

Newest Deacons

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Father Joseph Clemente, organist; Dennis Fleisher, David Mear, Dorothy Frizzle and Paul Worfel, brass quartet; Maria Hambas, oboe; and Steven M. Stoltz, cello.

Mary Gutberlet made the dalmatics and concelebrants' vestments. Margot Van Etten and Mark Wambach interpreted for the deaf.

Following are brief sketches of the lives of our newest permanent deacons, developed from materials provided by the office of the Permanent Diaconate Program.

Deacon William F. Coffey and his wife Mary Lu are among the founding members of St. Christopher's Parish. The couple has been involved there in the Christian Family Movement, CCD, the Genesis and Teen Seminar programs, Marriage Encounter, Cursillo, and the parish council. Today they serve as Eucharistic ministers and lectors, and are assisting with the parish baptism program.

The couple has seven children, Kathleen, Joseph, William Jr., Margaret, Eileen, Jennifer and Timothy.

In the field education program, Deacon Coffey worked in the chaplain's office at St. Mary's Hospital, at his parish in the baptism program and home visitation program, and, with his wife, at the Office of Justice and Peace with the Human Rights Task Force and the Latin American Task Force.

Deacon John J. Cosmic, a member of St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads since 1977, is a staff program office specialist with IBM in Owego. At St. Mary Our Mother, Deacon Cosmic has served as Eucharistic minister, and has trained and scheduled the parish Eucharistic ministers. He has also joined the liturgy committee and the Nocturnal Adoration Society. In addition, he is setting up an evangelization program and is responsible for keeping the parish census record current.

He also assists the pastoral care department at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, and carries out home visitations to the elderly in the parish.

His field education experience includes pastoral care work at St. Joseph, work as pastoral assistant at St. Mary Our Mother, and service at the Chemung County Department of the Aging.

Deacon Ramon C. Datz has lived in Monroe County all his life except for four years in the U.S. Navy. He and his wife Barbara joined St. Theodore's Parish in 1959 and at that church, three of their four children were baptized. Deacon Datz also taught CCD there, worked with the Laymen's Retreat League, and the Legion of Mary.

Ten years later the family moved to Churchville and St. Christopher's Parish in North Chili. There he taught CCD, initiated the human development committee, lectured, was elected to the parish council and served on the Neighborhood Ecumenical Council. Through the last affiliation, he became involved with Cephas-Attica and prison ministry.

In 1975, the family signed on with St. Vincent DePaul parish, and there served on the parish council and several committees, as well as teaching CCD and adult Bible study, and remained active in retreat and renewal groups.

Deacon Datz' field education included stints with Cephas-Attica, St. Vincent's Parish and St. Mary's Hospital.

Deacon J. Gregory Doyle and his wife Margaret Ann have five children, John, Joseph, Theresa, Daniel and Jennifer. Deacon Doyle is president of The Doyle Group Inc.

He has served as CCD teacher, lector Eucharistic minister, and Cursillo participant. He is a former member of the advisory board of the Office of Human Concern, of the Catholic Interracial Council and that body's housing board, of the Judicial Process Task Force of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries.

His field education took him to youth ministry at the State Agricultural and Industrial School at Industry, to parish and pastoral work at St. Augustine's Church, and liturgical service and chemical dependency counseling at St. Augustine's.

A member of St. Rita's Parish in West Webster, Deacon Doyle also does liturgical work and limited chemical dependency counseling there. In addition, he serves as lector and usher at the Carmelite Monastery.

Deacon John Joseph Erb, a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and councilman-at-large on the Rochester City Council, has served as neighborhood minister for his home parish and as director of diocesan Urban Social Ministry program.

He once was county legislator for the 28th District, and is now active in the "Dutchtown" community, serving on the neighborhood's planning association and the neighborhood zoning coalition.

As part of his field education, Deacon Erb coordinated the field education program for his fellow deacon candidates.

Deacon Joseph F. Federowicz, a program administrator with IBM in Owego, and his wife,

Patricia A. Morrow Federowicz, have six children, Joseph, Judy, Gene, Kathy, Tim and Mary Ellen; and two grandchildren, Kristin Marie Federowicz of Endicott and Eric David Hawkins of Owego.

He and his wife have been members of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Apalachin since 1967. About 11 years ago, following the death of a close friend, he and his wife were drawn to Marriage Encounter and then Cursillo, and finally Charismatic renewal, for which he credits a great deal of his growth in the spiritual life.

Deacon Federowicz' field experiences have included service with the Tioga County Rural Ministry, pastoral duties at St. Margaret Mary; and as a member of the pastoral care team at Lourdes Hospital, filling in for the chaplain and at the facility's hospice unit.

Deacon Joseph D. Fox, a member of Holy Trinity Parish in Webster since 1959, credits the support of his wife, June, and daughters Kathy, Chris and Beth, for the "impetus to bravely continue when the road became bumpy and filled with potholes," on the journey to the diaconate.

Deacon Fox has served Holy Trinity in a number of capacities, starting with school related projects to teaching CCD and confirmation classes. He has been an usher, lector and Eucharistic minister, and has served on the parish council charter committee and the spiritual action committee. He is presently working on a new marriage preparation program.

He has also been a part of Family Camp, Teen Seminar and the Cursillo movement. His field experiences have included stints at the Pastoral Office's Department of Education, and as chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital.

Deacon Eugene Fuerst has been a member of St. Margaret Mary Parish since 1949.

At the parish he assists worship on Sundays, holy days and special feasts; participates in the Men's Club retreat program; is a solicitor for a number of fund-raising activities; participates in food and clothing drives; teaches CCD; is a member of the parish council, and has served as its chairperson for community relations (human development), as council chairperson, as coordinator of its inter-faith committee and on the religious education committees; is a member of the Adoration Society of the Men's Club and is Eucharistic minister to the sick.

In addition he has served St. Bridget's Parish and has sung in the choirs of Our Lady of Good Counsel and Corpus Christi.

Deacon Thomas J. Kluchko of Mother of Sorrows Parish, and his wife of 17 years, Joyce, have four children, Thomas Jr., Christine, Robert and Amy. Deacon Kluchko is a supervising systems analyst for the Market Intelligence Organization of Eastman Kodak Co.

The Kluchkos have been members of Mother of Sorrows for the past 13 years. He serves as lector and Eucharistic minister, and in the past has worked with the parish council and

the liturgy committee, has been involved with the CCD Confirmation instruction program, and has been a leader of the parish prayer group.

His field education involved a number of activities from visitations to the group homes of the Rochester Psychiatric Center, through parish home Communion and pre-baptismal programs.

He is also involved in the planning of the forthcoming Evangelization Event, slated for June 11.

Deacon Juan Lebron was born in 1934 in Guayama, Puerto Rico. He first came to the United States at the age of 18 and lived in several locales before settling in Rochester in the late 50s. He joined the food service department at Eastman Kodak Co. in 1969 and is still employed there.

He and his wife, Lydia Colon, have four children, Olga, Yvette, Juan III and Wanda. Mrs. Lebron is secretary at Holy Redeemer Parish.

His field education has included parish work under the guidance of Father Ed Golden, and work in migrant camps under the supervision of Father John Podsiadlo, S.J. of the Spanish Apostolate staff.

Deacon Claude E. Lester, director of religious education at St. John the Evangelist on Humboldt Street and a member of the first diocesan board of education, and his wife Ellen are the parents of four children, Matthew, Kathleen, Christine and Margaret.

Deacon Lester has worked in educational circles since 1970. Prior to his work at St. John's, he served five years at St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls. In addition, Deacon Lester has served on the executive core group of the diocesan Association of Religious Educators, and currently chairs the education committee of the Permanent Deacons Association. Last September he was the keynote speaker for the North Region at its annual Fall convocation of religious educators.

He has worked on a number of diocesan committees and task forces and, since 1980, he has been Bishop Clark's delegate to the Diocesan Pastoral Council for the ministry of Catholic education.

Deacon Agenol Rodriguez, a native of San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico, is a member of St. Michael's Parish. Deacon Rodriguez came to the United States in 1969.

He and his wife Margarita have two children, Edward and Madelin. During the course of his field education, he has worked at Holy Redeemer Parish and with the Spanish Apostolate staff under the guidance of Father John Podsiadlo, S.J.

Deacon John G. Swift lays claim to being an "old 19th Ward" native who moved to Henrietta in 1956. He and his wife Jane Ann Denicore Swift of Burlington, Vt., are the parents of three sons and five daughters, one of whom is a nun; and the grandparents of three.

Deacon Swift is a charter member of Council 4812 Knights of Columbus, a member of the parish council, school board, and liturgy committee; a cursillista, a participant in the Catholic charismatic renewal, and a part of Marriage Encounter.

Deacon Laurence Van Etten, a part of the ministerial team at Rochester Institute of Technology, and leader of the RCIA and spiritual life committees there, has been a member of the RIT campus parish for the past 20 years.

During that time he has served on several parish committees including liturgy, human development, education, finance, retreat planning, the parish council, and on a variety of ad hoc committees.

During the past four years, he and his wife Margot have worked with the area Catholic gay community through Dignity/Integrity and at Genesee Hospital.

Deacon Albino C. Wilson Jr. and his wife Doris are members of St. Louis Parish in Pittsford. The Xerox Corp. training consultant and his wife have three children Elizabeth, Barbara and Jeannette.

At St. Louis, Deacon Wilson is lector and Eucharistic minister, and used to serve as CCD instructor and as a member of the parish council.

During his field education, Deacon Wilson has worked with the diocesan Liturgy Office as assistant in training lectors and Eucharistic ministers; with Strong Memorial Hospital as chaplain; and at St. Paul of the Cross in Honeoye Falls as part of the parish ministry team, working with the church census, the parish council and for the liturgy.

Deacon Victor M. Yanaitis of St. Pius Tenth Parish and his wife Rosemary have been involved with the diocesan Permanent Diaconate Program for the past four years, two at St. Bernard's Seminary, and the last two at St. Bernard's Institute on the Divinity Schools' campus.

Deacon Yanaitis is retired from Rochester Products division of General Motors. He and his wife have seven children, Robert, Mary, Daniel, Therese, Charles, Paula and Brian; and four grandchildren, Donald, Sara, Kevin and Gregory.

During field placements, the couple had worked at St. Bridget's Church, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality and St. Mary's Hospital.

A cursillista, Deacon Yanaitis became a member of St. Pius Tenth Parish in 1972, and has served there as chairman of the human development committee, as treasurer of the Holy Name Men's Club, and as a CCD teacher.

In addition, he is treasurer and member of the advisory board of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, where he performs a number of duties. He is also on the Committee for the Unemployed and is a Eucharistic Minister at his parish.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

The Comfort Of the Psalms

When I first started reading the Bible the ambitious plan was to read straight through from cover to cover.

I abandoned that idea after plowing through Numbers and decided it would be much better to select randomly.

Job was purely a literary exercise; Judith beckoned after a glimpse of the Botticelli in the Uffizi depicting her with her handmaid carrying the head of Holofernes; Proverbs were quickie pick-me-ups, and so forth.

During the many months my mother lay gravely ill, only the hope and support the Gospels offered would do. And both the Douay version on the stand next to the bed and the New American downstairs were thumbed and underlined and probably ruined for anyone else's use.

Afterward as I went through the inevitable period of disbelief and reproach — You told me to ask, Lord, and I did, so why didn't I receive? — the verses starred in the Book and etched in my brain were too painful a reminder of the days we spent suspended between anxiety and hope.

More than one morning I picked up the St. Joseph

edition with its large type, and opened it only to close it and place it back on the shelf feeling cold, distant, alienated. Trying to read the beautiful verses from Isaiah (41:10-13) that a visiting nun had taught my mother and which begin "Fear not I am with you" brought a special pain.

But the habit was too strong to kick; the pleasure and satisfaction of five or ten minutes reading after everybody had left, something I didn't want to give up.

Now that I think of it, gravitating toward the Psalms was probably inevitable. Not unfamiliar, they spoke in a new way, their music a balm that not only healed but led me back.

Without volition I began to memorize various parts. One in particular seemed to characterize my own reconciling process. Some others I have copied and stuck on the bulletin board, the wall next to the bed. This one I carry inside.

Psalm 40
I have waited,
waited for the Lord,
and he stooped toward me
and heard my cry.
He drew me out of the
pit of destruction,
out of the mud of the
swamp;
He set my feet upon a crag;
he made firm my steps.
And he put a new song
into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.