



Stanley Douglas answers in the affirmative to Bishop Hogan's question, "Are you resolved to prepare yourself in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and his Body, the Church?" Standing behind Douglas is his wife, Joanne.



Msgr. George Cocuzzi, who, with Sister Hilaire, administers the permanent diaconate, joins in the general amusement over a joke delivered

## Permanent Diaconate

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Text by John Dash  
Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Were there a *motif* to the day it would be revealed in the image of clasped hands: the hands of one man pressed together in prayer, the hands of men and women pouring strength and love one into the other, the hands of strangers reaching, gripping, in the search for that mystical familiarity of the Church.

A brilliant day. The sun poured through the bitterly cold air, warming the stones of St. Bernard's Seminary, in which a host of men declared their intentions to pursue the life of the permanent diaconate. At this, their friends and families stood in awe, and yet took comfort.

For some months now, these men, often with their wives beside them, have been studying for such service.

In the bilingual rite, the lector read this in Spanish, from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

"Sigan mi ejemplo, como yo sigle el de Cristo," and



Sister Aida makes a point in the Spanish-language class. With her is Sister Providence.



Eliseo Melendez takes Communion from the cup during the candidacy Mass.



Dr. John Halligan teaches a class in New Testament to perman