

# Community Communications

June ~ July 2008



A communication tool for the Deacon community of the Diocese of Lansing

## And God Added to Their Numbers . . .

At 7:00PM on August 27th, the Institution to Acolytes for our third-year candidates and the Rite of Candidacy for the current Aspirants to the Permanent Diaconate will take place at St. Mary Cathedral. This a public ceremony and all pastors, parishioners, family and friends are invited to attend. A reception will follow in St. Mary's Hall. Please continue to pray for them as they take these important steps to ordination to the Permanent Diaconate.

### Institution to Acolytes

Roger and Rosemary Cahaney, St. Agnes, Fowlerville  
Wayne and Sandra Corrion, St. Joseph, Gaines  
Ray and Brenda Ellingson, Sts. Charles & Helena, Clio  
John and Annie Epley, St. John, Jackson  
Jack and Terri Flanagan, Christ the King, Ann Arbor  
Jim and Karen Kasprzak, St. Thomas Aquinas, East Lansing  
Don and Karen Michael, St. Anthony, Hillsdale  
Greg and Carol Middleton, St. Mary, Durand  
Dennis and Sue Pennell, St. Robert, Flushing  
Aaron and Kathy Petersen, St. Anthony, Hillsdale  
Gary and Yvonne Prise, St. Mary Magdalene, Brighton  
Larry and Sue Randolph, Christ the King, Ann Arbor  
Tom and Barb Rea, St. Mary, Pinckney  
Greg and Peggy Vande Voorde, Christ the King, Ann Arbor

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Newsletter on-line at: <http://parishesonline.com/CommunityCommunications>

Lansing Deacons on-line at: <http://parishesonline.com/LansingDeacons>

## Rite of Candidacy

Jim and Kim Amthor, St. Joseph, Brooklyn  
Rich and Vicki Badics, St. Francis, Ann Arbor  
Len and Terri Brown, St. Joseph, Adrian  
John and Laurie Fitch, St. Casimir, Lansing  
Joseph and Francis Jong, St. Thomas, East Lansing  
Mike and Jackie McCormick, St. John, Jackson  
Chuong Nguyen and Tam Tran, St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Lansing  
Omar and Victoria Odette, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Flint  
Tony and Norma Orona, Holy Trinity Student Parish, Ypsilanti  
Dean and Sue Welte, St. Paul, Owosso

*These men and their wives have been invited to the Convocation. They should also be invited to your cluster meeting.*

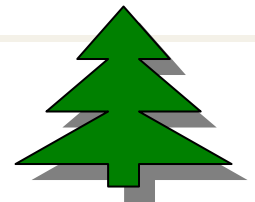
## Convocation 2008

Letters have been sent to the pastors and registration forms have been mailed to the deacon community. The weekend of **October 3-5 at Shanty Creek** should fall at the peak of the "Fall color season" and the "Renewing Sunday Preaching" workshops from NOC-CERC are top rated. You won't want to miss out on the great time we will have together. Don't forget that **your registration and payment are due in the Office of Deacons no later than August 29** to meet Shanty Creek's deadline for room reservations.

### ***PREACHERS HELP PEOPLE NAVIGATE***

In his new book *Preaching in a Post-Everything World* (Baker), Zack Eswine opines that preachers are "like forest rangers. The ranger knows the terrain and helps people learn how to navigate it. In a similar way, the preacher is meant to learn the terrain of reality as it relates to God, people, places, and personal conscience. The Bible is the map that one needs to make true contact. With that map the preacher introduces reality to people and in essence says, 'Now when you come across this kind of path, here is what you need in order to walk the path wisely.' The map has something to say regarding every path available in this landscape of 'all things' with its varying kinds and capacities."

*Editor's Note: At one point in my life, I wanted to be a forest ranger. I guess that I haven't strayed to far from that desire!*



## Deacon Community Directory

This summer we will be updating the Deacon Community Directory for distribution at the Deacon Community Convocation. Please check to see if your information is accurate and let Anne know of any changes at 517-342-2510 or arivet@dioceseoflansing.org. If you have a cell phone and wouldn't mind having it in the directory, let us know that, too.



## Edwin Joseph Schneider 1923-2008

Deacon Edwin Joseph Schneider was born in Westphalia, MI on October 28, 1923, son of Francis and Mary (Trierweiler) Schneider.

He was baptized on October 30, 1923 at St. Mary Church in Westphalia. He married Florence on June 12, 1948 at St Mary's. They had six children – Sandra, David, Roger, Patricia, Pamela, and Mary. He and Florence were blessed with 13 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandsons. He taught his children and grandchildren the importance of God and family always finding the time to listen, care and pray.

He attended St. Patrick School in Portland, Portland High School, and Michigan State University where he studied food service. He served in the Army Air Force Signal Core in World War II, stationed in China and India. He was employed at Michigan State University for thirty-nine years.

Deacon Schneider was ordained by Bishop Kenneth Povish on December 5, 1987. He was assigned to St. Gerard Parish where he served faithfully for over twenty years, especially in bereavement ministry. He served as a deacon representative on the diocesan Presbyteral Council.

## Great Models

by **Jim Corder**

Ed and Florence and their witness is a great model that all of us may look to for inspiration. I was always impressed with the way Ed handled his diaconal duties during my time here at St. Gerard. I was impressed with the way he helped families during their time of grief in his bereavement ministry. I was also impressed with his faith and spirituality – his devotion to God was very obvious. With all of that being said, what impressed me the most about Ed was his role as a family man. Ed and Florence created a great legacy of family – because of who they were. Their love and commitment to each other created generations of loving and caring people whose influence will be felt for a very long time. As a husband, father, and deacon, I can only aspire to have such a positive impact on the lives of so many. Ed was a very holy man, and this was demonstrated by the way he lived his life on a daily basis in a very humble and authentic way.



By **Endre Doran**

My memories of Edwin Schneider go back to January 1985 when our class met for the first time. Fourteen men and women starting out together in the Diaconate formation program. Little did any of us know at the time how this class would bond together and how our lives would change forever.

Ed was our senior, based on age, and he shared with us his journey, which brought him and Florence into our lives and his time in service during WWII followed by meeting Florence and their marriage. Ed spent his work career in food service at MSU. He was a quiet man so I often wondered how he managed to run a program, which had to feed so many people, especially students with their own dietary requirements. But he did and never complained. When our class came together for our annual retreat at Maryville Center and we greeted each other, our bond as sisters and brothers in Christ only deepened. You felt the love that Ed and Florence had for each member of our class knowing we were there for each other. His gift of singing praise to the Lord inspired our class.

The Lord called Ed home to his reward in Heaven. We will all miss him, but he will always be part of us with the memories we have of our journey together. He was a **gentle man** who loved to serve the Lord and those he met.

## In Memoriam: Gertrude Simmon

In celebration of her life of 73 years, Gert Simmon went to be with our Lord, April 19, 2008. Gert was born September 9, 1934 to Albert and Leona (Simon) Witgen in Westphalia, Michigan. She left behind her loving husband of 54 years, Mark, and seven children; Randy (Kathy), Dale (Barb), Janet (Luke) Pohl, Alan, Julie (Rod) Green, Curt (Shelly) and Scott and son-in-law, Kirk Robbins. She is also survived by her two sisters, Betty Thelen and Yvonne (Bill) Asher. Gert was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Patty Robbins; two grandsons, Garrett Pohl and Greg Simmon; sisters, Helen Witgen and Judy Witgen and brother, Jerome (Audrey) Witgen, as well as her daughter-in-law, Luann Simmon.



## Thank You from Deacon Mark Simmon

*Dear Deacon Community,*

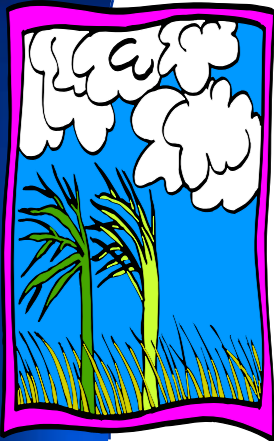
*I want to express my thanks to all of you who prayed for Gert & I during her 10 weeks of suffering and to those who were able to attend her funeral. I heard many comments on the great turnout. We many times forget about what our presence at these occasions, showing our sense of community, means to others.*

*Again thanks to all of you,*

*Deacon Mark Simmon*

## Thank You from the Schneider Family

The family of Deacon Ed Schneider would like to thank the deacon community for your support and prayers as we grieve the loss of a loving husband, father and grandfather. Our family was in awe at the number of deacons at the mass and it touched our hearts. We felt your prayers and they gave us comfort as we said goodbye to the man who taught us by his example to love God, family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers. He was extremely proud and honored to be part of the diaconate ministry. As Father Osborn said at the rosary service, Deacon Ed had a diaconate heart. Your generous donation will be used at St. Gerard to continue what was important to Deacon Ed. Your kindness has touched our hearts. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you on your ministry as deacons. Bless each of you for your kindness and compassion.



## *Reprint from a Funeral Homily by Fr. Karl Rahner*

*Submitted by Fr. Charlie Irving*

The great and sad mistake of many people – among them even pious persons – is to imagine that those whom death has taken, leave us. They do not leave us. They remain! Where are they? In darkness? Oh no! It is we who are in darkness. We do not see them, but they see us. Their eyes, radiant with glory, are fixed on our eyes full with tears. Oh, infinite consolation!

Though invisible to us, our dead are not absent. I have often reflected upon the surest comfort for those who mourn. It is a firm faith in the real and continual presence of our loved ones; it is the clear and penetrating conviction that death has not destroyed them, nor carried them away.

They are not even absent, but living near to us, transfigured: having lost, in their glorious change, no delicacy of their souls, no tenderness of their hearts, no especial preference in their affection. On the contrary, they have, in depth and in fervor of devotion, grown large, a hundredfold. Death is, for the good, a translation into light, into power, into love. Those who on earth were only ordinary Christians become perfect; those who were good become sublime.

## For the safety and well being of our men and women in uniform, especially:

**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mark Fogle**  
**TSgt. Angelia Fogle**  
**SSgt. Glenn Fogle**  
Fogle's sons,  
daughter-in-law & nephew

**John Patrick Hilker**  
Hilker's son

**Maj. Timothy McDonald**  
**Spc. Michael McDonald**  
McDonald's sons

**MSgt. Bill Shively**  
Cahaney's son-in-law



For the sick:


- Jim Brown
- Mae Brown
- Mary Ann Carsten
- Joy and Tom Franklin
- Pat Fudge
- Fr. Phil Gallagher
- Betty Garber
- Joseph Kratofil
- Cathy Lynch
- Ofelia Miles
- Fr. Randy Miller
- Penny Novak
- Jesse Pizana Ray & Grace's grandson
- Dave Piggot
- Fr. Roger Prokop
- Hilda Ryan Sirl's sister-in-law
- Tommie Ann Tracey Mary Russello's mother

For those who have died:

- Dcn Ed Schneider
- Dcn Bill Everett
- Jack O'Toole Jerry's brother
- Susan Zwerek Peg McDonald's sister
- George Michalek Msgr. Michalek's father

Necrology

June

3	Dcn Robert Chadwick	2007
	Dcn Edward Schneider	2008
10	Dcn (John) Patrick Garber	2003
13	 Bishop James Sullivan	2006
15	Dcn William Everett	2008
18	Dcn Richard Soucy	2003
19	Helen Buess	1992
28	Mr. James Hacker	1989

July

14	Dcn Edward Fournier	1989
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August

1	Kathleen Weitzel	1987
2	Robert Paul Vatter	2004



Community Prayer Line



Genesee/Owosso Cluster

**Place:** St. Mary, Mt. Morris  
**Date:** Sept 8  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Contact:** M. Dear, J. Daunt  
**Other Details:**

Jackson/Lenawee/Hillsdale Cluster

**Place:** Nicholson's  
**Date:** Aug 24  
**Time:** 2:00 PM  
**Contact:** Jim or Pat Nicholson  
**Other Details:** Bring a dish to pass.

Lansing Cluster

**Place:** TBD  
**Date:** Sept 19  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Contact:** T Heutsche, T. Fogle  
**Other Details:**

Livingston Cluster

**Place:** McDonald's House  
**Date:** Sept. 13  
**Time:** 5:00 p.m.  
**Contact:** J. Brennan, P. McDonald  
**Other Details:** Bring a dish to pass

Washtenaw Cluster

**Place:** TBD  
**Date:** TBD  
**Time:** TBD  
**Contact:** W. Hecht or T. Franklin  
**Other Details:**

Cluster Meetings

# William James Everett

## 1939-2008



Deacon William James Everett, after a battle with cancer, passed away at home under the loving care of his family and Hospice of Jackson & Oaklawn, on Sunday, June 15, 2008, age 69 years. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Susan Kay Everett; two children, Julie Everett and William C. (Deborah) Everett; five grandchildren, Emily, Ashley (Brien) Davis, Jordan, A.J. and Mackenzie; one great-grandson, Skylar; two sisters and one brother. He served in the United States Air Force and was the past president of the Optimist Club in Decatur, Illinois and was the owner of Midstate Insurance Services. Deacon Everett was ordained a Deacon for the Diocese of Lansing in 1990 and most recently ministered at Queen of the Miraculous Medal Catholic Church. He was a Hospice Chaplain and served also in the Prison Ministry. Deacon Everett was the R.C.I.A. director for many years and served as Spiritual Advisor for the Third Order of St. Francis. He truly loved his family and being a Deacon.

# A Celebration of Life

by Pat McDonald ('72, St. Patrick - Brighton)

We had a serious dilemma on our hands.

On the one hand, one of our sons, Tim, was scheduled to graduate from the University of Miami Medical School the weekend of May 11, 2008. Not only were we proud of Tim's accomplishments, but this was also going to coincide with a celebration by the entire family of Mother's Day and my birthday. As a result, we had scheduled all of our eight children, plus Peggy and me, to be present for the weekend in Miami for this joyous occasion.

At the same time, however, Peggy's sister, Sue, who had been diagnosed with leukemia a year and a half ago, was now approaching the end of her earthly journey and was in hospice care. Peggy had been visiting her sister on a daily basis and I had been there every three or four days. We usually brought the Eucharist with us.

Understandably, we did not want to leave Sue for these final days and to miss the great event of Tim's graduation, etc. If Peg stayed behind, two of our daughters would also stay behind to be with Peggy so she wouldn't be alone during these difficult times. I, and the rest of the family, would be in Miami, but the family would be separated for this important event.

On Thursday before the graduation we learned that Tim was also going to be the commencement speaker for his class. On that same day, we were told by several of Sue's nine children that Sue had mentioned that she wanted us to attend Tim's graduation. When we visited Sue later that day, I whispered to her that while we would be going to Tim's graduation, she had to promise that she would continue living until we returned. I interpreted the slight nod of her head as agreement.

On the way to the airport, I could sense the extreme anxiety in Peggy. I reassured her everything was going to be fine and that Sue would continue to live until we returned. Peggy gave me that look as if asking "when did you receive your M.D. degree?" I told her of Sue's promise.

The weekend in Miami proved to be absolutely joyous!

In introducing our son, the President of Miami University said, "Dr. Timothy McDonald came to our medical school from a path that was less than traditional for most students. He was an Air Force pilot in Special Operations and had tours in Afghanistan and Iraq before applying for medical school." Tim's speech, which lasted about five minutes, was absolutely wonderful. (as seen from the unbiased perspective of his dad). The audience agreed and they gave him a standing ovation. Before leaving the platform, Tim wished all of the mothers in the audience a happy Mother's Day. He said he was including his wife, Kim, in those wishes, inasmuch as she was going to be the mother of their first child. Peg and I were unaware of this news. We looked at Kim and she nodded it was true. This brought additional tears of joy to all of us.

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## A Celebration of Life

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The following day we returned to Michigan and arrived at 12:30 p.m. We immediately drove to Ann Arbor and arrived at Sue's residence at 1:30 p.m. All of her children were gathered around her, as well as a number of her siblings and friends. While Sue's breathing was labored, she was still alive. Apparently she had stopped breathing at 11:30 a.m. and everyone thought it was over. However her labored breathing resumed.

Peg and I were able to give her hugs, kisses and blessings. We then proceeded to pray as a faith community. We also distributed the Holy Eucharist to all present. Our Lord's presence, and that of the Holy Spirit, filled the room. We then began to sing a final amen.

In giving Sue a hug, kiss and blessing, I whispered in her ear our gratitude for keeping her promise. I told her that she could leave now if she wished to do so. About ten minutes later she died.

During the next few days, we celebrated her death and new life with a wake service, a funeral liturgy at St. Mary's Chapel, Ann Arbor with Fr. Tom Firestone as celebrant and the final committal at the cemetery. Following the burial, the majority of the family and friends returned to Sue's home for a gathering and celebration of the life of this wonderful person who was matriarch of the family. In the midst of this celebration, there was a quick rain shower and then the sun came out. Just then a vivid rainbow appeared ending right at Sue's home!

### Welcome Anne Rivet

Please join in welcoming the new secretary to the Office of Deacons, Anne Rivet. Anne is married to Stephen, who just completed the Loyola program. They are members of St. Michael Parish in Grand Ledge. They have four children; their daughter, the youngest is a high school senior. About the time Anne was offered the position, one son graduated from the University of Dayton, the same weekend their oldest got engaged and later their third son was accepted to culinary school in Traverse City. What a week! Anne is an avid reader and likes to read anything and everything. She enjoys sewing and arts and crafts. Asked what she would like to pass on to the deacon community, she said she is just thrilled to be with us and is looking forward to meeting everyone. Anne can be reached at 517-342-2510 or [arivet@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:arivet@dioceseoflansing.org).

**(Editor's Note: Anne has also agreed to publish the *Community Communications*. Please send all submissions to her.)**

# Abandonment to Divine Providence

by Tom Rea (3<sup>rd</sup> year Candidate, St Mary – Pinckney)

On a Tuesday afternoon, while making my scheduled rounds on the oncology and bone marrow transplant floor of a children's hospital, I came upon a darkened room with a young patient sound asleep, alone. By now, it is a familiar experience to find patients sleeping due to medication, fatigue or outright exhaustion from what they've been through but it is extremely rare to find them alone. If no family or friends are present then there is usually a hospital volunteer or nurse with them. But no one else was with this particular patient. Given the patient was napping, I thought little about it and left quietly. On Thursday, my other scheduled visitation day, I returned to the same room and found the patient awake...and still alone. It seemed strange to find no one with him again. I tried to get a conversation going with him.

“Your mom or dad going to be visiting soon?” “No” came a soft reply.

“Any other family or friends coming by?” “No.”

“Do you live far away from here?” “No...I live in a nearby town.”

“Do you work nearby?” “Had to stop working when I got cancer...”

“Where did you work?” “Fast food industry...”

Finally, I found out he had worked at one of the local burger places. In the course of mentioning another location of the company he had formerly worked for that used to be located next to the hospital cafeteria, I found something that he wanted to chat about. And we did chat for about ten minutes on that subject. I asked him if he had any hobbies. No hobbies. I asked him what he was doing with his spare time. “I watch TV.” Indeed, he had been watching TV when I came into the room. We talked for a few more minutes and I asked if I could come back and visit him again. He replied, “If you want to.”

When I left the room I immediately called the nurse on duty. I shared with her my observations and she said, “Your observations are likely accurate. It is a very sad situation...very sad.” What did that mean? Apparently, no one had visited this young man. Apparently, his family had abandoned him...it wasn't clear if that happened due to his illness or at some prior point in time. The nurse said a social worker was involved and counseled me that there was little to be done beyond the current situation due to his age and the requirement for him to ask for further assistance if he wanted it.

Something inside me was reacting very strongly to this situation and I found myself scrambling to find something...anything...to help this person through his suffering. I went to talk with a play therapist on  
(continued on Page 13)

## Other Important Dates

### **New Course in Pastoral Care from Siena Heights University**

A course in Pastoral Care will be offered in Lansing on Saturday mornings from 9 until noon. Fr. Bill Luger and Mrs. Marcella Keefe-Slager will be teaching this two-credit course at St. Casimir Parish. If you or someone in your parish who is involved in Pastoral Care is interested in learning more about how to minister to our sick and homebound brothers and sisters, please have them contact Sr. Marilyn Barnett for more information. MBARNETT@sienaheights.edu.

### **Retreat Opportunity**

The Livingston Cluster will be making a couples retreat at Maryville in Holly the weekend of August 22-25, 2008. Fr. Doug Osborn will conduct the retreat. Other couples from the deacon community are welcome to join them. Anyone interested should contact Jerry Brennan at 810-231-0982 or at [gdb190@gmail.com](mailto:gdb190@gmail.com). The cost of the retreat is \$265 per couple. The Cluster made a couples retreat at Maryville last year with Msgr. Fitzgerald and it was a great success. Maryville is a very nice facility.

### **Seminarian Golf Outing**

On Thursday, September 9, at Hawk Hollow and Eagle Eye, there will be a golf outing fund raiser for our seminarians. It is sponsored by the Diocese of Lansing and the Knights of Columbus. For registration and sponsorship information, contact 517-342-2503 or email [pohearn@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:pohearn@dioceseoflansing.org).



## Directory Updates

### [John Cameron](#)

Email: [cameron\\_john@att.net](mailto:cameron_john@att.net)

### [Gary Edington](#)

Email: [gedington@tds.net](mailto:gedington@tds.net)

### [Jerry Fust](#)

Email: [gerfust@yahoo.com](mailto:gerfust@yahoo.com)

### [Dick Savage](#)

Email: [rsavage@stfrancis.ws](mailto:rsavage@stfrancis.ws)

### [Al Turkovich](#)

Email: [deaconalturk@yahoo.com](mailto:deaconalturk@yahoo.com)

### [Helen Turkovich](#)

Email: [Helen.turkovich@yahoo.com](mailto:Helen.turkovich@yahoo.com)

### [Lou Weitzel](#)

Email: [stritascatholicchurch@frontiernet.net](mailto:stritascatholicchurch@frontiernet.net)

### **Updated Deacon Community Directory Coming**

Anne will be working on updating the Deacon Community Directory to be published this Fall. You can help by checking your listing and letting Anne know of any changes at 517-342-2510 or [arivet@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:arivet@dioceseoflansing.org). In particular, check your email address and work number. Also, let us know if you have a cell phone and would like the number in the directory.

## Abandonment to Divine Providence

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the floor who reads young patients uncannily well. I asked him if he knew the patient. Yes, he did. He confirmed the nurse's comments. The story unfolded about a young man living in a half-way house with one other person who worked and didn't pay much attention to him. He was pretty much on his own. It was a tragedy, he said, when a child gets sick and there is NO support system. Yep.

The Tuesday and Thursday I visited this young man were during Holy Week. I haven't seen him since. When I think back on these events through the haze of my own emotions I am immediately drawn to the image of Christ on the cross...in pain, abandoned, no one to comfort him. I cannot find the words to express the connection among these events and the Passion. I am now as helpless in providing anything for that young cancer patient as I am taking the nails out of Christ's body. He, the Lord, still suffers in pain, alone and abandoned, among our brothers and sisters today. I have seen Him there.

## Vocations to the Diaconate



Remember that the weekend of August 9 and 10 has been designated as Vocation to the Permanent Diaconate weekend in recognition of the feast of St. Lawrence the Deacon. It is our opportunity to encourage the men of our parishes to consider what we have found to be rewarding and fruitful.

## You Can Make a Difference

submitted by Fr. Charlie Irving

"Each time someone stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, they send forth a tiny ripple of hope and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of repression and injustice."

Robert F. Kennedy



The Diocese of Lansing  
Formation Department  
Presents

*Conversations in  
Ministry 2008*

***"Unity through Diversity"***  
*A "Chautauqua" for Pastoral Leaders*

Saturday, August 16, 2008  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

at

Church of the Resurrection  
1531 East Michigan Ave.  
Lansing, Michigan, 48912

***"Unity through Diversity"***  
***A "Chautauqua"***  
for Pastoral Leaders

*Program*

- |          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| 9:00 am  | Coffee & Registration |
| 9:30 am  | Morning Prayer        |
| 9:45 am  | Introduction/Overview |
| 10:20 am | Break                 |
| 10:30 am | 1st Panel Session     |
| 11:30 am | Lunch                 |
| 12:30 pm | 2nd Panel Session     |
| 1:30 pm  | 3rd Panel Session     |
| 2:30 pm  | All Presenter Q & A   |
|          | Closing Prayer        |

*For further information contact:*

Nancy Joseph  
Office of Lay Ecclesial Ministry  
njoseph@dioceseoflansing.org  
(517) 342-2512

## Mr. Ronald Landfair

Ronald Landfair is the Diocesan Director of Black Catholic Ministry, Multi-Cultural Initiative Projects and Family Ministry Mini-Grant Program. He is also a current board member of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry.

Mr. Landfair holds a masters degree in Pastoral Studies from *Loyola University of New Orleans*, and a bachelors degree in Urban and Metropolitan Studies and Economics from *Michigan State University*.

He is a graduate of the *Teaching for Spiritual Growth Institute*, sponsored by *Harvard University, Weston School of Theology* and *Boston College*. And he is a certified presenter in *Recovering from Racism*, and *Pluri-cultural Ministry*.

Ronald Landfair has served as speaker and workshop presenter at Catholic universities and colleges including Notre Dame, Siena Heights, Fordham, Aquinas College and Sacred Heart Major Theological Seminary. He has presented and served on panels at Michigan State University, The University of Michigan, and Lansing Community College. Conversant in all forms of multimedia Ronald Landfair has worked with local talk radio as well as Faith-TV local cable program. An award winning writer, Mr. Landfair has published in *America Magazine*, the *Catholic News Service*, *Faith Magazine*, *The Youth Ministry Resource Manual*, *Seminary Journal* and the *Catholic Times*.

### ***"Unity through Diversity"***

Is a focused conversation -A **"Chautauqua"** for pastoral leaders designed by Diocesan Director, Ronald Landfair. Incorporating

presentations, reflective interaction and dialogue among ministers from different backgrounds, the *Unity through Diversity Chautauqua* aims to familiarize participants with important social, cultural and theological understandings of the diverse peoples of the Diocese of Lansing.

Both qualitative and quantitative in its design, the workshop will include a variety of presenters. The process will help participants explore and **appreciate the "many faces in the**

Conversations in Ministry is for

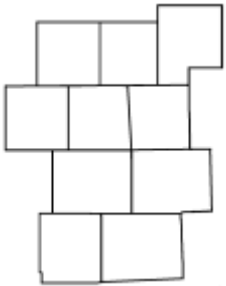
- Seminarians
- Diaconal candidates and aspirants
- Students in the *Ministry Formation Program*
- Formation instructors, mentors and spiritual directors



Diocese of Lansing  
Office of Deacons

300 West Ottawa St.  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Submit newsletter articles to the Office of Deacons  
([bsirl@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:bsirl@dioceseoflansing.org) or [arivet@dioceseoflansing.org](mailto:arivet@dioceseoflansing.org))



*Upcoming Formation Event:*

*Conversations in Ministry*

2008

***“Unity through Diversity”***

*A “Chautauqua”*

for Pastoral Leaders

Directed by Ronald Landfair

*details inside*