

**Archdiocese of Boston
Office of the Permanent Diaconate**



**Your attitude must be that of Christ...
...he emptied himself.**

**Volume XXIII, Number 3
December 2003**

Ministry In the Mall

Deacon Charlie Bubello lives in Quincy, MA and is assigned to St. John the Baptist in Quincy.

For most of us, when asked to picture religious services, prayers and blessings, and hearing the Word of God from a priest or deacon, we imagine a beautiful church complete with oak pews, stained glass and beautiful statues. This is the place where ministry is usually celebrated on Sunday. Now imagine cosmetic counters, ATM machines, women's and men's apparel, home goods for sheets and towels and take another look. This is a very different place, but ministry happens there as well. .

For nearly 12 years I have worked as a Sales Associate in Filenes department store in Braintree, and for over three years I have proclaimed the Word of the Lord, and shared His ministry as a Deacon in this parish, and wherever and whenever the occasion arises. Filenes' training program promotes the basic principles of good customer service, which includes greeting a customer with a smile and asking if you can be of any service. Deacons are called and then ordained to be a servant for all in need whether in the parish, home, community or the market place. Jesus said it best, "For I came to serve not to be served." This means to be

open to ministry opportunities anywhere, anytime.

After receiving my Masters Degree in Theology from Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge in 1997, I taught religious subjects at North Cambridge Catholic High School. I was ordained a Deacon at Holy Cross Cathedral with my classmates on September 9, 2000. During the formation program from 1996-2000, my ministry calling began to evolve, and both teaching and the formation program were a challenge. Sr. Clare O' Keefe recommended that I end my teaching career to avoid burnout. I took her wise advice and eventually returned to Filenes where they supported the program requirements by adjusting my work schedule to accommodate the program. Several co-workers attended the ordination and shared the beautiful experience with others at the store. Ministry in the Mall however was not a subject I had given much thought to, with my new assignment to St John the Baptist in Quincy..

As the new ministry at St John's grew with the great support of Fr. Peter Quinn, Pastor, an awareness of other ministry opportunities slowly began to emerge. Filenes associates became aware of my involvement in the several prayer services in the area, and I encouraged them to share prayer requests for those in need. Each

Tuesday I participate in an Apostolate of Fatima prayer service at St John's, which includes a Gospel reading, homily, the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, and prayer offerings for many. On Wednesday there is a similar service with a group of nuns at the convent of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mercy, in Dorchester next to St Ann's Church. They pray, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, using the Rosary with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, also offering prayers for those in need. Each week I receive about a dozen or more requests for prayer from associates, family, and friends via phone, or e-mail. I always feel blessed to be Jesus' messenger for the prayer warriors.

At Filenes, I always wear my Diaconate pin on my tie or lapel. Customers may ask what it is, and sometimes this becomes an opportunity to share and receive names for prayers, followed by a blessing for the journey. I am always amazed at what happens with God's abounding grace. I have also received requests to bless pregnant associates in their journey to motherhood, to participate in wake services for associates who died, and other ministry requests. I am most grateful to my wife Alice for her support and participation.

In the Real Estate profession, location is said to be everything. While that is also true in the Ministry of the Lord, the right location is wherever you happen to find yourself. Yes, there is Ministry in the Mall, the Market Place, and the Community. We have to look closely and listen for the opportunities to serve one or serve many. Jesus always said, "Where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am in your midst."

Deacon Charles Bubello '00



From the Director

In the decade of the 1990s the term mission creep became a buzzword. Perhaps you first heard the term "mission creep" used in relation to military actions in Bosnia and

Herzegovina. Although never adequately defined, a description of this phrase might be that mission creep happens when the requirements and tasks of an initial military action or mission grow or creep beyond what was initially planned. Some critics of the diaconate have suggested that deacons have assumed roles in the parish that are much different from the responsibilities of the first deacons. Can this be considered a form of mission creep?

Recall, if you will, what occasioned the need for deacons in scripture. In the midst of the new Christian communities were Greek-speaking widows. These women were marginalized most likely because they were both widows and members of a culture different from the Hebrews. It is very clear that the first deacons were chosen to remedy the community's negligence of these women and their children. Thus, it is appropriate to say that the deacon's mission was ministering to those who were neglected, those who were outcasts, or those who were overlooked.

In 2003, it seems that only a small percentage of deacons in the United States report their primary mission as caring for outcasts. Most deacons are working in parishes and plugging gaps created by a declining priesthood. Is this mission creep? If so, what can be done about it?

I would like to suggest that the emerging role of the deacon in his parish is more the work of the Holy Spirit than the result of some intended or unintended process of mission creep. No matter where the deacon is assigned or to what role he is assigned, he can still be an advocate for those who are neglected or considered outcasts. He can still help his parish see the invisible poor, notice the neglected, and attend to those passed

over by society and the church. In his preaching, in his RCIA responsibilities, in his training of liturgical ministers, religious education work, and even in the decisions made by the parish council, the deacon can still be the one to raise the questions "Who is not at the Eucharistic table with us? Why are they not?" The mission of the deacon has not changed!

Leo Donoghue, '92

Deacons and the Church

Making Connections between Old and New

John N. Collins

Morehouse Publishing, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
2002, ISBN 0 8192 1933 9

We are in a particularly intriguing and challenging epoch in the history and experience of the church. We are struggling to move ahead from the travails of the last two years. We will be a healing church and a church with a vision for living the message of Christ. We need to understand more clearly than ever our sense of ministry in this time. As deacons, in a time of crisis, we should attend to our focus and our vocation in the context of the whole church.

In 1990, John Collins, a teacher at Loretto Mandeville Hall, Toorak and at Yarra Theological Union within the Melbourne College of Divinity published *Diakonia: Re-interpreting the Ancient Sources*. That book examined the history and linguistic usage of the words that have come to be our familiar words – deacon and diaconate.

In 2002, after more research and writing and debate, Collins published his latest work that will help us to examine the nature of the diaconate from scripture and history and tradition.

How relevant is this writing?

Consider the Archdiocese of Boston. In 1976, on May 10, there were about 1300 priests serving in about 411 parishes. There were no deacons. On May 11, 37 deacons joined the ordained ministry in Boston. Today, in October 2003, there are about 500 priests serving about 360 parishes and more than 200 deacons in parish ministry. Thus,

in our Archdiocese, deacons comprise nearly 30% of the ordained ministry in our parishes.

We know from tradition and definition what we expect of pastors and associates. We know from tradition and history and definition what we expect of bishops. What do parishioners expect of deacons?

The profile and role of these deacons is pluriform and idiosyncratic to the skills and experiences of the individuals, tempered by the demand of the needs of parishes and the will of the pastor. Thus, it is incumbent upon us all to clarify and define succinctly the ecclesial need for and the ***theology of the diaconate***.

What does Collins have to offer us?

First, he looks at the basic idea of diaconate as a ministry of service. Collins says that “... One of the recurring problems theologians have faced in attempting to develop a distinctive theology for the diaconate has in fact arisen from this foundational element of service. The problem is as simple as it is stark. If service is the defining characteristic of deacons, in what way does their involvement in works of service distinguish them from any other member of a Christian community, all of whom are called by the gospel to attend to the needs of those around them? And why are deacons commissioned to such service by the solemn ritual of ordination? Ordination makes them part of the clergy, but do they need to belong to the order of clergy in order to feed the hungry or visit the sick?...” (p. 12)

Further, Collins asks us to look again at the sixth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The scene is very familiar. It is the laying on of hands on the seven men. (Acts 6:6) Look at two things.

1. The Greek word **diakonia** is used in seeking people to help in ‘the distribution of the food’ (Acts 6:1). Yet, shortly afterwards, the word **diakonia** is used to name the ‘ministry of the Word’. (Acts 6:4). Thus, Luke, writing in Acts, uses the Greek **diakonia** to stand for both feeding the hungry and preaching the word.

2. Stephen and Philip are the only men among the group of seven who are described as doing anything. Note that Stephen preaches in the synagogue and is martyred for doing it. And, Philip is the one who explains the scripture (Isaiah) to the convert and baptizes him. Is Philip the inspiration for our contemporary RCIA programs? Neither Stephen nor Philip is indicated as 'serving' at table.

In the early days after the death of Christ, the community sensed a crisis and responded.

In our contemporary crisis in 2003, with a declining number of active priests serving in our Archdiocese, what will our response be?

I recommend that we read Collins's books and reflect and pray and discern.

Michael Iwanowicz, '76

Editor's Note: Mike Iwanowicz has suggested that any deacon who reads the book and wants to discuss it should use the Boston Diaconate Community discussion group on the Web. For deacons only, you will find instructions on joining the group by logging into the Deacons Only section of the website: <http://www.bostondiaconate.org/Deacons>

Members of the Class of 2006

Continuing in this issue we are introducing the members of the class of 2006 who have just started their year of aspirancy.

Gary and Marsha Jones are members of St. Mary's Parish in Brookline. They are the parents of three adults: Tod, Jennifer, Zachary

Gary received BBA degree from Notre Dame University, Indiana and an MPP from Harvard University. Presently Gary is a Senior Researcher in the House of Representatives, Boston. Gary has been active in the civic community as a state representative, and now serves as an elected library trustee and town meeting member. Gary taught religious education classes for several years and was a Eucharistic minister in the Brigham and Women's Hospital for seven years. Marsha has a B.A. from Bennington College in Vermont. They are skilled in culinary arts and

enjoy reading, walking, biking. Gary is especially interested in Asian religions Taoism and Buddhism.

Paul and Mary Ellen Lewis met while both were attending Gate of Heaven High School in South Boston. After college and some work experience, they were married November 18, 1967 in Gate of Heaven Church. They have four sons and two daughters all of whom are young adults. They have four grandchildren with the fifth grandchild due in October. Paul has spent most of his career employed by the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. His work was to plan, implement and evaluate employment and training programs. He designed programs for youth, older workers, homeless, unemployed and welfare clients. With the birth of her first son in 1968, Mary Ellen left her teaching career to raise their eventual six children but returned to teaching as their children left the nest. At present Mary Ellen is a teacher in the Boston Public School System. Mary Ellen and Paul have always been active members of their parish that is now the new St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Quincy. They have served as CCD teachers, Parish Council members. For relaxation they enjoy camping, local excursions, and listening to music.

Bill Maloney and his wife Liz are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Quincy. They are the parents of four delightful daughters who are young adults. Bill grew up in Weymouth. He graduated from Sacred Heart High School and spent one year in Cardinal O'Connell Seminary. After leaving the seminary Bill worked in construction and in his free time worked toward a commercial pilot's license, ultimately earning flight instructor, instrument instructor, multi-engine and glider ratings. In time he operated his own aviation company at Hanscom Field doing instruction, aircraft sales and charter. While still engaged in business Bill resumed his college studies at Boston University, graduating in 1972.

He sold his business to attend Suffolk Law School and received his Juris Doctor degree in 1976. He was admitted to the Bar in 1976 and

has been in private practice ever since. Liz received her B.S. in Management and Accounting from the University of Massachusetts and has been employed in payroll accounting with the CPA firm of Feeley and Driscoll in Boston and Partners Health Care System. Bill and Liz are active in their parish where Bill has been a long time member of the choir and teaches CCD. The high point of the year for Bill and Liz is one week each August when they serve as counselors for special needs children and adults during Exceptional Citizens (E.C.) Week at Camp Fatima, N.H. Bill enjoys time with Liz and his family, reading, hiking, and fishing with his grandson and Lizzie's wonderful pasta creations. Liz enjoys the company of her family, long walks on the beach, cooking with her four year old granddaughter, gardening and making pasta for Bill.

Dan and Nancy Nelson are members of Most Precious Blood Parish, Dover. Dan and Nancy are originally from the Chicago area. They are the parents of four sons and one daughter. Their children range in age from 17 to 24 all of whom are still in school furthering their education. After high school Dan joined the Navy and was trained in cryptology and engaged in enemy surveillance while serving in Japan and Viet Nam. After his time in the service Dan went to Roosevelt University where he graduated with a B.S.B.A degree.

Later he obtained a graduate degree in management from De Paul University and MBA from the University of Chicago. Professionally Dan went from store manager to Senior Vice President during the twenty years he worked with Dominick Foods. In 1993 CVS Pharmacy Corp attracted Dan to the New England area where he worked as Executive Vice President of Marketing. Not being fulfilled in "Corporate America" Dan took early retirement. In 2002 Dan received a Master's Degree in Ministry from Boston College and this year is completing four units of Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Elizabeth's Hospital Brighton Nancy is working towards a Master's Degree in Religious

Education at Boston College. Their life is involved in family, Church and education.

Bill and Deborah Reed are members of St. Bernard's Parish in Concord. They were married in 1978 and have one son, Jonathan, who is a senior at B.C. High. After graduating from the College of Holy Cross, Bill attended Suffolk University Law School and received his Juris Doctor degree in 1975. He is a partner with the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi in Boston. Deborah has a Master's Degree in Education and is self-employed as an educational consultant. She is also busy serving as a trustee at B.C. High. Both Bill and Deborah have been very active in their parish. Bill has served as a Eucharistic minister as well as a member of the parish council, the Spiritual Life and Adult Religious Education committees and with Youth Ministry. Deborah is also a Eucharistic minister, and she has taught CCD and is an instructor in the Confirmation program. They enjoy traveling and gardening, and Bill is trying desperately to get his golf game back.

Christopher and Christina Reilly are members of St Mary of the Nativity Parish in Scituate. Chris was born in Birkenhead, England and came to the Chicago area at age six. Chris attended Holy Cross College in Worcester and graduated with a major in Physics. While in college Chris worked for the landlord in the building in which he lived. After graduation he worked for him full time and since then has been employed in the real estate business. In 1989 he married Christina Haas in the Chapel of Stuart Country Day School in Princeton, New Jersey. They are the parents of Megan who is six and Daniel who is 5. They also have two Labrador retrievers, Allie and Samantha. In addition to being a homemaker, Christina has an MST (taxation) and works part time from her home. For enjoyment they spend their family time reading, going on bike rides, hiking in the woods, or playing on the beach. Chris loves boating and flying as well.

Though they live in Byfield, Massachusetts, **Richard (Sieb) and Claire Siebert** are members of Immaculate Conception parish in

Newburyport. They have six children the youngest was born in 2002 and the oldest in 1986. Sieb has a son, Richard from a previous marriage who is in his early thirties. After an eighteen-month tour of duty in Vietnam as Boat and Patrol Captain, he returned home. He passed the State Police exam and was appointed in 1973. He is often seen on a motorcycle and he also has a private pilot's license. Sieb earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Western New England College. In addition to being a homemaker and nurturing six children, Claire earned a Master's degree in Education. They are involved in Cursillo and many parish activities. Claire is working on the family genealogy and has made it back seven generation on some limbs of the family tree. She also belongs to a weekly Bible study group, now studying women in the Old Testament. The Sieberts enjoy life, their children, and most of all each other.

Guy and Sheila St. Sauveur are members of St. Michael's Parish in Bedford. Guy was raised in Woonsocket, R.I. and Sheila in Uxbridge, MA. While still in high school they met doing their favorite thing---dancing. After a brief period in college, Guy enlisted in the Air Force during the Viet Nam era. Sheila completed her Bachelor's degree in Special Education at Anna Maria College. They were married in St. Mary's Church in Uxbridge in 1972. While in the Air Force, Guy completed his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Management and was commissioned in the Air Force. Sheila completed her Master's degree in Education at Boston College. They were stationed in numerous parts of the country during Guy's 22 year career in the Air Force. They have 4 grown children: Julie who is married and a nurse in Albuquerque NM, Jenny who is a middle school music teacher in Enfield CN, Jeff who recently graduated with a BS in Mass Communication and plans to settle in Ohio and Jon who is completing his last year in Health and Human Services at Fitchburg State. Guy is retired from the Air Force and an information technology consultant in private industry. Sheila is a Special Education teacher in the 5th grade in

the Chelmsford Public Schools. They have worked in both military and civilian parish communities over the past 30 years in areas such as the Women's Club, Knights of Columbus (3rd & 4th degree), CCD Confirmation teachers, Altar Server instructors, Eucharistic Ministers, Visitation Ministers, Readers, Eucharistic Adoration, Bible Studies and Youth Ministry.

They still enjoy dancing together.

IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in prayer our loved ones who have died and those who mourn their loss.

Marcia Barton, wife of **Deacon John M. Barton '86**

Mary Bloom, mother of **Deacon Laurence J. Bloom '79**

Mary J. Cabral, mother of **Deacon John F. Cabral '79**

Eileen Corbett, mother of **Deacon Francis J. Corbett '02**

Julia Denney, mother of **Mary Henry '06**

Jane Donnelly, wife of **Deacon Joseph A. Donnelly '96**

Helen Jennette, mother of **Deacon John Jennette '76**

Deacon Charlie Leslie '76

Deacon Francis A. Mandosa '96

Anne McNamara, mother of **Ann Louise Sullivan '90**

Doris Popping, sister of **Deacon Andy Goldy '96**

Ralph Randlett, brother of **Fran Ryan**