



# Bulletin from the Diocese of Santa Rosa



November 2007

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you about many things this month. Last month I ordained Sean Rogers to the priesthood. He is a native of Santa Rosa and has been studying for the priesthood since 1999. His formation and education for the priesthood took place at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park and Theological College in Washington D.C. where he studied at the Catholic University. He is a welcome addition to our presbyterate. I pray that he will find great joy in his ministry with us and others will follow in his footsteps.

In the beginning of October our two priests from the Diocese of Machakos, Kenya arrived. They are on loan to the Diocese of Santa Rosa and will minister here under an agreement between us and their bishop. Father Boniface Nzomo is assigned to St. James Parish in Petaluma and Father Dominic Malai is assigned to St. Apollinaris in Napa. I am grateful to both of them for their missionary spirit in coming here to assist us in our service of the people.

On October 20, the new permanent deacon aspirants gather for their first meeting. This was the first step in the process which will bring them to the final step of ordination to the permanent diaconate. This first year will be devoted to discerning whether God is calling these men and their wives to this special ministry in our Church. We congratulate them for this beginning step and pray that the Holy Spirit will guide them and their families during this year of discernment.

I acknowledge here the great work done by the many who worked to bring this diaconate formation program to this point. Under the leadership of Deacon Frank Dahl the various committees have prepared a program that fulfills the requirements of the National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States.

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving. And we in the Diocese of Santa Rosa have much for which to thank God. The gift of the faith is a pearl of great price, it is a treasure hidden in a field for which one gives everything to possess. We in the United States have been blessed in many ways by God in our democratic form of government, in our economic affluence, and in the many freedoms we enjoy. As we prepare for Thanksgiving I urge us all to remember our brothers and sisters in our world and in our area who have less than we. We must in joy be willing to share our blessings with all.

On December 2, we will begin the season of Advent. This is a wonderful time in the Church year to prepare for Christmas. Advent is a season of preparation, a season for receiving the good news of peace, a season to welcome the God of peace into our hearts and lives. This is no mere shopping season, as our culture often views it. Receiving the God of peace goes hand-in-hand with doing the work that makes for peace in all our human relationships—in our families, our parishes, our workplace and our neighborhoods. I pray that all of us use this season of Advent to bring the reign of the Prince of Peace closer to us and to our world.

Assuring you of my prayers, I am

Your Brother and Servant in the Lord,

Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh  
Bishop of Santa Rosa