



DiaconoNews

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Pastoral care & economics of the global world

By Virginia Rodriguez-Balanoff R.N.

On Feb. 4-11th a group of eleven seminary students and Professors James Poling and Osvaldo Vena, both from Garret Theological Seminary and Professor Joy Heine of Interfaith Worker Justice, left for the U.S. –Mexico Border near Tucson, AZ. The purpose was to develop a better understanding of the Gospel message of Mark on border issues, economics and the Christian message of being responsible to each other as fellow human beings and stewards of the earth. As an educational program in a border immersion, Borderlinks builds relationships and understanding between North and Latin Americans, encourages a shared analysis of the implications of the global economy, and capacitates leaders on both sides of the border who work together to foster healthy communities locally and internationally (www.borderlinks.org).

In this immersion, thee were able to visualize communities who were lifting the Gospel message to care for each other as brothers and sisters. On the U.S. side of the border, several Christian communities were not willing to stand idly by and watch people die of dehydration and starvation in their desert land of plenty. Their community motto is "humane borders." They are honoring the laws of the state and federal government; however they are acting as Christians to be the good Samaritans and give water to those dying of thirst. Because of the potential economic cost of dehydration emergency care, the state of Arizona has seen the wisdom of treating the undocumented humanely and has allowed the citizens of Arizona to fill water tanks in the desert. Thugs and vigilantes are taking the law into their own hands. They are shooting migrants crossing the border. A monument wall containing over two thousand names of persons (men, women and children) who died crossing the border is inscribed on this monument wall. In viewing the names on the wall, each row contained at least one to three

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Without God I can't but without me God won't.

-St. Augustine

Seems to be a tall order, doesn't it? Yet over and over again, throughout my call to the diaconate, I have been struck by how true the above sentiment is. Like all leaders in the church, we are called to see more than our own personal journey and to be responsive to the journeys of others. But perhaps in the diaconate, we are more pushed to that sharp point of "other awareness" since our call so often takes us out of the church, past the German and Norwegian jokes, and outward toward cultures not usually seen as Lutheran. Therefore, being able to effectively communicate the message of god's love and grace is vital.

As an wonderful example, in a powerpoint presentation (available at the ELCA diaconate website), Kathy Massa brings home to her audiences that the diaconate is one of the newest and oldest ministries going. We have always been called to the larger world, but are just now being recognized as doing so. Given that aspect of "other awareness," we need to be conscious that we are often the introduction to Lutheranism, if not Christianity, for many with whom we interact. Again, Augustine's words should come back to us, that God has called us to be powerful witnesses in the larger world and that the Spirit in her wisdom is using us to communicate that message.

I have recently been asked to chair the Communications Team for the diaconal community. I am flattered to be used in this way, and I ask your help to feed the community with accurate and up-to-date information. If any of you are meeting to discuss diaconal issues and/or events, please drop me a line that I may share with the larger community. Equally, if there are issues you wish me to pass to the Leadership Team, make me aware of those too. If there are issues you would like to see discussed in the newsletter, and feel your writing skills are not up to the task, chat with me to see the best way to get that talking point out there.

The diaconate is a powerful and wonderful ministry to which we have been called. And no matter where you are in the process or in your journey of ministry, I want you to know that the Lord is with you. And remember, Without God I can't but without me God won't.

Lisa K. Watson-Hill
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Mpls/St. Paul diaconals share in monthly fellowship

Diaconal ministers, candidates, and other lay rostered folks in and around St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota are encouraged to attend monthly gatherings held at Luther Seminary to promote community, pray, and learn about each other's ministry areas. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month in the Olson Campus Center cafeteria at Luther Seminary. Times vary to allow for differing work schedules. For more information, contact Krista Lind at klind@luthersem.edu.

MONTHLY DATES and TIMES (All dates are on Thursdays):

March 15 – Lunch: 11:45 am (room to be determined)
April 26 – Dinner: 6:00 pm
May 17 – Lunch: 11:45 am (room to be determined)

**Got a picture to share or
a story to tell?
Contact DiacoNews edi-
tor Jennifer Larson at
jenniferllarson@hotmail.com
or 715-497-6145.**

Lord, in your infinite mercy...

Prayers for healing and hope...

- The husband of Jennifer Vasquez (currently living in Okinawa, Japan) who is a marine serving in Iraq, and their 2-year-old daughter who doesn't understand why her daddy isn't at home
- Linda Kruse and members of Good Shepherd, Springfield, Ohio on the death of their pastor, Amy Fauquet
- Doug Spiotta, on the death of his mother, Gladys, who died peacefully in her sleep
- Charles Smith, dialysis / awaiting transplant
- Alex Herrera, husband of Sue (Vogel) Herrera, cancer remission
- DM candidate Sandra Reback and her friend, Marj
- DM candidate, Tamara Harder, battling breast cancer
- Judy Knapp, ongoing health concerns
- Michelle Svoboda, newborn granddaughter of Doug Spiotta, born with Frog Legs
- Elaine Brant, safe travels to Tanzania February 25-July 12
- Becky Wiese, safe travels to Africa in March for an HIV/AIDS conference
- Esther Schmidt, safe travels to Tanzania in July to visit their congregational partner

Prayers of discernment for those approved, awaiting call...

Cynthia Baxter, Kathleen Bonn, Joel Bradtke, Ellen Doughty, Robert Fisher, Tonya Gunton, Anna Hollingbery, Nicole Houck, Kelly Howard, Maria Hurni, Troy Jacobson, Janet Johnson, Diana Luscombe, Rachel March, Kathy Massa, Rebecca Mastalerz, Augustus Mauro, Jeremy McElvain, Elaine Olson, Sarah Parker, Janice Phoebus, Terra Rowe, Nancy Selinger, Charles Smith, Meghan Sobocienski, Julie Stegelmann, Shirley Talbot, Georgia Van Hoesen, Peggy Vuylsteke, Christopher Wagener, Lisa Hill Watson, Linda Zawaski, Karen Zelle

Prayers of thanksgiving for those recently consecrated and anticipating consecration...

#119	Eric Price	11-12-06	Kristi Gullickson	3/11/07
#120	Bob Pfennig	11-26-06	Jeff Schacht	3/25/07
#121	Bill Dahl	12-03-06	Karen Gerth	4/22/07
#122	Harry Prim	1-14-07	George Bennett	5/04/07
#123	Daniel Kane	1-20-07	James Wise	5/04/07
#124	Kathleen Storey	1-27-07		
#125	Amy Hartman	1-28-07		

If you know of an upcoming consecration, a candidate who has recently been approved for call, or any other prayer concerns, please contact krisp@visi.com so that our data base can be updated.

Follow the road to Emmaus and find balance

This Easter Season, begin anew by following the road to Emmaus.

By Tammy Devine, ELCA Board of Pensions

“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him...” (Luke 24, 13 – 17)

The story of the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13 – 49) is a multidimensional journey that encompasses all aspects of well-being. During the seven weeks of Easter, make time to walk and assess your own physical, emotional, intellectual, social, vocational and spiritual wellness. Then, select an area in which you feel in most need of balance and set a goal to take you on your wellness journey. Materials are available at www.elcabop.org.

Follow the road to Emmaus — invite Jesus to walk with you and live as a new creation in Christ.

Consultation on Vocation and Service **Feb 5-8, 2007 – Duncan Center, Delray Beach, Florida**

By Kris Perry

The spirit was present and moving among us! These sentiments were felt by the majority, if not by all, of the participants of the Consultation on Vocation and Service of the ELCA recently in Delray Beach, Florida. The three lay rosters of the ELCA came together for three full days of wonderful worship using the new ELW book, participated in lively small group discussions, listened to provocative speakers, reconnected with colleagues, and met and valued new friendships.

A full summary of what the 17 diaconal ministers experienced was written by Beth Barkhau and was sent out via our CDMTALK list serve. If you did not receive a copy, I invite you to visit our website at www.elca.org/diaconalministry/ to download your own copy. Additionally, a statement from Rev. Stan Olson, executive director of the Vocation and Education Unit, will be coming out soon reflecting his understanding of our time together.

Tammy Devine and I were part of the Planning Team for this event and have read through the evaluations of the Consultation concluding that, indeed, the Holy Spirit was not only present, but working throughout the event as evidenced by lively discussions with renewed understanding of the three lay rosters' partnership in ministry, our mutuality and our value to one another.

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New info sought for DMC archives

By Sue Setzer and Karen White, co-archivists

Over 29 pounds of files recording the birth and formation of the Diaconal Ministry Community from 1988 to 2005 now rest in the ELCA Archives in Chicago. Anyone may receive copies of items by contacting Elisabeth Wittman, Director of Archives and Chief Archivist at Elisabeth.Wittman@elca.org or 773-380-2818.

The DMC archives are organized into five categories: Minutes, General Subject Files, Publications, Events Files, and Audiovisuals. The Leadership Team provides copies of the Minutes. I have copies of *Dia-koNews* and items diaconal ministers have mailed to me since the last gathering.

We are ready to add more after the next gathering at Carefree in April. The pre-2006 archives are fairly complete, but we do need information about the consecration of at least the first five diaconal ministers. Others are welcomed. If you send photographs, make a black and white copy and identify each person on the copy of the photo. Also write the event, place, and date. Place the copy behind the picture.

As you go through your files from January 2006 – April 2007, think about the types of information a graduate student or historian fifty-some years from now might need to understand the life and ministry of this community. Send a clearly labeled CD with a cover sheet describing the contents when possible. Power-Point presentations, brochures and articles about diaconal ministry, and copies of your own relevant publications will help. Bring archival materials to the gathering or send them to Sue Setzer at suesetzer@bellsouth.net or 3600 Fountainhill Ridge Road, Charlotte, NC 28226.

Vigilantes continued from page 1

persons with the surname of Rodriguez, (my maiden name). This image left a deep pain in my heart. I sensed a strange potential reality that one of the deceased could be a relative, since I have never had the luxury of searching my Mexican roots.

Through Borderlinks we were able to meet with supervisors in the machiladores and workers from the Mexican community in Nogales, Mexico to understand the wages for the families that live in Nogales, Mexico, and the policies for industries follow safety standards that keep the environment healthy and their workers safe.

The impact of globalization on the Mexican economy after the North American Free Trade Agreement has resulted in cutting back on subsidies to the Mexican Farmer. This, on top of the effects of droughts as a result of global warming and the closing of markets, resulted in flight of these markets to Asian markets. These market flights sometimes happened after environmental safety issues and wage issues are questioned. Many Mexicans found themselves out of work, much like the American Workers. This market flight has caused an international alliance among workers to hold industries accountable for the health and wealth of the global community. A sincere call for a new critical economic evaluation of the distributions of wealth by new economists that have workers' interests at heart and the global environmental health on the radar screen has been summoned. This public call is being asserted by economists like Kathryn Tanner, Veronika Benholdt-Thomsen and Joseph Stiglitz. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and Wall Street need to have another international financial body that represents all world economies and workers financial investments on audit. This body would look at the intersection of the economies from a world-wide perspective on global capitalism and consider environmental safety in the care of all creation.

In reviewing the Gospel of Mark, they were able to see where Jesus crossed borders and led by example in calling for us to love one another. In Mark 2:1 in Capernaum, Jesus heals a paralytic. In Mark 5:1 in the country of Gerasenes, Jesus heals a man with an unclean spirit. In Mark 6:53 in Gennesaret, Jesus heals the sick. In Mark 7:24 in the region of Tyre, Jesus heals the Syrophoenician woman's daughter. In Mark 8:22 in Bethsieda, Jesus heals a blind man. In Mark 14:3 in Bethany, a woman with an alabaster jar anoints Jesus. In this Gospel journey, Jesus leads by example in treating even the outcasts of his time with concern and cares for them. Jesus shows us not to be afraid in crossing borders and to be hospitable.

The artists of the Nogales, Mexican community network speak of building bridges of love like Jesus did in his time. These bridges are bridges of love. One of the Latina nuns led an educational exercise to help us view a similar bridging concept of us all being immigrants on her front porch. She sliced her front porch into national regions so we could view our ancestry of origin as immigrants. She first had us go to where we currently lived. She then had us move to where we were born. In that move, half the people moved off the United States Map. Then, she asked us to move where our great, great, great, great, great, great, great grand parents lived. I found myself alone on the imagined American continent. I must admit I felt very lonely. Humans are social animals. I missed my friends who had moved to their respective nations. However, we are all one human race. We can all live together and work together to resolve these political, social, economic and theological issues in practicing our faith. We must also have faith that God has equipped us with the ability to love one another as Jesus has loved us. It is faith that has helped the Lutheran community develop a guideline in Give Us This Daily Bread: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All: A Study of Economic Life by the ELCA to become responsible Christians for ourselves, our neighbors and the earth. With this food for thought, I encourage us all to direct our hearts to make a more peaceable, loving human race in care of the world.

Birthdays

April

1 Trink Schwartz
11 Heather Feltman
11 Lois Richardson
11 Kati Miller Holland
13 Kathy Massa
13 Nancy Selinger
19 Lisa Hill Watson
20 Frances Victor
27 Jennifer McBride
30 Dahl Drenning

May

2 Karla Neumann-Smiley
3 Sue Herrera
5 Madelyn Busse
6 Esther Schmidt
6 Janell Weum
7 Terra Rowe
9 Leslie Whited Vance
11 Doug Spiotta
16 Jessica Nipp
18 Cynthia Baxter
22 Sandra Braasch
29 Terry Moore
30 Judy Knapp
31 Janet Lepp

June

5 Ardie Senft
5 Georgia Van Hoesen
9 Sue Setzer
13 Judy Rooney
14 Erin Morris
17 Sharon Gall
18 Linda Daus-Deegan
21 Nicole Houck
22 Rowena Henry
24 Margy Schmitt Ajer
27 Judy Schroeder
29 Glenda Blegen
30 Karen White

Community mission statement

As a covenanted community, centered in the Word, grounded in the biblical call to diakonia and brought forth by the ELCA, we seek to encourage and support one another, and partner with others to address the emerging mission and ministry needs of the church and our world. As called and consecrated diaconal ministers, we covenant to:

- Be prayerfully centered and rooted in the Word
- Speak the truth in love
- Identify, mentor and assist with discernment and formation of prospective diaconal candidates
- Engage in ongoing spiritual formation, continuing education and formation designed to strengthen the mission and ministry of the diaconate
- Partner proactively with the structures of the ELCA, for the purposes of interpreting diaconal ministry and guiding its development
- Be in relationship with other diaconal communities both in the ELCA and ecumenically

Lay-rosters continued from page 4

The following statement reached consensus by all those present and will allow the Planning Team to move this process forward:

In response to God's call for the sake of the world, and to empower the church, this consultation group desires to speak to the church with one voice. It recommends that a conversation be furthered, among the four rostered ministries that assures participation by all and moves at a careful and deliberate pace. This conversation would attempt to develop a consensus understanding of and proposal regarding the public ministry of Word and Service. Moving Forward - Some key issue/work groups have been established and should be supported with additional resources. Other groups should be developed as needed. The Planning Team for this consultation will assume initial responsibility for shepherding this process.

As Rev. Dick Bruesehoff stated, "Participants and the planning team are confident that what they have begun will be continued. It needs to be a conversation on the issues that were raised, until they can be concluded in a way that serves the church and the world. When we are all able to work in this context, surely the Holy Spirit will continue to work within and among us."

I look forward to further discussions at our upcoming Diaconal Ministry Gathering in Carefree, Arizona in April and I invite your questions and concerns so that all voices will be heard.

