ray Moreau](#)
410-464-4005

St. Vincent Fraternity

Contact: [Deacon Mike Flamini](#)
410-563-1783

The Amen Corner

Last Thursday of each month
Noon — An Poitin Stil Irish Pub
Contact: [Deacon Ken Pivec](#)
410-661-1469

Holy Trinity

2nd Tuesday of each month
6 p.m. — Holy Trinity, Glen Burnie
Contact: [Deacon Kevin Brown](#)
410-544-6330

Urban Emmaus Group

2nd Saturday of each month
8 a.m. — St. Peter Claver/St. Pius V
1546 N. Fremont Ave., Baltimore
Contact: [Deacon Will Witherspoon](#)
443-255-0270

Deacon Families of Central Maryland (includes wives)

Fourth Sunday (location changes)
Contact: [Deacon George Sisson](#)
301-473-4800

If you have started a new Emmaus Group, please provide the pertinent information to [The Deacon's Call](#) so we can include it in future issues.