

## Gwynne Lawlor

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**From:** Barbara & Mike <barbaraam@telkomsa.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2013 4:11 PM  
**To:** 'Gwynne Lawlor'  
**Subject:** RE: Distinctive Diaconate

Hi there Gwynne,

Thank you for your e-mail and the attachments. These are so necessary to keep us focused on what it is we are called to be doing. This is the first time since my ordination (2006 Dec.) that a gathering of Deacons has been held! I didn't know what to expect and came away feeling uplifted and encouraged to soldier on.

### What I'm currently involved with in our parish is

- (a) Pastoral visiting – the elderly and housebound. I do some counseling but not a great deal. I take folk to and from their various appointments and listen to their stories. I run a Bible study group that meets from January through to the end of November every Wednesday morning (except public holidays!) where we have fellowship, tea and discussion on various books – not only the Bible. Currently dealing with a book written by Max Lucado on Grace. As we have three church buildings in Boksburg, St. Raphael's in the South, St. Michael and All Angels in the centre of Boksburg and St. Gabriel's in the North I have managed to get folk from all three churches to come to the Wednesday gatherings. A certain amount of caring takes place between the folk of which there are between 14 to 18 currently attending. They give lifts to one another and encourage one another to come along.
- (b) Practically I'm involved in Social Responsibility in the parish helping to feed the children attending our crèche for disadvantaged folk held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Michael's & All Angels church. I am also involved in finding and giving food parcels to parishioners and others in need. (St. Martin's Anglican church in Irene, Pretoria have packets one can collect that have been donated for food distribution – it has a list of groceries one can put into the packet that would feed a family of four for a week.) Many folk give me clothing and household items for redistribution and I find homes for it all. Currently trying to help a Zimbabwe father of two teenage girls find a job by distributing his CV etc.
- (c) I get to preach every second and fourth Sunday of the month at St. Gabriel's church and occasionally at St. Michael's at a weekday Mass. St. Gabriel's is under my care as a deacon to check the attendance register and search out the missing people. Also listening to their stories and keeping a check on those who are in need of prayer and pastoral care so that they don't fall through the cracks. The prayer list is closely scrutinized and kept up to date regarding those who are in need of prayer and visiting. Birthdays and anniversaries folk are telephoned and visited if that is needed.

I'm sure once I mail this off to you I'll think of other things I do but this is basically what I'm involved with currently.

Thank you so much for the books you so kindly allowed me to take home and read. I've now read "Deacons" by William T. Ditewig and found so much helpful advice in it. I know we do things differently from the Catholic church but there are similarities to what we do. It will take an awful lot of hard work to convince the Catholic Church to change its views regarding women in ministry. Our sisters in that church have my sympathy!

We definitely need affirmation from the Diocese that we are a Distinctive group of Deacons – that goes without saying! As I said at the beginning this is the first time since Dec. 2006 that the Deacons have gathered!!!

Thanks for your contribution on Saturday – most enlightening and encouraging.

May God bless you!

Kind regards,

Dcn. Barbara Morrison

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**From:** Gwynne Lawlor [mailto:gwynne@lawlor.co.za]  
**Sent:** 27 April 2013 09:47 PM