

The Catenian Association – PROVINCE 6

Press Release for Immediate Publication

Mass of Renewal for Deacons

Deacons, their families and friends gathered in St Cad's Cathedral on Saturday 7th June for their annual Mass of Renewal within the Silver Jubilee Year of the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. This special Mass where Deacons renewed their commitment to the Diaconal Service was celebrated by His Grace the Archbishop of Birmingham Bernard Longley, supported by the Auxiliary Bishops of Birmingham; the Rt. Rev. David McGough, William Kenney and Robert Byrne; together with Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Rt. Rev. Philip Pargeter.

In his homily, the Archbishop made reference to the immeasurable help the Diaconate had made to the ministry of the Gospel and service to the Church, throughout the Archdiocese over the last 25 years. He thanked all the Deacons, present, past and unable to attend for their dedication and resolve in accepting the responsibilities and challenges of carrying out their ministry.

To mark the achievement of 25 years existence of the Permanent Diaconate, the Diocesan authorities agreed to the commissioning of special anniversary stoles for use by all Deacons in the Archdiocese – of which there are over 80. The funding for these special stoles has been substantially provided by the Catenian Association; principally in Province 6.

Following the Archbishop's Homily, and prior to the *Renewal of Commitment to the Diaconal Service*, The stoles were blessed by the Archbishop.

The stoles bear the emblem of the friends of The Holy Land, who with their help had the stoles made in Bethlehem, providing employment for Christians living there.



Photographs on next page:-

The Catenian Association – PROVINCE 6

Mass of Renewal for Deacons - Photographs



St. Chad's Cathedral full with Deacons from all corners of the Archdiocese, supported by their families and friends



The Archbishop Blesses the new diocesan stoles for deacons



The Deacons stand to renew their commitment to the diaconal service



The choir which included Anne Tibke (middle rear), Alan Smith (foreground) and Pauline Smith (front Right)



The Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Birmingham



The 'Catenian' Diaconate in the Archdiocese.

Rear left to Right; Rev Gerard Nosowski (Rugby 257), Rev Robert Hughes (Banbury 241), Rev Mike Skidmore (Hinckley 258), Rev Philip Rogerson (North Warwickshire 111) and Bro. Daniel Hurd (Sutton Coldfield 232). Front Left to Right: Rev Thomas Tranter (Stourbridge 230), Provincial Vice President Mike Sherrard (Province 6), His Grace the Archbishop, Provincial President Alan Burgess (Province 6) and Rev Peter Tibke (Liverpool 4, Birmingham 9, City of Birmingham 64 and Droitwich & District 151 circles)

For further information contact:

Bro. Harold Hands,
36 Ashlawn Crescent,
Solihull,
B911PS.

Tel: 0121 704 9415

Email: haroldhands@aol.com