



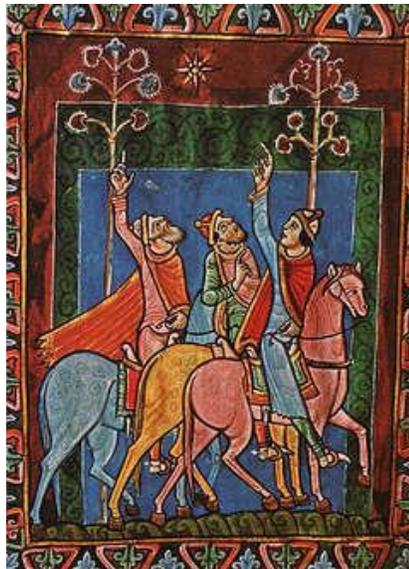
INSTITUTE FOR  
DIACONAL STUDIES

# AD LUCEM!

JANUARY 2016

TO: INSTITUTE FOR DIACONAL STUDIES COMMUNITY

FROM: DEACON BOB PUHALA, DIRECTOR



We begin the Spring Semester shortly after celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord. In the story, three wise men set out on a long and arduous journey seeking “the newborn king of the Jews.” So the Magi follow a star that takes them to a house where they encounter a child with Mary, his mother. They are amazed by their discovery, prostrate themselves before Jesus and offer him gifts of gold (for a king), frankincense (for a priest) and myrrh (for a body being prepared for burial – a curious gift to bring a child). But if this truly is a “Little Christmas” story, what gift do the Magi receive from Jesus? It’s a gift that everyone receives when they seek, find and believe in the Lord – the gift of faith. The wise men were not fulfilled by their wealth, fame or power to read the signs of the universe. They longed for something that would speak to the core of their very existence. They had open hearts to the One who would give true meaning to their lives. And they were transformed. The quest of the Magi seems much like the journey we undertake in our diaconal discernment. We embark on a journey, long and sometimes arduous, and, like the Magi, we often encounter obstacles along the way. But eventually those obstacles begin to disappear and that shining star leads to clarity regarding our purpose in life, our call to serve Him. Let us, like the Magi, surrender all to Him on our journey and remember that, along every step of the way, Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us.

## **A Courageous Leap of Faith**

A new (and free!) resource for parish ministry is available thanks to a former IDS director of spiritual formation. *A Courageous Leap of Faith: Becoming a Disciple of Jesus in the New Evangelization*, by Rev. Dennis Stafford, in his own words, is ...

*“... primarily for individuals who are searching for core and original Christian spirituality and an appeal to pastors and parish leaders responsible for the ministry of evangelization: an appeal to make every effort to provide evangelization opportunities. I especially hope that deacons take up the cause of evangelization in new and exciting ways both in the parish and in the marketplace – for that is where there are so many lonely people. Accept the personal invitation sincerely and passionately and allow this book to help you with the first steps of embracing emotions and stories. Then take the next courageous leap of faith and become engaged in the community. And -- pastors and parish leaders -- offer to seekers a new commitment and understanding; a new impetus and a myriad of opportunities to tell their story. Assist seekers and searchers in uniting their personal story to Jesus’ salvific story. A practical response at the ground level can attract the weak in spirit, the seeker and searcher, and, the passionate risk-taker. Communal relationship leads to celebration, a very real human need and a foundation in core Christianity. It is truly manifested within Catholicism. A new sense of belonging, relating and celebrating can bring profound faith expression and involvement that changes not only ordinary lives but also a sophisticated world, for as we conclude our Sunday celebration of worship we are sent forth, once again, to share the story of Jesus in the world.”*

Fr. Stafford has much to share, and his chapter on *Managing an Evangelization Leadership Effort* is particularly helpful for those who are engaged in this ministry. To receive your own copy of this book, go to the IDS website, click on *Resources*, and click on the book title.

## **EVENT – Ministry Enrichment Gathering: Liturgy as Source and Summit**

The Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Divine Worship and Liturgy Training Publications invite you to join other liturgical ministers and catechists to gather for prayer, training, and formation.

The session is offered on three Saturdays from 9:30am – 3pm. Dates/locations include:

- January 23, 2016 – DePaul University Lincoln Park Student Center
- April 9, 2016 – St. Hubert, Hoffman Estates
- April 16, 2016 – St. Francis of Assisi, Orland Park

For detailed information and registration visit <https://ministryenrichmentgathering.org>.

## Around IDS

### *Courses*

Spring Semester officially begins on Monday, January 11, 2016. Spring courses include:

- Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Aspirancy, begins Wed., Jan. 13)
- New Testament (Year 1)
- Ecclesiology & Mariology (Years 1 & 2, begins Wed., Jan. 13)
- Homiletics III (Year 2)
- Moral Theology (Years 2 & 3)
- Presiding at the Rites II (Year 3)

### *Special Formation Sessions*

- Jan. 9 – Admission & Scrutinies Board/Ordination Path (Year 3 Candidates/Wives)
- Jan. 16 – Christian Anthropology I (Year 1)  
– Presiding at the Rites II practicum (Year 3)
- Jan. 21 – Ordination Preparation Meeting (Year 3 Candidates/Wives)
- Jan. 30 – Christian Anthropology II (Year 1)  
– Presiding at the Rites II practicum (Year 3)

## Exploring the Diaconate

IDS offers two *Exploring* sessions in January and two in early February:

- Thursday, January 14, University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein (Prist Center, Bldg. 201P), 7:30pm – 8:30pm
- Tuesday, January 26, Queen of the Rosary (Parish Office), Elk Grove, Vicariate I, 7:30pm – 8:30pm
- Thursday, February 4, University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein (Prist Center, Bldg. 201P), 7:30pm – 8:30pm
- Saturday, February 6, St. Ailbe (Parish Meeting Room), Chicago, Vicariate IV, 1:00pm – 2:00pm

These sessions are intended to raise vocation awareness of potential applicants who would begin formation in August 2016. All are invited to attend. No preregistration is required. For more information, contact Deacon Bob Puhala, [bpuhala@usml.edu](mailto:bpuhala@usml.edu), 847.837.4564.

## IDS January Birthdays

Prayers for a special blessing on these folks who celebrate birthdays this month:

1/2 – Pat Brenner; 1/3 – Lauren Georgen; 1/4 – Charles Shallcross; 1/5 – John Mutnansky; 1/9 – Mark Weiss; 1/17 – Raul Duque; 1/23 – Yuki Birck; 1/23 – Dan Georgen; 1/25 – Cindy Mocariski; 1/31 – Doug Szarzynski

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

*Pray for our beloved who have passed from this life to the next:*

Johnny Miller, Bridget Lenihan, Ann Chester, Elizabeth Ruth Lynch, Dr. Gerry Girdaukas,  
Maria Carmen Woodard, Kathy O'Brien, Robert Kunkel, Rev. Richard Mueller; Rev. Luc Tran

*Pray in a particular way for all of our sick:*

Stanislawa Ciomek, Marites Negrón, Catherine O'Hearn, Rita Farina, Justin Souta, Tom  
Seehausen, Yuki Birck, Lorraine Olley, Barbara Kupsak