

## Mission Priorities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque:

- 1) Strengthening programs for on-going education in the faith
- 2) Enhancing the Sunday assembly for Holy Mass
- 3) Teaching stewardship as a way of life
- 4) Promoting vocations in general, and priesthood in particular

Learn more at [DBQArch.org/Priorities](http://DBQArch.org/Priorities)

## Mission Priority topics featured in this issue:

### Faith Formation

Formation for All  
*Mark Schmidt, director of the Office of Respect Life and Social Justice for the archdiocese, reflects on the Feast of Christ the King and invites readers to learn more about caring for the common good through the Formation for All program.*  
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St. Joseph and Advent  
*This week's Faith Alive focuses on Advent and how God changed St. Joseph's plan for his life.*  
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### Enhancing the Sunday Assembly

How to Receive the Eucharist  
*Archbishop Jackels explores the different ways we receive the Eucharist in this week's Fourth H.*  
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### Stewardship

Bruins' Boosters Bring Food  
*Students at All Saints Elementary School in Cedar Rapids came together to collect food for the needy that will be distributed through the Metro Catholic Outreach agency that provides aid in the community.*  
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### Vocations

Deacons Celebrating 40 Years  
*The permanent diaconate is marking 40 years in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. A series in 2018 will delve into the important service deacons and their wives provide to the church.*  
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Chaplain Schmitt  
*A priest for the archdiocese who died in World War II saving others will be awarded the Silver Star.*  
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## Wisdom of the Saints:

**"He loves, He hopes, He waits. Our Lord prefers to wait himself for the sinner for years rather than keep us waiting an instant."**  
— St. Maria Goretti

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# Permanent deacons serving the archdiocese for 40 years

By Deacon Tom Lang  
Special to The Witness

A rapidly growing ministry in the United States is the restored permanent diaconate. Originating with the seven men called forth in Chapter 6 of the Acts of the Apostles, today there are more than 18,000 permanent deacons in the United States alone.

Following the restoration of the permanent diaconate at Vatican II in the mid-1960s, the larger dioceses began ordaining permanent deacons. Next year, 2018, will mark the 50th anniversary of permanent deacons in the U.S.

Here in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, the first class of 15 men was ordained on Nov. 5, 1978. Thus, 2018 will be the 40th anniversary of the permanent diaconate in our archdiocese.

Over these past 40 years, 154 men, from 17 diaconal formation classes, have been ordained as permanent deacons by five different bishops. Permanent deacons are called to a vocation of service. In particular, they are ordained to serve God's people through the three-fold ministries of word, charity and liturgy.

With roots in the Acts of the Apostles, deacons are uniquely a part of the church with one foot planted firmly outside church settings, particularly ministering to the poor and marginalized. Thus, permanent deacons are called to a ministry that sacramentalizes the very diaconal nature of the church.

The 2018 celebration of 40 years of service is not intended for permanent deacons to say, "look at me – let's celebrate!" Rather, the focus of 40 years of service is to thank God for this gift to the church; to remember the many individuals or couples whose lives have been impacted by a deacon; to educate people on the role of the deacon and his varied relationships – spouse, family, archbishop, pastor, parishioners and the people he encounters in his community; to promote the charity ministries in which deacons are involved and to invite lay people to use their own gifts to join in these ministries; and to help deacons themselves grow in a deeper



Deacon Tom Lang

understanding of their call to prayer and holiness.

Thus, in their planning for this 40th anniversary, permanent deacons invite the people of the Archdiocese of Dubuque to celebrate with them in four particular areas: promotion, education, action and celebration.

Promotion of the permanent diaconate involves a theme, "40 Years of Serving Through Liturgy, Word and Charity." An archdiocesan proclamation will identify the roles of permanent deacons. The 40th anniversary logo will symbolize the deacon's three ministries – the white stole over the cross represents the liturgical role; the book of the Gospels identifies the deacon's ministry of word; and the pitcher and bowl, representing Jesus' example of washing each other's feet, reflects the deacon's ministry of charity to those in need. A colorful poster depicting all of this will be made available to all parishes to display throughout 2018.

The archdiocesan publication, The Witness, will be used to help educate people about the permanent diaconate. Each month during 2018 a deacon will write an article sharing his own experiences of his vocational calling; his diaconal formation journey; his diaconal ministry, and how it all relates to his family. In addition, The Witness will also feature a weekly "Spotlight on a Deacon," which will be a short blurb with interest items, facts or Q&A's regarding the permanent diaconate. This short blurb will be made available to parishes to put into their parish bulletins. In addition, the deacon's monthly article and the weekly blurb will be put on a web page for extended viewing.

Action connected to the 40th anniversary will be taken from the permanent deacons' love for Scripture and the Liturgy of the Hours. The church has only two official liturgies: The Liturgy of the Eucharist (the Mass) and the Liturgy of the Hours, which is form of prayer praising God throughout the various hours of each day. As the prayer of the church, deacons pray Morning and Evening Prayer every day. Each day of the year, the same prayers are prayed throughout the world, whether in monasteries, convents, churches, rectories or homes. By praying the Liturgy of the Hours, the church and the world are united together in prayer. It is only natural, then, that deacons desire to share this precious gift with the members of their parishes. With the support of their pastor, deacons may be inviting all members of their parish to this special prayer. The Liturgy of the Hours is not just as option for parish prayer, but a responsibility of the faith community.

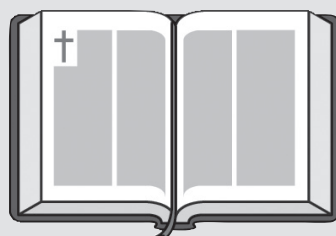
**"Over these past 40 years, 154 men, from 17 diaconal formation classes, have been ordained as permanent deacons by five different bishops."**

Finally, the deacons and wives plan to end the 40th anniversary with a grand celebration following their annual retreat on Oct. 28, 2018. Priests of the archdiocese will be invited to join the deacon community at a Mass, with Archbishop Jackels presiding. Bishop Thomas Zinkula will be the keynote speaker at a special program and dinner.

With this 40th Anniversary celebration in 2018, there is much for which to be grateful. The deacons of this archdiocese invite you to join with them in promotion, education, action and celebration. Who knows, perhaps the awareness of this vocation may inspire other men and women to listen for God's call in their life.

*Lang is the director of the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.*

## Scripture Readings



Week of Dec. 3-9

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7  
1 Cor 1:3-9  
Mk 13:33-37

### MONDAY

Is 2:1-5  
Mt 8:5-11

### TUESDAY

Is 11:1-10  
Lk 10:21-24

### WEDNESDAY

Is 25:6-10a  
Mt 15:29-37

### THURSDAY

Is 26:1-6  
Mt 7:21, 24-27

### FRIDAY

Gn 3:9-15, 20  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
Lk 1:26-38

### SATURDAY

Is 30:19-21, 23-26  
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

## Stewardship - A way of life

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.