## Seminarian Joseph Derico Shares a Glimpse of Life in the Seminary



Editor's note: Joe Derico is a seminarian at St. John Paul II Seminary, Washington, D.C.

It would be impossible for me to accurately describe how life in the seminary works. Some people say that Disney World is the happiest place on earth, but I beg to differ. Each day, I rise within the walls of St.

John Paul II Seminary surrounded by 53 of the most kind and joyful men on the planet. Halfway through my second year of seminary, the Lord has shown me that it is prayer, and my relationship with Him, that fosters joy, peace, and most importantly, trust.

Seminary formation is focused on discernment and discipleship. We seek to begin and end our days asking for Christ's aid to see His will for our lives. We hope to further discern each day whether God is calling us to serve his church, to give ourselves to Him as His priests. This disposition reminds us that we can achieve nothing without prayer: we cannot properly understand how to serve the Lord without first knowing how He is looking at us and hearing His voice.

Before seminary, I could not have imagined what seminary brotherhood would be like. We are united in all things not only because we are united in Christ, but also because we each understand the struggles which our brothers are having in their discernment, because we all have them. Some may experience more of these struggles than others; some may experience them in greater magnitude; but we all have some taste of each of the issues which the enemy puts in front of us. We are united in the same cause, interceding on behalf of our brothers; we are united in prayer.

Seminary has taught me that I cannot understand what God is asking me to do with my life if I do not put my relationship with Him first. Prayer is how we communicate with God. All relationships require communication, and our relationship with God is no different. Prayer is heart speaking to heart; it is the only way to maintain the loving relationship He desires for us.

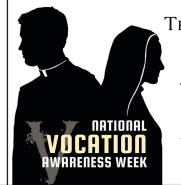
St. John Henry Newman's episcopal motto, which appeared on his coat of arms was just that, Cor ad Cor Loquitur. Heart speaks to heart, the Sacred Heart of our Lord speaks to each of us in prayer, and we just have to be willing to take the time to listen. It is the unity which is engendered in the life of the seminary which makes this call to listen to the Sacred Heart so powerful.

Seminary has made me appreciate the time that I spend in prayer even more. Before, prayer sometimes felt like a burden, an hour which I "have" to spend with the Lord. Now, I see it as an hour that I "get" to talk to God about what he is asking of me and receive His love. This outlook does not come naturally, and I must first fight the idea that I could be doing something more important. This is especially important, with midterms just around the corner. But then I



realize there is nothing more important that I do each day: not my schoolwork, my reading, or even the time I spend with friends. To become like Christ is the preeminent goal of the Christian life, and so prayer must be primary in my day. Only through that dialogue can I come to find Christ's salvation offered freely to each of us.

St. Padre Pio famously said, "Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer." It's hard to believe the Lord has taught me so much in my first semester, but Padre Pio echoes the best, yet simplest, lesson I've learned: God speaks, and He listens!



THE GRACE OF ORDINATION
By Deacon John Yaquinta

&

What is God Calling You to Do By Sister Martha Gomez, RGS

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## THE GRACE OF ORDINATION

By Deacon John Yaquinta

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE, OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, STONEWOOD

I have always felt called to do more for God. As an adult, I taught religious education classes, but the Lord wanted more. So, I became a youth director, but the Lord wanted more. So, I became a coordinator of adult formation, but the Lord wanted more. And then, I received a call to become a permanent deacon.

Living the life of a permanent deacon, you have one foot in the life of the clergy, and one foot in the life of the lay people, and you form a bridge of sorts between the two worlds. You still live and exist as a lay person (being married, with children, and a secular job), but you also have responsibilities in the parish (preaching, teaching, sacramental prep., etc.). Being a permanent deacon demands that you balance that life between the two worlds.

Every man who goes through the formation program soon learns that you have to make sacrifices. You cannot continue to do all the activities you used to do before entering formation and still do all the work that the formation program demands and remain a good husband and father. You must draw the line between those activities that bring you closer to God and those that do not, and there draw the line.

Inside the church on weekends, being a deacon looks similar in every parish. But outside the weekend Eucharist, deacons have many different ministries. I get to work with people coming into the church via the new OCIA program. I work with couples preparing for marriage and the baptism of their children. I lead an adult Bible Study and



a weekly Holy Hour that we started during the National Eucharistic Revival. I am also fortunate that I get to support the Office of Permanent Diaconate Formation as the Coordinator of the Formation Program. Other deacons visit prisons, bring communion to the sick and shut-in, visit hospitals, direct food drives, hold communion services in nursing homes, and a few even work as pastoral associates.

My life is full. Between being a husband, a father, a software engineer, and a permanent deacon I feel like I am doing all I can possibly do for the Lord. At times I feel totally exhausted; but it is a feeling of doing everything I possibly can to serve the Lord. People often ask, 'How do you do it all?' My response is always, 'Ordination grace. At my ordination, God gave me the grace I need to do what he has called me to do as a permanent deacon. I just rely on that grace!'

## What is God Calling You to Do

By Sister Martha Gomez, RGS

Delegate for Consecrated Life in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



As we welcome National Vocation Awareness Week, I would like to share with you what my vocation to religious life means for me.

I have lived religious life for years as a Good Shepherd sister. I am pleased to share with you my strong attraction to consecrated life.

This attraction brought me to embrace religious life. I love and appreciate my vocation and I pray every day that I may be worthy of such a calling. As a consecrated woman, I am called to be a living witness of the love of God. Jesus tells His disciples in John 15: 9: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love." And again, in John 15; 16: "You did not choose me, but I have chosen you. And

appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." I live my religious life through being faithful to my vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience and pray for the salvation of Souls. Every day I enjoy praying Morning and Evening Prayer with the whole Church throughout the world.

I pray that young people will be open to spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament and ask Jesus "What do you want of me Lord? and wait for the answer. During the Blessed Mother's time of prayer, she received the invitation to be the mother of Jesus. Let us ask Mary to teach our youth to be faithful listeners and give them the courage to go into the deep of God's love.

Let us pray for vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Consecrated Life.

# Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Garcia Exposed for Veneration Nov. 12-27 in Our Diocese

Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia – patrons of the National Eucharistic Revival - will be in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston from November 12-27 for the faithful to venerate.



Many know of Blessed Carlo Acutis. He was a typical teen and is now on the road to sainthood. His story and his devotion to the blessed Sacrament make Acutis the ideal role model and intercessor for Catholics young and old in this much needed awakening of our souls.

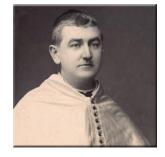
In 2006, Bl. Carlo Acutis died from leukemia. He was 15. From the time he was 11 he began compiling facts of Eucharistic miracles. Acutis used his love of the computer to share his fascination with the world by creating a website still maintained today by his friends and family (www.



MIRACOLIEUCARISTICI.ORG/EN/LISTE/LIST.HTML). The site is presented in 17 languages and has downloadable posters for parishes and schools to have. It is truly a virtual museum with facts, images, and maps of the miracles from across the globe.

He believed "the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven."

Saint Manuel was canonized six years ago, but most do not know his story. Because of his deep devotion to Eucharistic Adoration, Saint Manuel of Spain is also known as the



"Bishop of the Tabernacle."

His dream as a young priest was to serve a vibrant church, one filled with a standing room only crowd eager to hear his homilies and receive the Blessed Sacrament. However, St. Manuel's parish was poorly attended, and the building

was sadly neglected. He wanted another assignment and out of his situation because he lacked the knowledge and energy to make it better - or so he thought.

When St. Manuel prayed before the tabernacle, pouring his heart out to God, he heard the Lord speak to him. St. Manuel later wrote about the experience before the abandoned tabernacle, "My faith was looking at Jesus through the door of that tabernacle, so silent, so patient, so good, gazing right back at me...His gaze was telling me much and asking me for more. It was a gaze in which all the sadness of the Gospels was reflected; the sadness of 'no room in the Inn"; the sadness of those words, "Do you also want to leave me?"; the sadness of poor Lazarus begging for crumbs from the rich man's table; the sadness of the betrayal of Judas, the denial of Peter, of the soldier's slap, of the spittle of the Praetorium, and the abandonment of all. All of this sadness was there in that tabernacle, oppressing and crushing the sweet Heart of Jesus and drawing bitter tears from his eyes."

Saint Manuel revived his calling and began being the priest for the people energized by the Eucharist and his spirited personal message, "Don't abandon Him!"





Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

## HOLY RELICS TOUR of Bl. Carlo Acutis & St. Manuel Garcia

Nov. 12-27

#### Nov. 12:

Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Public Veneration

#### Nov. 13

8:00 AM to 12:30 PM – Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton – Public Veneration

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM – Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Wheeling – Public Veneration

6:00 PM -Taizé Candlelight Service/Relics Display Diocesan Chancery Building Atrium

#### Nov. 14

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Public Veneration 6:00 PM - Mass with Relics present

#### Nov. 15

Saint Joseph, Huntington

10:30am-12noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with the relics present

12:00 PM - Mass with the relics present

12:30-5:30pm Eucharistic Adoration with Veneration of the Relics

3:00 PM- Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and an hour of Sacred Music

Exposition and Adoration from 6pm until 8pm concluding with Benediction

Reconciliation will be available

#### Nov. 16

Saint Francis de Sales, Beckley 1:00-6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration with Veneration of the Relics 5:00-6:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:00 p.m. Benediction 6:30 p.m. Mass with Relics present

#### Nov. 17

St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg 11am-12:30pm – Public Veneration Saint Francis Xavier, Parkersburg (times TBD)

#### Nov. 18

Saint Patrick School and Parish, Weston (times TBD)

#### Nov. 19

3-4:30 pm - Immaculate Conception - Clarksburg (Mass at 4:30pm)

#### Nov. 20

8:30am to 2:00 PM St. John University Parish, Morgantown (Relics present at all the Mass. Public veneration in between Masses)

#### Nov. 21

8:30AM Mass at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown

#### Nov. 22

8:30AM Mass at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown

#### Nov. 26

Saint Joseph, Martinsburg 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM - Public Veneration 5:00 PM - Relics present at the Mass 7:00 PM - Relics present at the Spanish Mass.

#### Nov. 27

Saint James, Charles Town 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Relics present at all Masses. Public veneration in between Masses)

Updates and more info: <a href="https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/">https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/</a>



#### Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

## True Food for the Journey

By Deacon Paul Lim, Father Cyprian Osuegbu, and Sister Mary Ann Rosenbaum, CSJ - WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital, Pastoral Care Team

In every parish church you will find the tabernacle, the special place where the Eucharist is reserved during Mass after Holy Communion. But many do not realize for who the Eucharist is reserved. In addition to devotion and adoration, the Church has always reserved the Eucharist for the sick and those who cannot be at Mass (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1379).

At WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital, up to 35 Catholic patients a day receive Holy Communion through the ministry of our two priests, two CSJ Sisters, and a generous team volunteer Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. An additional 30 patients receive Holy Communion regularly at the Continuous Care Center.

The Eucharist has a major role in their healing process both spiritually and physically, yet many who are sick are not able to receive the Eucharist regularly at Mass because they are unable to leave

their home. This has left many people who are homebound without the Eucharist, some for even years. So, when they have to be in the hospital for a medical need, many Catholic patients are grateful for the opportunity to make a sacramental confession as necessary and receive Jesus in the Eucharist again. They are also encouraged to reconnect with their parish and to invite their own clergy to visit.

When the Eucharist is purposely received prior to death, it is called *viaticum*. *Viaticum* in Latin means "provision for a journey." When we receive Holy Communion during Mass, we are drawn into a closer union to Jesus in His journey back to the Father through His passion, death, and resurrection. When we receive Jesus at the time of our passing, we are reminded in a special way that we too are journeying back to the Father!

Because this is so powerful, it is common for one of our priests in the hospital to be called to see a patient who is close to death. If the patient is able, the priest will invite the patient to make a sacramental Confession before granting the Apostolic Pardon:

"By the authority which the Apostolic See has given me, I grant you a full pardon and the remission of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Through the holy mysteries of our redemption, may almighty God release you from all punishments in this life and in the life to come. May He open to you the gates of paradise and welcome you to everlasting joy." (*Pastoral Care of the Sick*)

And then after receiving Holy Communion as viaticum, the priest prays: "May the Lord Jesus Christ protect you and lead you to eternal life."

To know that Jesus is with us in a real way during this time is a source of great comfort to the patient and to family members because are reminded that He will guide us on the way that He Himself has already travelled for us. When received as *viaticum*, the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Anointing of the Sick, are the "sacraments that prepare for our heavenly homeland or the sacraments that complete our earthly pilgrimage" (Catechism of the Catholic Church,



1525).

Priests, deacons, and lay ministers who bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound know the sacred responsibility that they have and are edified with what is entrusted to them. They recognize that grace is just as necessary as eating and breathing because they have witnessed the life-changing effects of the sacraments for those who desperately need them. We can also consider them to be vessels of the Holy Spirit since they are often the first to convey our support and concern to those who may feel estranged or isolated from the Church.

When we encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, whether through receiving Holy Communion during Mass or when visiting a church for prayer and adoration, be assured that He is there for you. At the same time, we should also know that Jesus is especially present for those who cannot be with us. Our Lord is reserved in tabernacles throughout the world because it is important for the sick and the dying to receive the "true food" so that they can remain with Jesus on the journey to everlasting life (John 6).

## Honor our Black Catholic History

November is Black Catholic History Month.

Take time this month and do more to honor our Black Catholic history. Currently in the Catholic Church, we have six men and women of African American descent on the road to sainthood. Their path in life brought many strains, struggles, and unjust treatment. The fact is they were treated less than human by society and experienced institutional racism. While we can't change our history, through awareness and education, we can learn from their lives and become a better people – a better Church.

Black Catholic History Month
Honoring Gifts of Culture & Faith

• Venerable Pierre Toussaint (1776-1853) - taught us the importance of sharing our love of God through our words and actions. Venerable Pierre was born a slave to the Berard family in Haiti around 1766. The family moved to New York with Pierre when he was about 21. After they arrived, Mr. Berard died. Pierre learned how to be a hairdresser, a luxury service at that time for wealthy women. His earnings supported Mrs. Berard. It wasn't until she died about 16 years later that he became a free man. He was proud of his Catholic faith, sharing with all of his customers the beauty of Christ and the Church. His life was a life of charity - helping the sick, caring for the abandoned, and raising money for Mother (later saint) Elizabeth Seton's orphanage. He and his wife Juliette helped open the first Catholic school in New York for black children, and a religious order of nuns for black women. Pierre also made it a priority to give to the appeal that built the first Cathedral in New York, the original St. Patrick's Cathedral. He was given a seat of honor at the dedication Mass, which was unheard of because of the color of his skin. He was originally buried in the cathedral cemetery, but in 1990 his remains were moved inside the cathedral among the cardinals and archbishops. Read more about him HERE.

- · Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (birth is estimated circa 1784- died Feb. 3,1882) - founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of African American women religious in the history of the Catholic Church. It is believed she was born into an affluent Catholic family in Cuba. By 1813 she had relocated to Baltimore (a slave state before the Emancipation Proclamation). She used her own money and home to educate black children many of Caribbean descent. Fifteen years later the Church approached her to start a formal Catholic school for girls of color. She said she would, but also wanted to begin a religious order that would be the first congregation of women of African heritage. A year later she and three other black women professed vows as members of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. After the Civil War she opened an orphanage for black destitute children. Read about her life at: www.motherlange.org
- Venerable Henriette Delille (1813-1862) founded the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, a religious community of African American women. The congregation is still strong today continuing to serve youth, elderly, and the poor and needy.

This blessed woman is described as a humble and devout who "devoted herself untiringly for many years, without reserve, to the religious instruction of the people of New Orleans, principally slaves...." In her honor, let us humble ourselves, quiet our world, and focus on the prayer she said, "I believe in God, I hope In God. I love. I want to live and die for God." Read more about her at: <a href="https://www.sistersoftheholyfamily.com/henriette-delille">www.sistersoftheholyfamily.com/henriette-delille</a>

- Julia Greeley (born sometime between 1833-1848 and died 1918) honored as a great disciple of the Sacred Heart by the Jesuit fathers of their parish in Colorado. She was called Denver's Angel of Charity and a guardian of firefighters. Servant of God Julia Greeley was born in Missouri into slavery, but once freed she traveled to Denver Colorado, where she spent the rest of her life showing mercy, love, and charity to others. Read about her inspiring life at: JULIAGREELEY.ORG
- **Sr. Thea Bowman** (1937-1990) –was the daughter of a Mississippi doctor and a teacher, a granddaughter of slaves. This dynamic lady was proclaimed a "holy woman" in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Two years ago today, her cause for sainthood was approved by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and on June 1, 2018, she was declared a Servant of God.

She was eager to learn from other cultures, but also wanted to share the abundance of her African American culture and spirituality. She was the first non-white member of her congregation (the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration) in an all-white city in Wisconsin. Her friends, both religious and lay, said she had the uncanny gift and energy that brought people together. She was a highly acclaimed evangelizer, teacher, writer, and singer sharing the joy of the Gospel. Despite her debilitating battle with breast cancer, she did not let it stop her from speaking to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1989. She explained what it meant to be African American and Catholic. She enlightened the bishops on African American history and spirituality. She urged them to continue to evangelize the African American community, to promote inclusivity and full participation of African Americans within Church leadership, and to understand the necessity and value of Catholic schools in the African American community. She seemingly touched the hearts of the bishops as evidenced by their thunderous applause and tears flowing from their eyes, after she brought them together all arm-inarm to sing "We Shall Overcome." Read more at: www. SISTERTHEABOWMAN.COM

• Father Augustus Tolton (1854-1897) – was the first Roman Catholic priest in the US. A former slave, Fr. Tolton was ordained in Rome and served as pastor of St. Boniface in Quincy, Illinois. He was known as "Good Father Gus," who had eloquent sermons and a beautiful signing voice. His story, which is beautifully inspiring because of his genuine love of God and God's people, but is also a poignant reminder of the accepted discrimination and a racist taunting that occurred in society and even in the brotherhood of the priesthood and the Church hierarchy. His story is so impressive and illustrates his strong will, courage, and determination to let nothing stop him from serving the Lord. Take time to learn more about him at: TOLTON, ARCHCHICAGO, ORG.

Dear Jesus, as we observe Black Catholic History Month, we call upon your saving grace to help ensure that the dignity of all of our brothers and sisters of color is honored, celebrated, and respected in our parishes, communities, schools, and homes.

Help us to not only open our eyes and our hearts as we not only speak unity, but also think and act like you. Amen.

#### THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### First Reading: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

The prophet shares the story of the seven brothers and their mother. They were tortured and killed for refusing to violate God's law. They were steadfast in their faith even in the last moments of the horrific ordeal because they knew they God will raise them up to live with Him forever.

#### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 17

"Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full."

#### Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

In his letter to the Thessalonians, St. Paul calls upon God to encourage the faithful in mind and heart. Then he asks the faithful to pray for the evangelizers as they do for their own, that the Lord will guard them from every evil.

#### Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

Jesus is teaching us that when we die life has not ended but changed – for those who love God there is no death.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/110622.CFM

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church and all her members, that through our Eucharistic Revival our hearts and minds are awakened to the love and joy of Christ – for by the Cross and Resurrection He has set us free, let us pray to the Lord. . .

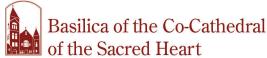
For our nation's leaders and all those of authority, that they stand tall as an example for all, honoring our veterans who served with honor to protect our freedoms, let us pray to the Lord. . .

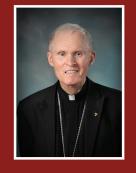
For an increase in vocations to not only build the Church, but also to nurture and evangelize our families and communities, let us pray to the Lord...

For all those who minister to the faithful – both religious and laity, may the Holy Spirit continue to energize their mission to serve as Christ taught his followers, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer











Mass - 5pm

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

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Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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#### MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at <u>DWC.ORG</u>.