



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Diaconate Community Newsletter

“Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God.”
Micah 6:8



Deacon Community Board

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
 Msgr. George Sheltz
 Dcn. Gerald DuPont
 Dcn. Freddy Ramirez
 Dcn. Larry Vaclavik
 Dcn. Leonard Lockett
 Dcn. Abner Brown
 Dcn. Merce Leal, Jr.
 Dcn. Steve Arceneaux, Jr.
 Dcn. Klaus Petereit
 Dcn. Joe Mignogna
 Dcn. Chuck Roessler
 Dcn. Joseph Kelly
 Dcn. Gerald Peltier
 Dcn. Bill Wagner
 Dcn. Lee Tollett
 Dcn. John Pelletier (V-Chair)
 Dcn. Frank Cromer (Chair)
 Mrs. Mary Ann Martin
 Mrs. Ruth Dinges
 Fr. Robert Barras

Diaconate Personnel Board

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
 Msgr. George Sheltz
 Dcn. Freddy Ramirez
 Dcn. Larry Vaclavik
 Dcn. Roy Breaux
 Dcn. Joe Mignogna
 Dcn. Joe Rubio
 Dcn. Gene Festa
 Rev. Alberto Maulon

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Message from the Director of the Diaconate

My Dear Fellow Servants,

On the eve of the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of our Lord Jesus Christ, I want to wish you a wonderful celebration of the Triduum with the Holy People of God that you serve in your parishes and institutions. It is an exciting time for our Archdiocese. Yes, we now have a Cardinal and in two weeks we will be involved in the Dedication of the New Cathedral. By now you should have received two invitations involving the Dedication of the New Cathedral. The actual dedication will be on Wednesday, April 2nd at Noon. Because of limited space only the deacons are invited to the actual dedication. I am sorry to say that wives are not included – only because of limited space. That is why your Response Card does not have a place for Spouse or Guest Name for the Dedication on April 2nd. Therefore, when you send in your Response Card, please make sure you only write your name on it.

Now, I hope the wives are not too disappointed. But that is also why you and your wife received another invitation to First Vespers the night before, April 1st at 6:00 pm. The New Cathedral will be open at 5:00 pm and hopefully Bishop Rizzotto will give the deacons and their wives a private tour of the Cathedral after First Vespers. So the Deacons and Wives will be included in the first Formal Liturgy in the New Cathedral - in fact it is especially for the Deacons & their Wives. There will be no vesting for First Vespers, which means we get to sit with our wives (how often does that happen). Also, all you need to do is bring your invitation and present it at the door and you and your wife will be admitted.

Now for the Dedication of the New Cathedral we Deacons will be vested in White Alb and Ordination

Stole. **No ticket will be necessary for a deacon to get in. Your alb and white stole is your admission pass.** The Cardinal wants the Priests and the Deacons to be coordinated in our appearance as a Community. Therefore if you were ordained from 1987 through 2003 please wear the stole you were ordained in. If you were ordained prior to 1987, please wear a simply white stole – that will suffice. The idea is not to have a bunch of stoles with a lot of different colors. In the future there will be stoles at the Cathedral for use when the deacons gather all together. Deacons will be vesting in the same place as the Priests – at the Cathedral Center at 1701 San Jacinto across from the downtown Chancery, which is 1702 San Jacinto. This will help in lining up the Procession to the New Cathedral. The Procession for the vested Deacons begins at 11:20 am from the Cathedral Center at 1701 San Jacinto and the Priests at 11:30 am. We all have to be there and vested by 11:00 am as the invitation states. You should have already received parking instructions with the last Clergy Newsletter.

Please make sure to print this Newsletter and make sure all the deacons in your parish, surrounding parishes, and your deanery know about this very important celebration in the History of our Archdiocese. If there is anything else I can do please let me know. I look forward to celebrating with you soon

Grace & Peace

Gerald W. DuPont
 Director of the Permanent Diaconate



Praying for the Sick

Please pray for the following members of our community who were or are ill since the last Newsletter was published:

Dcn. Rob Stevens had spinal fusion of the low lumbar surgery.

Dcn. Bob Kacz had surgery for prostate cancer. Bobbi, daughter of Dcn. Bob & Jean Kacz has cancer.

Mary Breaux, wife of Dcn. Roy Breaux, had surgery for circulation problems in her legs.

Daughter-in-law of Dcn. John & Barbara Sullivan had surgery for a brain tumor.

Dcn. Alfredo Soto has cancer on his right foot..

Dcn. Edward Thompson has prostate cancer.

Mary Ann Bart, wife of Dcn. James Bart, had surgery on her bladder.

Chondra, daughter of Dcn. Sam Ausmus, who recovering from difficulty in her life.

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Necrology

October

Robert F. Green 10/13/1985
 Geronimo Flores 10/29/2006

November

Joseph Flanagin 11/24/1981
 George Sheltz, Sr. 11/11/2005
 Peter Stubbs 11/20/2007
 Robert W. DeGrave 11/26/1993
 Daniel Arnold 11/29/2004

December

Joseph A. Jachimczyk 12/7/2004
 Anthony Aiuvalasit 2/13/2006
 Joseph G. Morin 12/15/2003
 Thomas Reich 12/24/2001

January

Gilbert R. Villarreal 1/1/2000
 Roger Davis 1/4/2008
 Richard G. Lomax 1/6/1990
 Edward A. Thomas 1/10/1993
 Charles Dubose 1/12/1980
 Henry T. Gramann 1/17/1999
 Adolph J. Zuk 1/23/2002
 Angel R. Acosta 1/25/2000
 Gary F. Wansong 1/25/2002
 Tomas G. Rodriguez 1/31/2003

February

George Payne 2/5/2003
 Francis Silver 2/12/1993
 Arturo M. Gomez 2/15/2002

March

Gene Warzecha 3/10/2006
 Francis A. George 3/13/1981
 Rodolfo T. Garcia 3/13/2003
 R. Jack Rook 3/15/2005
 Ron Vanderslice 3/16/2003
 William J. Evon, Sr. 3/26/2002
 Thomas A. Hunter 3/30/2004

April

Donald J. Hart 4/10/1999
 Arnold Solomon 4/21/1994



Continuing Education Opportunities

WHEN	WHERE	WHAT
August 28, 2008	St. Mary's Seminary	Correctional Ministry Institute begins
August 28, 2008	St. Mary's Seminary	Parish Leadership Institute begins
August 28, 2008	St. Mary's Seminary	Marriage & Family Institute begins
August 28, 2008	St. Mary's Seminary	Hospital Ministry Institute begins

Deacon Calendar of Upcoming Events

When	Where	What
April 1, 2008	Sacred Heart Cathedral	First Vespers for Deacons and Wives at 6:00 pm
April 2, 2008	Sacred Heart Cathedral	Dedication of the New Cathedral at 12:00 noon .Only deacons are invited
July 25-27, 2008	Christian Renewal Center	Deacon & Wives Retreat in Spanish. Retreat master to be announced
August 9, 2008	St. Mary's Seminary	Annual Deacon Convocation
September 19-21, 2008	Holy Name Retreat Center	Deacon & Wives Retreat in English. Fr. Tim Gallagher Retreat Master
November 7-9, 2008	Holy Name Retreat Center	Deacon & Wives Retreat in English. Fr. Ronald Rolheiser Retreat Master
July 24-26, 2009	Christian Renewal Center	Deacon & Wives Retreat in Spanish. Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Retreat Master

Let Us Pray for Those who have lost loved Ones

Please pray for the following people who have lost loved ones since the last Newsletter:

- ◇ Kathleen Higgins lost her husband, Dcn. Auburn Higgins who died on August 10, 2007 from cancer.
- ◇ Margie Wichmann lost her husband, Dcn. Paul Wichmann who died on August 13, 2007 from an extended illness.
- ◇ Dcn. Tom McKinney died on September 20, 2007 in the Diocese of Beaumont.
- ◇ Dcn. Dale Alenario lost his sister, Raquel, after a long battle with cancer.
- ◇ Dcn. John Lane lost his father suddenly on September 22, 2007.
- ◇ Sherald Davis lost her husband, Dcn. Roger Davis who died on January 4, 2008 from complications from liver transplant.
- ◇ Dcn. Irvin Johnson lost his brother, Larry Johnson from a massive stroke.
- ◇ Linda Tollett, wife of Dcn. Jesse Tollett, lost her father, Milton Rae.
- ◇ Dcn. Bob Brueggerhoff lost his brother, Charles suddenly, and his sister-in-law to breast cancer.
- ◇ Dcn. Al Vacek lost his father on August 1, 2007.
- ◇ Dcn. Nhat Tran lost his father at the age of 94.
- ◇ Linda Robison, wife of Dcn. Paul Robison lost her mother at the age of 94.
- ◇ Debbie Kent, wife of Dcn. Robert Kent, lost her father, Herman Babin from heart failure.
- ◇ Dcn. Raymond Despania, lost his son, Raymond Jr. in September, 2007.
- ◇ Sharon Hensley, wife of Dcn. Joe Hensley lost her mother who had been in bad health this year.
- ◇ Dcn. John Ehrman lost his son, Mark on February 21, 2008.
- ◇ Sandy Higgins, wife of Dcn. Michael Higgins lost her brother on January 5, 2008.



DEACON COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES



DEACON COMMUNITY BOARD – SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

The Deacon Community Board met this past Saturday at 9:00 am, September 8th, 2007 on the Birthday of our Lady at St. Mary's Seminary and though the morning drive to get to the meeting started out foggy our meeting cleared the fog from our minds and open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, who is working through us to build the Kingdom of God with and through our diaconal community in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. There is a new spirit and hope in our diaconal community that we can do so much more and this spirit is contagious. You will feel this excitement as you read what we discussed and what is happening on our community. When we think back we realize how far the Permanent Diaconate has come in this Archdiocese. This was realized this past month with the largest gathering of deacons and their wives at the convocation. Most comments were favorable including the speaker and the beautiful ending Mass, however there was one suggestion. A longer deanery meeting than the forty five minutes we had allocated this year. Next year's convocation, which is always near the Feast of St. Lawrence, will be on August 9th, 2008. Gerald reminded us that the Region X Deacon Convention may be held here in Houston next October, so we might be gathering, combining or participating in that as well. We will see how plans progress.

The Community Board talked about the very important strategic issue of priest/deacon collaboration. Though this is naturally progressing as the diaconate matures we realize more can be done. It all starts with prayer, so make it part of your daily prayer. We will patiently wait and see where the Holy Spirit takes us on this issue however, email your suggestions and talk with your pastors and priests to get their ideas and expectations. Also sometimes invite your priests to your deanery get together and consider praying the Liturgy of the Hours together.

Everyone approved of the new Deacon name tags passed out at the convocation and it was suggested and approved to make the wives name tags as well (similar to the men's name tag with a double marriage ring on them). They will be ordered and made for the next convocation. The Deacon ID badges are still being worked on and Gerald will let us know when they are ready.

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DEACON COMMUNITY BOARD – November 3, 2007

Msgr George Sheltz, Secretariat to the Clergy, brought up how thin the priest ranks are becoming for staffing parishes particularly pastors of large parishes. He mentioned how there are only a few parishes with three priests at them. Another concern is the training of young priests in having them ready to be pastors. With what is becoming a priest shortage crisis the time frame for training and developing pastors has been accelerated beyond what would be considered an acceptable time frame. The Archdiocese is covering all current needs for priests and pastors, but he emphasized the urgency in training Deacons for leadership roles. The **Parish Leadership Institute** has been approved and should **start in September, 2008**. Msgr. George also talked about the role of Cardinal-Designate Daniel DiNardo and how it will effect our Archdiocese. His new duties as a Cardinal might pull his time away from home. Time will tell!

Update on Institutes:

Hospital Ministry Institute Module 2 & 4 has 47 people participating
Liturgical Ministry & Norms Institute Module 3 has 45 people participating
Spirituality Institute Module 4 has 12 people participating
OT Biblical Studies Institute Module 3 begins January 26, 2008



Correctional Ministry Institute Module 1 begins January 17, 2008 - AS OF NOW NOT ONE DEACON HAS REGISTERED AND HELP IS NEEDED IN THIS MINISTRY - PLEASE CONSIDER GOING TO IT

Parish Leadership Institute - Approved to go forward again, plan start up September, 2008 - Open to everyone - 4 semesters

Deacon Convocation set for August 9, 2008 - please put on your calendars now

Wives name tags should be made and handed out at Convocation

Deacon & Wives Retreat - cost has gone up to \$350/couple and probably will go even higher next year.

November 10-12, 2007 at Holy Name Retreat Center - Fr. Don Nesti - **still some room available - email Gerald ASAP**

June 13-15, 2008 at Christian Renewal Center - Fr. Tim Gallagher - this is father's day weekend, so dates may change

July 27-29, 2008 at Christian Renewal Center - Pending



(Continued from page 3 September Community Board meeting minutes)

At future convocation picture taking will be available for anyone who doesn't have one on file.

Ruth Dinges and Mary Ann Martin have a wife's planning meeting, coming off the convocation wives meeting, set up for October 27th at St. Dominic Center. The meetings intent is to find out what the wife's wants and needs are, how they can help the diaconal community, mentoring of the new deacon's wives and the continued inclusion of Deacon's widows in the diaconal community. Anyone (woman or man) interested in being part of a future Bereavement and Crisis support group should email Gerald. Also forthcoming are wife's **Profile Sheets**, which will make the wife's education, talents and gifts available to the diaconal community to be used in support of both their husbands and their selves.

Deacon Ken Martin spoke to us about his new job as Coordinator of Clergy Pastoral Outreach, which he has been doing for about six months. Ken spoke to the Board from the heart about reaching out to the retiring and retired clergy insuring them of our thanks for their service and our concern for their welfare. He told us of 96 retired deacons in our archdiocese of which he has visited 59 of them. 10 of the 96 he has not been able to locate, but he is still trying to find them. Of the 59 he visited 32 are still active in ministry and sorely needed. That's 55% of retired deacons still active. 34 of the 59 have health issues. On the retired priests 55% are still active as well. 24 of 60 retired priests live at St. Dominic Center. Ken has visited 43 of the 60 and all 24 at the center. 12 retired priests live outside the archdiocese. Ken's main concern is that both retired deacons and priests have a support system in place to care for them. If you are interested in helping Ken email him at kmartin@archgh.org or call him at 832-364-5474. One thing we can all do is pass along to your community board member or Ken any time you know a retired priest or deacon is in need. Ken's job when he visits is to first thank them for their service, know they are remembered and appreciated, access their needs, see how their physical and mental health is doing, find out about their sacramental needs and see if they need transportation anywhere. Most deacons have a support network in place, however several priests do not. One of the little things Ken is starting to do is send birthday cards to all of them. This ministry is developing and is sorely needed. If you can help call Ken. On a related topic remember when deacons or their immediate family are ill or in need of help to contact Deacon David Garvis, who handles everything in the archdiocese outside of the Medical Center. Any illness in the medical center is handled by Deacon John Froning. In closing Deacon Ken offered to come to the different deanery get together to talk about his ministry. One topic we all need to hear about and Ken is willing to talk about is the Spirituality of Retirement. Invite him!

The next community board meeting is November 3rd and Deacon Rob Stevens is scheduled to talk about the Funeral of a Deacon. Future community board meetings in 2008 are scheduled for Feb 2, May 3, Sep 27 and Nov 1st. As always any concerns you want brought to the board email or call your deanery representative

There was some confusion on the **Deacon Profile Sheets** concerning the word VOLUNTEER. The word will be removed because we are not volunteers and only Full time or Part time will be your choices on both Parish and archdiocesan ministries.

Status of Institutes – Gerald has been emailing all upcoming Institutes, so pay attention and take advantage of the ones being offered. Suggestion for a Spanish Language Institute put forth. In addition to learning the Spanish language the Institute could focus on culture and presiding at sacraments.

Deacon Personnel Board – several reassignments are in process.

The **Archdiocesan Pastoral Council** is being formed and the Archbishop wants for Permanent Deacons on it. There will be one representative from each Vicariate. It will not be an election, but an appointment.

Spiritual Directors should be priests, however that is not always possible, so in our archdiocese spiritual advisors can be any trained spiritual director. Issue of listing Deacons names and addresses in the Archdiocesan Catholic Directory. Sometimes unwanted solicitations come from having our names listed. However, our names and some way of contacting us has to be listed. Don't worry - Gerald will figure it out.

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Discussion on a revision to be made to Deacon Handbook to increase term on Deacon Personnel Board from 3 years to 4 years with no reelection possible for second term. Put off until next meeting.

Motion made to recommend to the Cardinal Elect DiNardo that a revision be made to add one (1) appointed RETIRED Deacon to the DCB. **Vote 13-3 AGAINST**. Consensus was not reached on this motion however, the overriding feeling was that the current elected Deacon on the DCB is already representing every deacon – active and retired.

Recommendation to add ethnic members to the DCB (tabled until next meeting)

STATUS OF ELECTIONS

DEACON COMMUNITY BOARD ELECTIONS - all current members reelected

Deacon Personnel Board - Deacon Joe Mignogna elected



Newly formed Archdiocesan Pastoral Council is starting next weekend (November 10th) and one deacon from each Vicariate will represent the diaconal community. Appointed are Steve Arceneaux from Northern, Merce Leal from Central, Chuck Roessler from Southern and Lee Tollett from Western. Planned Council meetings are December 8, 2007, March 8, 2008 and June 7, 2008. Meeting at St. Dominic's from 8:30 am till 2:00 pm.



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Question and Answer

Question – I have been told by my pastor and members of the liturgy committee that I am not suppose to kneel down during the Eucharistic Prayer, which is what I have been doing since my ordination. I get back up at the end to assist the celebrant with the Chalice. What is the right thing to do?

Answer – **The deacons are to kneel from the Epiclesis through the Elevation of the Chalice.** In other words, we as deacons kneel from the calling down of the Holy Spirit through the lifting up of the Chalice. So in Eucharistic Prayer II the beginning of the Epiclesis reads, "Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy . . ." The wording just prior to the Elevation of the Chalice reads, "Do this in memory of me." The rubrics also indicate that *the celebrant shows the chalice to the people, places it on the corporal and genuflects in adoration.* As the celebrant rises from his genuflection, the deacon or deacons also rise from the kneeling position. But we deacons do not kneel during the whole Eucharistic Prayer – just from the Epiclesis through the Elevation of the Chalice. Now, in this archdiocese, the Cardinal dispenses deacons from kneeling if they have difficulty doing so. In fact if there are two deacons and one has difficulty, the suggestion is that both deacons not kneel at all for conformity.



(Continued from page 4 September Community Board meeting minutes)

The election results for the Community Board members up for rotation this fall will be announced when tabulated by Gerald as soon as possible. There is a need for a run off in the Northern Deanery.

Next Deacon & Wives Retreat is November 10-12 at Holy Name Retreat Center with Fr. Anthony Gittins. The theme is unknown at this time, but Gerald will tell you more when he finds out. Cost has gone up to \$350.00. Reminder - we all need to go on retreat at least once a year and every other year it needs to be with your fellow deacons. Gerald will get out the registration for November and upcoming retreats next year are set for June 20-22 with Fr. Timothy Gallagher (English) and July 27-29 with Fr. Ray John Marek in Spanish, both of which are at the Christian Renewal Center in Dickenson.

Updates from the DCB (Deacon Community Board) representatives for their deaneries were presented. Your representatives will provide more information at the next individual Deanery meeting.

I think that's enough for now. Please go to your deanery meetings. They are a night out with your brothers. The wives don't have to cook and most importantly they will renew your spirit.

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Wives committee - Planning meeting on October 27th was cancelled. New **Wives Update Profile Sheet** have been approved by Mary Ann Martin and Ruth Dinges. These Profile sheets like their husbands will be kept with names, home address, email address(es), deanery, education and skills etc. To start the goal is to have a list of all wives (active, retired, widowed) to use as a resource. Goal of wives committee is to have wives share issues that are pertinent to being the wife of a deacon, ways wives can support their husbands and also to have avenues to communicate with one another. Another goal is to have a **shared day of prayer for wives.**

Issues and Concerns raised by Pastors and priests:

Fr. Bob Barras asked if training was needed for deacons at a **Tridentine Mass.** The answer is **no** because there is no role for Permanent Deacons at a Tridentine Mass.

Deacon Spanish Committee - Deacon Freddie Ramirez is to have someone come to the DCB to speak on Spanish Issues. Another constant request is for an **Institute for learning the Spanish language.**

Deacon Gerald stressed the need for deacons and pastors to **nominate men for the Permanent Diaconate.** We have to push vocations for the Permanent Diaconate. Get interested men to an inquiry class at seminary. **Deacon Gerald will email the dates for upcoming Deacon Information Night classes.** Remember that the men have to be sponsored by their pastor. Work with your pastors and **submit the nomination forms.**

Report from the Deanery Representatives at DCB were presented. The Representatives will present more information and your next deanery meetings.

Future topics to be discussed:

Deacon Update Profile Report - problem with semantics of Volunteer vs. Full Time.

Should we simplify to ask for only Full time or part time?

Vicariate meetings with Cardinal Designate DiNardo

Deacon in Crisis - Handbook #38





Diaconate Personnel Board Announcements

Dcn. Tom Vicknair, reassigned to St. Anthony of Padua Parish, The Woodlands, Texas effective July 24, 2007.

Dcn. Johnny Salinas, reassigned to Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, Houston Texas effective July 24, 2007.

Dcn. Antonio Moya, reassigned to St. Jerome Parish, Houston Texas effective August 24, 2007.

Dcn. Antonio Flores, Jr., reassigned to St. Francis de Sales Parish, Houston, Texas effective September 4, 2007.

Dcn. Stephen Miller, reassigned to St. Mary Parish, League City, Texas effective September 4, 2007.

Dcn. Rodolfo Cerda, reassigned to All Saints Parish, Houston, Texas effective September 4, 2007.

Dcn. Jose Duplan, Jr. reassigned to Shrine of the True Cross Parish, Dickinson, Texas effective September 10, 2007.

Dcn. William L. Sheffield reassigned to St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Spring, Texas effective September 18, 2007.

Dcn. John E. Charnisky reassigned to Sts. Simon & Jude Parish, The Woodlands effective September 18, 2007

Dcn. James H. Meschell reassigned to St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Humble, Texas effective October 2, 2007.

Dcn. James N. Caruso reassigned to St. Michael Parish, HoustonSpring, Texas effective September 26, 2007.

Dcn. John Michael Baker reassigned to St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Spring, Texas effective October 10, 2007.

Dcn. Hector Ibarra reassigned to Sacred Heart Parish, Manvel, Texas effective October 10, 2007.

Dcn. Ricardo Garcia assigned to Sacred Heart Parish, Conroe, Texas effective October 10, 2007.

Praying for the Sick

(Continued from Page 1)

Please pray for the following members of our community who were or are ill since the last Newsletter was published:

Dcn. Antonio Marquez has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Paz Abadejos, wife of Dcn. Ernesto Abadejos, is recovering from angioplasty.

Dcn. Don Rapp who is suffering from diabetic neuropathy.

Dcn. Al Vacek recovering from complications after having a stint.

Dcn. Art Zepeda has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Edward Fatig, brother-in-law of Dcn. Frank Cromer is recovering from spinal operation.

Dcn. Don Kish is recovering from bypass surgery.

Dcn. Frank Laugermann is recovering from foot surgery.

Dcn. Richard Glor is recovering from arm surgery.

Dcn. Dennis Hayes is recovering from a head injury.

Dcn. Bill Hamilton is recovering from a stroke.

Dcn. Sam Aumus is recovering from kidney surgery.

Dcn. Lee Tollett is recovering from surgery to remove cancer of his intestines.

Mabel Johnson, wife of Dcn. Clarence Johnson is recovering from surgery of her intestines.

Ree Weaver, wife of Dcn. Buck Weaver, recovering from surgery for blockage in left leg.

Majorie Jackson, wife of Dcn. Cliff Jackson, is recovering from lung problem.

Dcn. Joe Rubio recovering from a broken leg after a serious fall.

Dcn. Tom Vicknair has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Patricia Brinkman, wife of Dcn. Fred Brinkman, recovering from cataract surgery.

Dcn. Klaus Petereit recovering from surgery for blockage in both his legs.

