



Autumn 2013

Southwark Diaconal Newsletter

Vol.8 : No. 1

Welcome to Southwark Diaconal News. This year 2013 marks the bicentenary of the birth of Blessed Frederic Ozanam so both our first DDD and this Newsletter refer to him. Thanks to Deacon Tom Berrie for his article. This issue also contains an important clarification on Deacons' finances which should be carefully noted.

If you or someone you know is experiencing difficulty in receiving the Newsletter please contact Deacon Michael Dale michael.dale21@gmail.com

On-going Formation (OGF)

Our first Diocesan Diaconal Day this year was at Saint John the Baptist Parish Purley on Saturday 5th October. Our thanks go to Canon James Pannett our host who also celebrated the midday Mass for us as well as to Deacon Peter Rennie and wife Ruth who organized things and to the parish musicians who greatly enriched the Mass. Brother Chris Dyczek OFM talked and led discussions on Frederic Ozanam and his vision of Catholic Social Teaching. Brother Chris is also a deacon and keen to engage with diocesan deacons and for deacons to engage with lay people in creating networks of charity and truth. Together with others he has hosted a further Study Day which was open to all at the Centre for Catholic Formation on Saturday 26th October.

Our next DDD will be on Saturday 1st March 2014 at the Franciscan International Study Centre, Canterbury. Brother Chris will be with us again to get us thinking and talking about "Preaching as Mission and Evangelization". Those of us who were at Purley appreciate that he is good at getting us to talk! The last DDD will be at the Amigo Hall on Saturday 14th June 2014. As usual this will be combined with the Mass with Renewal of Diaconal Commitment and conferral of Candidacy with Archbishop Peter. The Mass will be at the revised time of 12.30 pm. This change and the avoidance of bank holiday weekends will hopefully encourage more deacons to respond to His Grace's invitation to be there.

Diocesan Diaconal Days

Forthcoming Diocesan Diaconal Days this year 2013 – 2014:

Saturday 1st March 2014, Franciscan International Study Centre, Canterbury.

Saturday 14th June 2014, Amigo Hall, London, SE1.

Retreats

Deacons and Wives: Friday 16th to Sunday 18th May 2014 at Hinsley Hall, Leeds.

Deacons Only: Friday 19th to Sunday 21st September 2014 at The Emmaus Centre, West Wickham.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, 1813 – 53, a man of faith for our time

At the last formation day, we heard about a great Christian – many would say “saint” – for our time, Blessed Frederic Ozanam. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is but one of his many accomplishments. Pope John Paul II in 1997 honoured his personal holiness and commitment to Christ and his Church by beatifying him. Like many today, he faced youthful doubt, wrestling with his childhood faith and Catholic upbringing. His background of great upheaval and change in France, Europe and the world, was much like ours. Agnosticism, atheism and secular humanism were the prevailing orthodoxy amongst students, intellectuals, professionals, public figures and journalists. Industrialization and ideas from the Enlightenment and French Revolution were changing the world forever. The Church was associated with superstition, blind obedience and the old, pre-revolutionary regime. For young people, Christianity was outdated, reactionary, irrelevant: it ignored the challenges and hardships of the emerging working class and modern science, thought and culture. Helped by a gifted priest-philosopher, **Ozanam** came through this time of doubt with a deep, vigorous, adult faith. He neither followed the crowd by uncritically dismissing the Church’s teachings, nor just blindly accepted them. Yet he saw truth in the criticisms of his Church. What was she doing to evangelize the masses? Very little. Did she care for the poor and working class? To his shame, Catholics, clerical and lay, preferred to live uncritically in the past, pining for the old order, lost wealth and privileges. Instead, they must respond effectively to the challenges of the times, and urgently. So God gave him a zeal for the Gospel, burning heart for the poor and working class, and ardent desire to transform society in Christian justice, wisdom and love. As a student, then prominent lawyer, he and Catholic friends organized debates with the Church’s opponents, evangelistic outreaches and ventures amongst the workers. These reflect our diaconal ministries of word and charity. He might well have sought the diaconate if this had then been available. At first he considered the religious life. Upon advice, he saw his vocation was to marriage. He married in 1844, giving a wonderful example of a loving, attentive Christian husband and father. Ozanam was a faithful, orthodox Catholic. Yet, like his contemporary, Blessed John Henry Newman, he saw that the Church’s doctrine and practice must grow in her encounter with a radically changing world. He helped begin the development of Christian social and democratic ideas and teaching for modern times. Here he was truly innovative, a founder of the Church’s modern social doctrine and precursor of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. Yet he found time to be a successful, honest lawyer, then university professor and pursue academic research. He never had good health, and endured with great fortitude the illness of which he died at the early age of 40. His final words were, "Why should I fear him? I have always loved him so much." Let us pray that on our deathbeds, we will be able to say the same.

Deacon Tom Berrie

The political task

“Respect for a healthy secularity – including the pluralism of political opinions – is essential in the authentic Christian tradition. If the Church were to start transforming herself into a directly political subject, she would do less, not more, for the poor and for justice, because she would lose her independence and her moral authority, identifying herself with a single political path and with debatable partisan positions. The Church is the advocate of justice and of the poor, precisely because she does not identify with politicians nor with partisan interests. Only by remaining independent can she teach the great criteria and inalienable values, guide consciences and offer a life choice that goes beyond the political sphere. To form consciences, to be the advocate of justice and truth, to educate in individual and political virtues: that is the fundamental vocation of the Church in this area. And lay Catholics must be aware of their responsibilities in public life; they must be present in the formation of the necessary consensus and in opposition to injustice.”

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, May 2013

Reimbursement of Deacons' Expenses

The current policy of our Diocese is as follows:

“The diaconate is non-stipendiary and, unless the situation changes, candidates are required to be financially independent. However, there are certain legitimate expenses that a deacon can claim from parish funds: petrol / travel costs, fees for diocesan in-service training, fees for courses agreed with the parish priest, and retreats. Furthermore, the deacon will normally receive the ‘stole fee’ if he conducts a baptism, wedding or funeral. Candidates for the diaconate should have all ‘student’ expenses paid by the parish – travel, books, retreats and necessary courses.” (The Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Southwark, 1994)

This means that parishes should reimburse the cost and expenses associated with a deacon attending an annual retreat and any ongoing formation events provided by the diocese, but is not obliged to pay for wives. So the cost of one of the two annual diocesan diaconal retreats and any Diocesan Diaconal Days should be reimbursed for the deacon. Expenses associated will normally mean travel expenses where they are significant and should be reimbursed at either the usual car mileage rate (currently 45p per mile) or the relevant public transport cost.

Obviously deacons should be reasonable about this. But they should also bear in mind that, while they personally may be financially able and willing to bear such costs themselves, others who may be appointed deacons in their parishes in later years may not be in this position. Thus, not only should the parish reimburse these expenses, but also the deacon should claim them. If you wish to be generous to your parish make a donation via Gift Aid.

Please pray for:

Deacon Michael Choppen and Jean Roberts, R.I.P.

Our aspirants:

Amgad Gerges (Forest Hill), **Roland Gooding** (Westerham), **Paul Henshaw** (Beckenham Hill) and **Fidelis Iwu** (Beckenham Hill).

Our students:

First Year – Gerard Perkins (Norbury), **Joice James Pallickamyalil** (Syro-Malabar Rite), **Robert Smith** (Ordinariate / Westerham) and **Piotr Ziezio** (Plumstead).

Second Year - Julian Burling (Wimbledon, Edge Hill), **Michael Butt** (Wimbledon, St Winifride), **Simon English** and **Tom McCarthy** (Tooting Bec).

Third Year – Ian Black (Maidstone), **Andrew McPartlan** (Bromley), **Wayne Du Preez** (Orpington) and **Wayne Tuckell** (Margate).

Following the death of his wife Peter Sebastian (Surbiton) will be taking a sabbatical year before returning to his diaconal studies.

Ordained this year:

Michael Carrucan (Tooting Bec) and **Barry Mellish** (Bromley).

The Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Southwark

Director of Formation: Vacant

Assistant Director (Administration & Inter Diocesan Bursar): The Rev'd Tom Kavanagh

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Dean of Studies: Father Ashley Beck (also Chairman of the National Assembly of Directors & Assistant Directors)

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Assistant Director (Kent): Vacant

Director for On-Going Formation: The Rev'd John Greenwood

22 Alberta Street, London SE17 3SD Phone 020 7735 8787 Email: WJohngreenwood@aol.com

Archbishop's Delegate for the Pastoral Care of Permanent Deacons: The Rev'd Kevin Dunne

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Deacon Saints: Iwig of Lindisfarne

He is a very obscure saint. He was originally from Northumbria, hence his name, Iwig or Ywi of Lindisfarne, but served as a deacon near what is now Salisbury. He was a follower of the ascetic St Cuthbert, who like him was ordained a Deacon, but never became a priest.

Like so many in the seventh century, he was inspired by the notion of being an 'exile for Christ', and his life took on the character of a permanent pilgrimage. He boarded a ship with an unknown destination, surely one of the more interesting ways to go and evangelise.

This took him to Brittany, where he became a hermit, renowned for his healing powers.

His feast day is on the 8 October, and he is of particular interest to students of the history of the diaconate.

We do not know what happened to his relics, but they were somehow preserved. However, it would appear that the saint even then was not happy outside England, for when, somewhere in the ninth century, a group of French clerics visited Wiltshire, they brought Saint Ywi's relics with them. These were placed on the altar of Wilton Abbey, some three miles from where Salisbury now stands

We are grateful to Harry Schnitker and The Portal magazine (August 2012) for the above. The Portal is the official magazine of the Personal Ordinariate of Our lady of Walsingham and may be found at www.portalmag.co.uk"

Support Groups for Deacons

Croydon: Contact Deacon Vincent Morrison marycormorrison@yahoo.co.uk Deacons come from West Croydon, Purley, Selsdon, Norbury and occasionally Bromley. They meet at a home every three months or so on a Saturday evening to socialise and take it in turns to host a meal.

Gravesend: Contact Deacon Tom Berrie janettom@tiscali.co.uk Meet four times a year, all welcome.

Orpington: Contact Deacon Michael Baldry michael.baldry@btinternet.com Alternate months October to June, usually second Wednesday, 8 pm usually at Holy Innocents, Orpington.

Waterloo: Contact John Greenwood WJohngreenwood@aol.com Alternate months October to June, on Wednesdays, at 6.30 pm at St Patrick's Friary, Cornwall Road, SE1 8TW.

Rainham: Contact Deacon Alan Boxall alan-josie@blueyonder.co.uk Alternate months, usually five times a year October to June at St Thomas of Canterbury, London Road, Rainham.