What does a deacon do? At Mass, the deacon is always the one who proclaims the Gospel. He may preach on occasion. He is authorized to perform Baptisms, do Benedictions, preside at wakes, bless people and objects, etc. A deacon is often asked to take a role in teaching school, for example. But they are not paid for being deacons.

Deacons are clergy. You may remember from your catechism that there are three levels of ordained ministry: Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. A deacon serves “gratuitously”. That is fancy talk for the fact that no deacon is paid for being a deacon. I know of no exception to this ruling. Deacons are clergy.

The role of the deacon diminished. By the time the Second Vatican Council convened (1961), the diaconate consisted mostly as a temporary and transitional thing, ordination to the diaconate would allow for the office to be held on a permanent basis. Instead of a permanent deacon, the Council Fathers recognized that this was not the best use of the diaconate, so they proposed a restoration of the office.

Deacons have been around from the very beginning of the Church. St. Stephen, the first martyr, was also among the first deacons. Instead of a permanent deacon, the Council Fathers recognized that this was not the best use of the diaconate, so they proposed a restoration of the office.

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Deacons are clergy. You may remember from your catechism that there are three levels of ordained ministry: Bishops, Priests, and Deacons -- in that order! A deacon, when ordained, swears loyalty to his Bishop and his successors. Most, but not all, deacons are assigned to a parish. But even in these cases, although he serves under the guidance of the pastor and takes directions from him, the deacon is always the “Bishop’s man,” and “serves at the pleasure of the Bishop.”

A deacon serves “gratuitously”. That is fancy talk for the fact that no deacon is paid for being a deacon. I know of no exceptions. There are deacons who are paid for having specific jobs in the church – teaching school, for example. But they are not paid for being deacons.

What does a deacon do? At Mass, the deacon is always the one who proclaims the Gospel. He may preach on occasion. He is authorized to witness weddings, perform baptisms, do Benedictions, preside at wakes, bless people and objects, etc. A deacon is often asked to take a role in adult faith formation, home and hospital visitation, and promotion of service to the poorest of the poor.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: St. Bernard’s – Saturday’s 5:00-5:15 p.m. and by appointment St. John’s – Saturday’s 5:30-5:45am. and by appointment Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – Sunday’s 7:30-7:45 a.m. and by appointment

THE DESK FROM THE PARISH: The fact that we have six permanent deacons assigned to our cluster is a great asset! They provide valuable assistance to the team of priests and service to the parishes. Our deacons are: Deacon Tim Murphy (St. Lawrence), Deacon Dave Prenger and Deacon Ed Miller (Holy Spirit), Deacon Greg Sampson (Arcadia, Breda & Mt. Carmel), Deacon Louis Meiners and Deacon Gary Schon (Gildeden, Dedham & Coon Rapids). The following is an article written by Deacon Greg Sampson that describes the role of the permanent deacon.

Fr. Kevin Richter

In recent years, Deacons have become more and more visible in the life of the Church, especially at the parish level. Yet a lot of folks have never been told what deacons are all about. The purpose of this little article is to impart some information about the office of deacon, called the diaconate.

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In this diocese, there is a five-year formation process to prepare a man for the diaconate. Part of it is academic training. This training has neither the rigor nor the depth of training as that for the priesthood, but it is serious graduate-level work; typically a Master’s degree is awarded at the end of the studies. In addition, the typical formation program is also full of spirituality orientation, “summer practicums”, and theological reflection of the path that the candidate is taking.

A married man can be ordained as a deacon, provided he is not headed for priesthood. But a deacon cannot get married. By the way, I believe that the wife of a deacon always gets a free pass into heaven. That may not be good theology, but every deacon knows it is true.

Deacon Greg Sampson

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIONAL PAROCHIAL VICAR: “Who do you say that I am?” That question, asked by Jesus to Simon Peter sets the stage for a key foundation of the Catholic Church. Once Simon states that Jesus is the Messiah, then Jesus blesses him, changes his name to Peter (which means rock), and says that he will build his church upon that rock, making Peter the first Prime Minister, the Pope.

Jesus asks Peter, who wants to learn more about the Catholic Church before joining is encouraged to contact Father Barta at 712-790-0626 or any of the priests serving Carroll County. In these sessions, you will explore the teachings of the Church, understand Catholic rituals and prayer, deepen your prayer life and form a community with others on the same journey.

CCYM Youth Bible Study and Admission Night: Here! All high-school age youth are invited to participate in Wednesday evening CCYM (Catholic Catholic Youth Ministry) for 7:30-8:30 p.m. in Collison Hall. This is an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation or just talk to a priest from 8-9 p.m., all of this at St. Lawrence Parish [1607 N. West St.] in Carroll. This is every Wednesday evening, unless announced otherwise. Check it out at setlabelineista and setlabeznas

JOIN THE CATHOLIC CHurch: Instruction for joining the Catholic Church will begin soon. Anyone who has questions about the RCIA process is encouraged to talk about it with any priest, who wants to learn more about the Catholic Church before joining is encouraged to contact Father Barta at 712-790-0626 or any of the priests serving Carroll County. In these sessions, you will explore the teachings of the Church, understand Catholic rituals and prayer, deepen your prayer life and form a community with others on the same journey.

FORMED is an online resource that provides hundreds of Catholic programs, movies, books, and other resources produced by the Augustine Institute. Last year St Lawrence parish purchased “Formed” an online resource and over 150 people registered and watched movies, listened to talks, participated in faith program or read online books from this site. Now the Formed.org subscription is available free to every person who lives in any of the 13 parishes since Fr. Kevin Richter is assigned as pastor. Please sign up, enjoy, and learn about our faith! It is easy to register. Go to the website https:www.formed.org and from the home page select “register.” Use the parish code: HN3F4Y and you will be asked for your email address and to create your own password. Within Formed you will find programs (including “Symbolon,” “Whom Am I to Judge!”, and many others). Ligonier, producers of the saints, Mary and other Bible characters. It is ideal for family, school, gatherings of friends, CCRE and CCYM use.

Please note, you may need help registering contact Phil Phillips at 792-5610 or hobes69@gmail.com.

REKINDLE: This diocesan youth conference will be held on Sunday, September 24 from 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Spencer. This event is for middle school and high school. Register online at scdiocese.org/rekindle by Sept. 18.

CHRIST RENews helps our parish become the best version of itself and to help you become the best version of yourself. You are invited to a Christ Renews His Parish/Welcome Retreat Weekend. The women's weekend will be Sept 9-10 and the men's Sept 30th-Oct 1st.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE NEXT MAGNIFICAT OF NW IA MEAL EVENT! On Saturday, September 30 at 10 a.m. at Resurrection of Our Lord Church, 11 SW 2nd St., Pocahontas. Annette J. Wendhoff will be guest speaker. Admission is $10.00/person and payment is due by Saturday, September 23. Please RSVP by calling Michele Leiting at 712-469-5484 and mailing your check payment to her at 19546 Aspen Ave., West, IA 51467.

BREDA COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE is Monday August 28, 1-7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. Schedule your appointment at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org or call 800-287-4903.

THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS will meet on September 7th at Holy Spirit Church. Rosary at 5:10 and Mass at 5:30, followed by Dinner and Meeting in the Greteman Center. For reservations, call Marie Hupp at 792-2583 by September 4th.

TEMPLON KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PORK LOIN SUPPER will be served in the Templon Center on Sunday, September 10th. Doors open at 5 p.m. with Supper at 6 p.m. Five $20 Drawings. Proceeds donated to Informed Choice Clinics in Iowa (A Pro-Life Organization), $15 per ticket – advance ticket sales only. Tickets can be purchased at The Corner Station, Templon Savings Bank, Carroll County Fair, or online at www.templon.greteman.com.

BLOOD, SWEAT & BEERS is a non-profit organization, raising money to support Iowans with blood cancers. A 5K Run/Walk Sat. Sept. 30 starting at 11AM at Swan Lake East Side area. Registrants receive a mug, swag bag, and t-shirt. All registrants and companions will have access to food, root beer, beer, music, and games. Also a Silent Auction. Register online at www.bloodsweatandbeersiowa.com. Early registration ends Sept 10.

St. John: Parish Office, Julie Eich, 712-689-2595, Hours: Mon. & Fri. 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

CEMETERY DRIVE – CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STATUS: St. John’s Cemetery Committee wants to extend their genuine thanks to so many great people for the outstanding donations received to expand our cemetery. To date, we have a total of $81,000.00 in cash and/or pledges for this project. Our estimated expenses for surveying, purchasing, closing/attorney fees, seeding, extending the driveway with a paved surface, planting small trees, and County permit, etc., total around $86,520.00. We are hoping to receive the additional funding needed to complete all items mentioned so we can be proud of this addition now and in years to come. If you haven’t had a chance to donate or pledge your monetary gift yet (or want to increase your current pledge/gift), please send your check or pledge sheet to Julie as soon as possible. Volunteers help with fencing, seeding, and planting trees will be sought when the time comes. We hope to keep everyone posted as this project progresses. Again, thank you for your generosity, and we may continue to you keep you close to His heart.

THE PARISH COUNCIL will meet on Wednesday, August 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church.

RAFFLE ITEMS ARE NEEDED for our upcoming Parish Breakfast on September 17. Please contact Mae Vonnhame (689-2470).

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER to take care of the flowers & decorating in the Church. Please contact Parish Office if interested.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Parish Office, 712-673-2582, Hours: Tues. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS to Zach Curtis Collins and Julia Christine Loneman who were joined in the bonds of Holy Matrimony on August 19.

WELCOME TO MYRON/SHARLI SCULTE as new registered members of the parish.

VOLUNTEERS needed Wednesday September 27, 7:00 p.m. to help set up for the October 1 Vendor/Craft Fair in the parish hall.

VOLUNTEERS needed to help serve food and sell baked goods at the Vendor/Craft Fair October 1. A sign-up sheet is in the back of church.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR will lead the singing on Sunday September 10. Parents of children interested in being part of the choir are asked to contact Ann Haberl at 830-7748.

COFFEE/JUICE/ROLLS will be offered after Mass on Sunday September 10 in the parish hall.

St. Bernard: Parish Office, 712-673-2582, Hours: Tues. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

PARISH PICNIC RAFFLE winners: Sheri Dirkx, Leonard/Jean Groe, Haley Education, Chris Koster, Jared Mohr, Cliff/Jan Neumeyer, Jenni Neumeyer, Roland Snyder, Fr. Mark Stoll, Jordan Stork, Theresa Tiefenthaler, Mary Kay Uhlenkamp, Claire Van Erdewyk, Tom Wessendorf. Thank you to everyone who sold tickets, sold tickets, attended the picnic, prepared the food, and/or served on the committee.

LENDING LIBRARY is available at St. Bernard. The library will feature books and videos suitable for the whole family and children. DVDs titles include: Heaven is for Real, Miracles from Heaven, Saints and Heroes video series including “The Day the Sun Danced-The True Story of Fatima,” “Frances-The Knight of Assisi,” “The Princess of Lourdes”, “Patrick-Brock Shepherd of the Emerald Isle”, and “Nicholas-The Boy Who Became Santa”. Books and more videos will be added later. This library will be placed in the east entrance of the St. Bernard Church with a sign out sheet to sign out one video for one week and one video for one week period return it to the library and borrow another book and/or video. If you have any videos or books you’d like to donate, contact the parish office.

“RUSTIC RIVER WINERY” of Lake View is a trip planned by the Lady Foresters on Thursday, Sept. 7th. Guests are welcome. Meet at Kay’s Corner at 3 p.m. for a ride. Snacks will be furnished by the Lady Forester’s to go along with the wine tasting. For reservations, call Marilyn at 673-2650 or Mary Kay at 673-4695/store or home at 673-2847.