



INSTITUTE FOR  
DIACONAL STUDIES

# AD LUCEM!

NOVEMBER 2016

TO: INSTITUTE FOR DIACONAL STUDIES COMMUNITY

FROM: DEACON BOB PUHALA, DIRECTOR



## Director's Message: Institution of Acolyte - Cohort 2018

It was a glorious day for the Church, for candidates, and their families when 13 men were instituted into the ministry of Acolyte and four additional men previously instituted into that ministry received special blessings from the Most Rev. Andrew Wypych on November 6 at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein. In his homily, Bishop Wypych both thanked the candidates for their self-offering and encouraged them to continue their discernment of a diaconal vocation as they are privileged to minister at the altar by assisting the deacon and priest.

## **A Thanksgiving Reflection**

As I prayed through the meaning of our upcoming Thanksgiving holiday in such turbulent times, I happened on this reflection from Mark D. Roberts in *The Higher Calling*. I've adapted some of his words to better reflect our current status in the world.

On this Thanksgiving Day, Americans are encouraged to pause and give thanks to God. In his Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863, President Abraham Lincoln wrote: "The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they can not fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God."

As you may recall, in 1863, the United States was in the Civil War, a terribly brutal and horrifying experience. Thousands of Americans had died, while others faced the prospect of imminent death. Yet, in the midst of such a challenging time, President Lincoln called upon Americans to remember the richness of God's blessings and to be thankful.

So it should be with us. In many ways, 2016 has not been an easy year for our nation. We continue to struggle with economic hardships. Bad weather and natural disasters have devastated parts of our country. Wars continue to take our men and women away from their homes, and some of these brave soldiers will never return. Political tensions throughout the world bring the threat of further violence, mayhem and death.

Thus, we need to hear the encouragement of Abraham Lincoln again. In spite of our challenges and setbacks, we have been richly blessed by God. Thanksgiving is due just as much today as it was in 1863, perhaps much more.

When we give thanks, we bring to mind God's gifts to us. This, in turn, reminds us of God's gracious nature. We think, not just of what God has done, but also of who God is. Thus, thanks is a point of entry to praise. In the language of Psalm 100, we enter God's gates with thanksgiving, so that we might go into his courts with praise. There's no biblical rule that states that thanks must always come before praise. But, for many of us, thanksgiving for what God has done leads us to praise God for who he is.

So, may you enter God's gates with thanksgiving, so that you might celebrate in his courts with praise! May God give you a rich and blessed Thanksgiving Day!

## **Exploring the Diaconate**

IDS hosted *Exploring the Diaconate* on Wednesday, November 9, at St. Pascal, Chicago (Vicariate IV). It was held in the parish's Neckerman Room (in the rectory) beginning at 7:30 p.m. We met with several married and single men discerning the possibility of the diaconate.

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)

### ***October Formation Sessions***

- Nov. 2 – Reading the Lives of the Saints (Aspirancy Path)
- Nov. 5 – Introduction to Scripture (Aspirancy Path)
- Nov. 5-6 – Acolyte Retreat (Year 2)
- Nov. 6 – Institution of Acolyte Liturgy (Years 1, 2, 3 – Key Event)
- Nov. 16 – Chastity, Marriage, and Celibacy (Aspirancy Path)
- Nov. 19 – Catholic Couple Check Up (Aspirancy Path – Key Event)
- Nov. 19 – Advent Day of Recollection (Years 1, 2, 3 – Key Event)

## **IDS November Birthdays**

Prayers for a special blessing on these folks who celebrate birthdays during the month of November: 11/ 7 - Tom Carlson; 11/12 - James Maslanka; 11/16 - Nick Andriacchi; 11/19 - Mark Wolski; 11/23 - Laura Korepanow; 11/24 - Amy Greene; 11/27 - Paula Burns; 11/30 - Bob Birck

## **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

*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