

The Clarion



Newsletter of the Brothers of Christian Instruction

Maine Finally Gets Its Bishop

Most Rev. Bishop Robert Peter Deeley



Fortunately the Feb. 13 snow storm blew out of southern Maine in time to enable most of the invited guests to attend the installation of Robert Deeley as Maine's 12th bishop. The ticketed 2 ½ hour ceremony took place Friday afternoon, Feb. 14, in Portland's historic 145-year old Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Each of Maine religious communities were given one ticket; Provincial superior Br. Jerome Lessard, represented the FICs. Ordained Bro. Ted Letendre was invited to attend one of 68 priests active in the diocese.

From his vantage point in the second row, Br. Ted followed with amazement the pageantry enriched with tradition. He witnessed the outgoing Apostolic Administrator, Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone welcoming the congregation, his last official act as 11th bishop of Maine. Then came in splendid liturgical regalia the archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Sean O'Malley to preside over the introductory rites. The Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the US, the most reverend Carlo Maria Vigano stepped forward to read Pope Francis's apostolate mandate appointing Deeley as the new bishop of Portland.

Bishop Deeley's experience of Catholicism began in the Boston area as one of five sons of Michael and Mary, now deceased, natives of County Galway, Ireland. His priestly and professional studies were pursued at Catholic University in DC, North American College in Rome and finally at the Gregorian University, also in Rome.

Proficient in canon law, he participated in the administration of the Boston Archdiocese while serving as assistant and as pastor in area churches. Fr. Deeley was named monsignor in 1995 and in 2004 was summoned to Rome where for 7 years he served as an official of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He returned to Boston in 2011 and within 15 months Pope Benedict XVI named him Auxiliary Bishop to Boston's Cardinal O'Malley who ordained him to the episcopacy on January 4, 2013.

Several NDI Brothers followed the event televised live on EWTN. All were impressed by the performance of the choir and musicians. Most of the 700+ in attendance gathered for an informal reception at Ocean Gateway on Portland's waterfront.

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May They Rest in Peace

Br. Edmond (Raymond) Drouin died on Dec. 14 in D'Youville Pavilion (Lewiston) where, a resident of 5 years, he celebrated that summer his 92nd birthday and his 75th anniversary as a religious Brother. Funeral and burial took place in Alfred on Dec. 19.

Sr. Regina Drody, 87, of the Sisters of O.L. of the Holy Rosary, died on Feb. 11 in Rimouksi, QC where she was a resident at the sisters' retirement facility since August 2012 after spending 30 years on the Notre Dame campus as assistant to the Director of the Spiritual Center. A spring memorial service celebrating her life will take place on the Notre Campus open to the public.

Our 2014 Anniversaries

60 Years: Br. Mark Couture is in his third year in Plattsburgh where with Brothers Ray Fortin and Charles Thomas he helps maintain the FIC presence in that traditional setting. As a retired teacher he enjoys reading, maintaining a keen interest in history and politics. He remains the articulate confident and outgoing person many knew him during his 27 years in his beloved Alfred where he kept the grounds looking great; he rightfully took much pride in the looks of the community cemetery. In Plattsburgh he enjoys his volunteer work with the Saturday night bingo. Recent struggles with health issues mainly associated with the ageing process (he is 79 years old) have occasioned a welcomed weight loss. When duty next calls, he hopes it will be back to Alfred close to his family and friends in Sanford.



70 years: Br. Marcel Sylvestre remains actively interested in the progress of the congregation's missionary undertakings. As First Assistant during the years 1982-1994 his was the duty to visit the institute's schools and formation houses in mission territories. As a sociologist this Biddeford, ME native never failed to study the culture of the countries he would visit. Now in "retirement" at 85 he is able to assist missionaries and Third World religious through his Mission Project Services. His published directory now in its 7th edition is a greatly appreciated resource for grant searchers. Invitations to offer workshops on this topic occasion trips to Asia and Africa. He is energized by the opportunity to travel and offer this service in spite of a few health issues, not quite sufficient to keep him at his home office on the Walsh U campus in Ohio.



This Nov. 6, 2011 photo of Br. Marcel features Bishop (now Cardinal) Langlois of Les Cayes, Haiti.

70 Years: Br. David Denicourt, a Fall River, MA native, rightfully prides himself of his 45 years as a very competent missionary school administrator in East Africa and his beloved Seychelles Islands. With the closing of that mission in 1999, he landed in Alfred not to retire but to offer his talents and



proven competencies both at the local and province levels. To this day he holds on to his daily mail pick-up duty. He is a frequent visitor to the Alfred Town Library for his reading material. At 86, a few health issues do not keep him from his quiet and unobtrusive daily walks about campus reviewing the maintenance needs of the many buildings. His remains courteous and pleasantly engaging with fellow religious, Shelter guests and visitors to the campus.



A year ago Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope on March 13. "The Pope of surprises" Francis has written a great apostolic letter. **THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL** is a blueprint for Catholics Get your copy and do not forget to smile.

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The quarterly newsletter is published by the Brothers of Christian Instruction Notre Dame Province, USA. It is financed by donations from its readers.

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“When I was hungry and thirsty, you...”

Though the famous Thanksgiving Food distribution when over 40 volunteers handed out over 1700 food boxes has come and gone, York County Shelter Food pantry is a year-round service because the need of poor people for food remains a year-round crisis that needs to be addressed. On a typical day, the Shelter hands out nearly 100 emergency boxes, enough to feed about 200 people – that’s on top of the two soup kitchens it operates in Sanford and Springvale.

The pantry is located in Notre Dame’s Old Shaker Barn, recently known for housing the supervised Brother Gatien Skating Arena.

The barn also serves as the distribution site for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program locally known as “the senior food distribution”. Every first Friday this federal program provides over 300 seniors with two bags of non-perishable foods plus cheese. In addition the Good Shepherd Food-Bank senior food mobile uses this convenient site for its almost monthly service. GFFB’s core program consists of acquiring surplus and donated food from food retailers, growers and distributors, as well as from community food drives. It partners with Maine farmers and seafood producers to bring local fresh, nutritious food to needy Maine families.

Maine holds several national records, one being the state with the highest percentage of senior citizens. Another not so glorious is that it is the third demonstrating food insecurity. This means that many hard working individuals and families are unsure of when or where they will have their next meal.

Sensitive to this increasing problem, the Brothers do get involved in these efforts. In **Alfred** besides making campus facilities available for YCS’s emergency food program, an annual Thanksgiving food collection takes place in Notre Dame Chapel under the direction of Br. Ted with area worshippers’ generously contributing to the special collection.

In **Canton**, the Brothers on the Walsh Univ. campus are known for their support and participation in the many student activities on campus collecting food and raising money for the poor and hungry.

On Mondays in **Plattsburgh** Br. Raymond goes to the Butcher Block (a local restaurant) to pick up gallons of soup which he brings to St. Peter’s and to the Salvation Army soup kitchens. Another run is made to Hannaford for pastries to be given out by the same kitchens and at the senior center. Occasionally the Plattsburgh Brothers will serve at the St. Joseph’s soup kitchen.

As Pope Francis reminds us, a sure means of encountering Jesus is in befriending the poor, the marginalized, the homeless. As Brother Ted reminds his “parishioners” Mother Teresa’s appeal was the way she modeled a concern for the neglected dying street people in Calcutta. The Christ she met in her daily experience of the Eucharist was enfleshed in the broken bodies of His favored poor. Through her these people met the God of love.



Roger Huppe, a third-year volunteer along with his wife Christine, are among the many needed to keep open the YCS pantry weekdays 1 to 4.



The Winter of Our Discontent

The winter of 2014 will be on the record books as one of the severest winters in 30 years. It will be remembered for its prolonged low temps and frequent storms, compliments of the lingering presence of the “polar vortex”. Thanks to the reliable snow removers furnished by the maintenance staff of YCSI, NDI’s roads and sidewalks remained passable to walkers, motorized scooters and car drivers.

Bob Dawber Becomes YCSI's Director

At its Feb. 19 meeting and as a conclusion to a national search, the Board of Directors of York County Shelter

Inc appointed Robert (Bob) Dawber as the successor to Don Gean who is retiring March 31 as Executive Director.

Gean is the founder of

YCSI starting some 30 years ago before it located on the Notre Dame campus in 1994. In 2012 Dawber was instrumental in bringing Serenity House in Portland which he had directed since 2006 under the YCSI umbrella. He is a seasoned nonprofit professional with more than 30 years of field experience, including 18 years in leadership positions. Having been a close associate of Gean as COO for the past two years, Bob will provide a smooth transition of YCSI into a new era, building on a very successful Don Gean tenure.



From page 1: Bishop Deeley

In his installation homily Bishop Deeley quoted Pope Francis in asking that the Catholic community show compassion to those who are poor, marginalized, lonely or forgotten. In his inaugural visits to the 200,000 or so faithful in the 55 remaining parishes covering the entire State the new Bishop will invite young men to the priesthood encouraging all to a personal life-transforming encounter with Jesus. "Everyone should strive to live the gospel of Jesus with joy."

We welcome Bishop Robert Deeley to Maine which – as he stated - is worth more than a visit. It is worth a lifetime - for, after all, here is how life ought to be.

Thank you, Clarion Supporters as of Feb. 28

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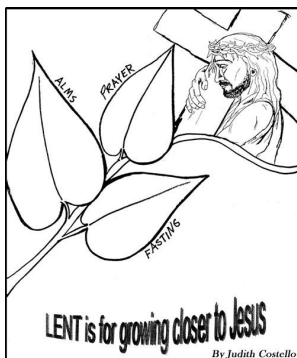
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The Brothers of Christian Instruction

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Spring 2014

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