



INSTITUTE FOR  
DIACONAL STUDIES

# AD LUCEM!

DECEMBER 2016

TO: INSTITUTE FOR DIACONAL STUDIES COMMUNITY

FROM: DEACON BOB PUHALA, DIRECTOR



## Director's Message:

### **WARNING: ADVENT/CHRISTMAS VIRUS**

*Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.*

### *Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:*

- *A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.*
- *An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.*
- *A loss of interest in judging other people.*
- *A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.*
- *A loss of interest in conflict.*
- *A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)*
- *Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.*
- *Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.*
- *Frequent attacks of smiling.*

- *An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.*
- *An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.*

*Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.*

The above was one of those emails that made the rounds of friends and acquaintances several years ago. But there's still a lot of truths embedded in it. For as we know, the Advent and Christmas seasons can be exhausting. We are bombarded by the hustle and bustle of the holidays, increased family commitments, and the unrelenting commercialism that has twisted the meaning of Christmas, itself. Maybe we could make Advent and Christmas holy again by going off to a retreat center or shrine or monastery and getting away from all of this craziness. But the Incarnation isn't about running away from the world, is it? It's about transforming the world so that it becomes more aware that all we are, and all we have, and all we do are gifts and blessings from God. And that we are to use all these gifts and blessings to transform the world into God's image. We can't be players on the front line of this transformation if we hide our eyes, look away from what is happening or remove ourselves from the field of play. And that's why all of you are here – to give praise and thanks to God for the opportunity to discover His will for your role in helping to transform the world.

On behalf of the entire IDS staff, may God bless all of you for answering that call to discernment! And may the Lord bless you and your families in this joyful season of preparation and celebration of welcoming Jesus (again!) into our hearts and the world!

### **Exploring the Diaconate**

IDS will continue to host *Exploring the Diaconate* informational meetings throughout the Spring Semester. A complete schedule of events may be found on our [website](#).

Please spread the word of this opportunity to discuss a possible call to diaconal ministry before the busy holiday season grabs all our attention!

### **Around IDS**

#### *Fall Semester Courses*

- Old Testament (Year 1)
- Church History (Year 1)
- Presiding at the Rites I (Year 2)
- Sacramental Theology (Year 2)
- Homiletics IV (Year 3)
- Canon Law (Year 3)

#### *December Formation Sessions*

- Dec. 3 – Wellness Seminar (Aspirancy Path – Key Event)
- Dec. 5 – Mid-Year Review (Year 2 – Key Event)
- Dec. 7 – Thinking Theologically (Aspirancy Path)
- Dec. 12 – Evening of Prayer (Aspirancy Path)

## **IDS December Birthdays**

Prayers for a special blessing on these folks who celebrate birthdays during the month of December: 14 - Bill Burns; 20 - Tim McCormick; 22 - Eileen Foggie; 24 - Angelo Cordoba; 24 - Jerry Souta, Jr.

## **Let Us Remember in Prayer Those Entrusted to Our Care**

*Pray in a particular way for all of our sick:* Deacon Jim Cozzo; Catherine O'Hearn; Dolores Lomasney; Fr. John Grigus, OFM; Rebecca Schaefer; Andrew Tihlarik; Helene Schaefer, Maria Cecilia Gibson, Glenn Pinta, Tim Deichl

*Pray for our beloved who have passed from this life to the next:* Rita Farina; Loretta Greco; Colleen Eble; Fr. Tomasz Dzida, Schr; Austin Combs; Deacon Roberto Rivas; Felix Tactaquin; Marites Negron; Evelyn Powers; Bob Woods; Rev. Patrick G. Cecil; Lorraine Olley Eustice; Richard Farina