



PERMANENT DIACONATE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2012



Diaconate Convocation

Each year, the Diocese of Orlando brings all of the deacons and their wives together to share in fellowship and learning at our annual Diaconate Convocation. This event is usually celebrated in September but this year will be held on October 6th 2012 at St Margaret Mary Catholic Church at 9am (526 Park Avenue N. Winter Park, FL 32789). At the Liturgy of the Mass the deacons of the Diocese and their wives will rededicate themselves to another year of service and ministry. We will also be celebrating the Rite of Candidacy for 12 men from the 2015 Cadre who have been called to become candidates in their diaconate formation journey.



Our Keynote speaker this year will be our beloved Bishop John Noonan who will share his vision of the diaconate. All of the deacons who have faculties in the Diocese of Orlando are expected to be at the convocation – We will gather and vest (alb and white stole) between 8:15am and 9am with the Liturgy of the Mass procession to begin at 9am. Following the Liturgy of the Mass we will gather in the social hall from 10:30 - 12:00 where Bishop Noonan will address the community. Lunch will be served from 12pm – 1pm.

To ensure we have sufficient food, please RSVP to Juanita Lacy at 407 246-4875 or jlacy@orlandodiocese.org not later than September 28, 2012.

Continuing Formation Weekend –



The Diaconate Continuing Formation weekend will be held at The San Pedro Center on October 19-21, 2012. This weekend will focus on the Deacon as servant to those in need. This weekend will provide a better understanding of the gift and call of the Chaplain. As usual we will begin on Friday night with check-in from 5-6pm and dinner from 6-7pm. We will have evening prayer at 7:30 (Bring your Breviary or Shorter Christian Prayer books). It is always so great to be together as a community and I look forward to seeing each of you at

the Continuing Formation Weekend. We will conclude our weekend on Sunday with the Liturgy of the Mass from 10am-11am and lunch at 11:30. Cost of the continuing education weekend which should be paid by your parish as documented in your Statement of Mutual Expectation is as follows:

Deacon and Wife	\$300.00
Deacon only	\$200.00
Meals only per person	\$60.00 (a couple is \$120.00)

Make checks out to the **Office of the Diaconate Diocese of Orlando**.

Please call Juanita at: 407-246-4875 or by e-mail to jlacy@orlandodiocese.org not later than **October 12th, 2012** to make reservations, even if you will be a commuter. (We need a count for meals.) Call as soon as possible as first come, first served! Also, please tear off form below and mail with your check, if possible, and return ASAP to the Diaconate Office.

Deacon _____ I will attend the Diaconate Annual Continuing Formation Weekend – October 19-21, 2012 with my wife, _____

_____ I will attend the Retreat alone.

_____ I will be commuting _____. My wife will also commute _____ **(MEALS ONLY)**

RETURN NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 12TH TO THE DIACONATE OFFICE.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CRS FELLOWS



Thanks to Deacon Gene O’Hern, our first CRS Fellow and the individual with the vision and passion to encourage others to become CRS Fellow’s we now have three new CRS Fellows:

- Deacon Michael Biennas – Immaculate Conception, Melbourne
 - Deacon Joe Gassman – Holy Name of Jesus, Indialantic
 - Deacon Fred Molina – St. Ann, Haines City
- Global Fellows are priests, deacons and seminarians who have experienced the work of Catholic Relief Services in some of the world’s poorest countries. They bring to parishes in the United States a vision of a just world and an invitation to help end global poverty through their preaching and their personal stories.

In Remembrance

We remember the fathers of Tom Flavell and German Romero who died this past month. We also remember Eleanor DeMarsh, wife of Deacon Chester DeMarsh who died on September 13, 2012 – May the angels lead them into paradise – we continue to pray for the families.

New Resources for Forming Conscience for Faithful Citizenship



USCCB has teamed up with Franciscan Media to create 30-second and 60-second audio messages featuring Franciscan Father Greg Friedman that explore the major themes of **Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship** and highlight Catholic teaching on important moral issues. You are welcome to **download the messages in MP3 format** from the USCCB website and offer them as public service announcements to your local Catholic media outlets.

The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops also had extensive information titled "Election Activities and Guidelines" found at <http://www.flaccb.org/electionactivities/index.php>.

Finally, the Orlando Diocese has **A library of video messages** <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/videos-for-faithful-citizenship.cfm> available on Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship featuring the chairs of key USCCB Committees discussing the issues voters will weigh this November, interviews with active faithful citizens and longer video versions of the audio messages mentioned above. All of our videos have built in links for sharing through E-mail and social media. Videos housed on the Diocese of Orlando website can be accessed by clicking on this link: <http://www.orlandodiocese.org/aj-issues/aj-rights-a-responsibilities/aj-faithful-citizenship>. It is our responsibility to get involved in the faith issues of our day and to encourage others as we develop our conscience to live out our faith in the world.

Guidelines for Political Involvement

In the midst of the electoral campaign season, it is important to remember that there are guidelines to be followed by clergy and the church regarding involvement in electoral politics. While we are encouraged to be active in defining issues, promoting the Church teaching on issues within the political

arena, and voting in elections, the Church and its representatives are not to endorse or promote specific candidates or political parties. We are all called to promote justice and the common good, but to do so outside of active involvement in partisan politics. Letters to the editor, e-mails and letters to individuals and groups, petitions, yard signs, and other vehicles for taking partisan stands on issues become part of the public record and are to be avoided.

The USCCB website <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/dos-and-donts-guidelines-during-election-season.cfm> has established a list of Do's and Don'ts guidelines during election season. Please review the guidelines to make sure that you understand what is permissible and what is to be avoided as you engage in the political process. Any deacons or candidates not having internet access may contact the diaconate office to request that a copy of the guidelines be sent to them.

Pope Benedict XVI Prayer Intentions for September

"That politicians may always act with honesty, integrity, and love for the truth".

His mission intention is: "That Christian communities may have a growing willingness to send missionaries, priests, and lay people, along with concrete resources, to the poorest Churches".

Deacon Digest Discount

The publishers of the *Deacon Digest* are offering a special discount for the coming year subscription if you act by October 1st. The regular cost of the subscription is \$29.00 but if you act now by sending in the order form enclosed with this newsletter you will save \$10.00. The discounted price of \$19.00 applies to both new subscriptions and subscription renewals. The *Deacon Digest* is a wonderful resource for deacons, candidates, aspirants and spouses. This special discount helps makes this valuable resource available to all. After October 1st, the cost is \$29 and the subscription or renewal must be submitted by you directly to Abbey Press. You should be receiving a complimentary copy of Deacon Digest

Diaconate Formation – Three Classes in Formation



We are continuing to call forth Aspirants and Candidates to Diaconate Formation. 12 men and their wives were selected by Bishop Noonan to begin their year of Aspirancy bringing the total number of aspirants and candidates to 33. Please keep them in your prayers!!!!

2017 Cadre – New Aspirants	2015 Cadre – Called to Candidacy	2013 Cadre – Called to Acolyte
Jimmy and Julia Avellan – Holy Cross, Orlando	Fred and Denise D’Angelo – St. Brendan, Ormond Beach	Charlie & Elena Cimmino, St. Mark the Evangelist, Summerfield
Rick and Mary Broderick – Holy Name of Jesus, Indialantic	Tom and Tracy Flavell, Our Lady of Grace, Palm Bay	Jorge & Monica Garcia, Good Shepherd, Orlando
Ron and Claire Brown – Sts Peter and Paul, Winter Park	Gary and Charo Hessen, St. Joseph, Palm Bay	Ruthven & Guerline Jackie, Holy Family, Orlando
Armand and Kathy Carpentier – Holy Family, Orlando	Steve and Audrey Knych, Corpus Christi, Celebration	Steve & Beth Johnson, Holy Name of Jesus, Indialantic
Carlos and Valeria Conselho – Our Lady of Lourdes, Daytona	Pablo and Ilia Laguna-Villegas, St. Catherine of Siena, Kissimmee	Subdeacon Jack Manhire and wife Diane – Maronite Rite – St Jude, Orlando
Eddie and Mariela Cruz – Resurrection, Lakeland	Chris and Pat Meehan, Ascension, Melbourne	Greg & Barbara Nelsen, St. Mary Magdalen, Altamonte Springs
Richard and Kim Dodd – Holy Family, Orlando	Joseph and Elly Moran, St. Joseph, Palm Bay	Kevin & Anh Nguyen, St. Philip Phan Van Minh, Orlando
Steve and Renee Floyd – Blessed Trinity, Ocala	German & Sue Romero, Sts Peter and Paul, Winter Park	Bill & Chrissey O’Brien, Magdalen, Altamonte Springs
Carlos and Luz Martinez – Holy Cross, Orlando	Michael & Carrie Rosolino, Our Lady of Hope, Port Orange	Spencer & Teresa Silvers, Holy Family, Orlando
Mike and Janice Nussear – Holy Name of Jesus, Indialantic	Bill and Wendy Shelden, Blessed Sacrament, Cocoa	
Elias and Enry Sangrona – Holy Cross, Orlando	Kurt and Kerrie Slafkovsky, St. Peter, Deland	
Michael and Patti Willems – Our Lady of Hope, Port Orange	Heriberto & Teri Toledo, St. Peter, Deland	

Mark Your Calendars

2012

- October 6, 2012 Diaconate Convocation - St Margaret Mary from 9am to 1pm (Arrive at 8:30 to vest)
- October 7, 2012 - Why Catholic Starts
- October 12-13, 2012 Marian Congress - Opening at Basilica Shrine 7pm moves to Holy Family on the 13th
- October 19-21, 2012 Diaconate Continuing Formation Weekend @ San Pedro 5pm Friday through 12:30pm Sunday.

2013

- January 12, 2013 - Deacon Wives Day of Reflection – St. Margaret Mary from 8am to 4:30pm
- January 23-26, 2013 RCIA Institute
- February 1-3, 2013 Diaconate Retreat
- Why Catholic Begins again
- February 22-24, 2013 Diaconate Retreat
- June 29, 2013 - Diaconate Ordination St. James @ 10AM

Diaconate Presentation to the Priest of the Diocese

On September 6th, 2012 Deacon Dave Gray was invited by Bishop Noonan to address the Priests of the diocese at their 2013 Priest Convocation. This was an excellent opportunity to highlight the Diaconate Identity; The Restoration of the Permanency of the Diaconate; The Ministry and Role of the Deacon; and, the discernment and formation of men who feel called to the diaconate. The brochure is provided in the next three pages - A copy of the brochure will be mailed out to each of the Deacons in the Diocese and will be a focus at the 2012 Diaconate Convocation on October 6th.

Diaconate Staff

Deacon David L. Gray
 Director, Permanent Diaconate
 (407) 246-4878
 Email: dgray@orlandodiocese.org

Deacon John Rumplash
 Assistant Director of Formation

Ms. Juanita Lacy
 Permanent Diaconate Assistant
 (407) 246-4875
 Email: jlacy@orlandodiocese.org

Continuing Formation Weekend –

Deacon and Wife	\$300.00
Deacon only	\$200.00
Meals only per person	\$60.00 (a
couple is \$120.00)	

Make checks out to the **Office of the Diaconate Diocese of Orlando**.

Please call Juanita at: 407-246-4875 or by e-mail to jlacy@orlandodiocese.org **not later than October 12th, 2012** to make reservations, even if you will be a commuter. (We need a count for meals.) Call as soon as possible as first come, first served! Also, please tear off form below and mail with your check, if possible, and return ASAP to the Diaconate Office.

Deacon _____ I will attend the Diaconate
Annual Continuing Formation Weekend –
October 19-21, 2012
with my wife, _____

_____ I will attend the Retreat alone.

_____ I will be commuting _____. My wife will also
commute _____ **(MEALS ONLY)**

**RETURN NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 12TH TO THE
DIACONATE OFFICE.**

DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

THE CALL TO BE SERVANT AS CHRIST THE SERVANT

PERMANENT DIACONATE



And so that the whole Church may better live out this spirituality of service, the Lord gives her a living and personal sign of His very being as servant. This is the spirituality of the deacon – a living icon of Christ the servant within the Church.

“Basic Norms for the Formation of Permanent Deacons/Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons”
(Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1998), 11

Diaconate Identity

The identity of a deacon is not about a career or about what needs to get done in the Church! It is about who the deacon becomes through ordination as the image of Christ the Servant becomes a part of him. Ordination imprints character and communicates specific sacramental grace of orders. Ordination configures the deacon to the image of Christ, who made himself the deacon—the servant—of all.

“This is at the very heart of the diaconate to which you have been called: to be a servant of the mysteries of Christ and, at one and the same time, to be servant of your brothers and sisters.”

Pope John Paul II Papal

Address to the Permanent Deacons Detroit, 9/19/1987



Character of the Deacon in the Dimensions of His Life

Human Dimension – a deacon’s personality is a bridge and not an obstacle for others as he journeys with Jesus Christ. He is centered on humility and the needs of others.

Spiritual Dimension – a deacon “puts on the mind of Christ”. He is configured sacramentally to Christ the Servant. A deacon’s spirituality is grounded in the attitudes of Christ.

Academic Dimension – a deacon preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ primarily through his walk in life. He must have a good foundational understanding of Catholic teaching, embrace this teaching, and be living in communion with the Catholic Church.

Pastoral Dimension – the ordained deacon is Christ the Servant. The deacon must live the life of an authentic disciple of Jesus, who came to serve and not be served.

Restoring the Permanence of the Diaconate

The Second Vatican Council restored the permanence of the diaconate and in 1967 Pope Paul VI implemented the Council's decision by establishing the canonical norms in "Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem" issued on June 18. In the United States, the Bishops petitioned the Holy See in 1968 for authorization to restore the Permanent Diaconate.

Role and Function of the Deacon

The Sacred Order of Deacon is for the Church

"Strengthened by sacramental grace they are dedicated to the People of God, in conjunction with the bishop and his body of priests, in the service (*diakonia*) of the liturgy, of the Gospel and of works of charity" (*Lumen Gentium 29*).

The Deacon is

- "...a driving force for the Church's service or diakonia toward the local Christian community as a sign or sacrament of the Lord Christ himself, who 'came not to be served but to serve.'"
- "...a living icon of Christ the Servant within the Church."
- "...linked with the missionary dimension of the Church: the missionary efforts of the deacon will embrace the ministry of WORD, the LITURGY, and works of CHARITY/JUSTICE which in turn, are carried into daily life."

Three Fold Ministry of the Deacon

Ministry of Charity and Justice - Deacon as Witness and Guide

- At the very heart of the diaconate is the calling to be a servant of the mysteries of Christ, and of our brothers and sisters. The deacon's service in the Church's ministry of charity and justice is integral to his service in the Church's ministry of word and liturgy.

Ministry of the Word - Deacon as Evangelizer and Teacher

- The deacon sacramentalizes service. He should proclaim the Word in such a way that he first witnesses its empowerment in his own life.

Ministry of Liturgy - Deacon as Sanctifier

- The ministry of the deacon is a visible grace-filled sign of the integral connection between sharing of the Lord's Eucharistic table serving the many hungers felt so keenly by all God's children. He is a consecrated witness to service.



Selection and Formation

Key Factors in the Selection of Possible Aspirants

- Human Character – Self-giving, humility, compassion and care for others
- Sound Spiritual Foundations – reflected in the experiences of their lives and in their participation in various retreats and spiritual disciplines
- Foundational understanding of our Catholic faith and ability to evangelize as reflected in their active involvement in the teaching ministry of the church
- Life of Ministry as reflected in their outreach and support in the parish community and those in need in the surrounding communities
- Steady state in life

Diaconate Formation Process

- Five years as Aspirant/Candidate
 - One year as an aspirant centered on discovery and discernment
 - Three years as a candidate with intense study and formation
 - One year of practicum with the ability to integrate theology, ministry and practical instruction
 - St. Leo University 36 hours Theological Studies – Master’s Degree for those who have a Bachelor’s Degree
 - 400 hours of formation in human, spiritual, academic and pastoral dimension of their lives
 - Mentoring and Spiritual Direction
 - Diocesan Training – Reader; Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion; Ministry to the Sick; Ministry of Consolation
 - Annual retreat and days of reflection
- Lifelong process – Continuing Formation

Challenges for the Deacon

- Complexity of Relationships – Desire to please all: wife, children, bishop, pastor, employer, parishioners, diocesan officials, fellow deacons, and more
- Need to “perform” well in all ministries

Key to Living the Diaconate Call

- Fidelity to the character of ordination
- Not about what we do but about who we are

“In this way, you (deacons) give witness in the world of today, as well as in the working world, of the presence of faith, of the sacramental ministry and the diaconal dimension of the sacrament of Orders. This seems very important to me: the visibility of the diaconal dimension.”

Pope Benedict XVI 2008



For more information Contact:

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

Diocese of Orlando

50 East Robinson St.

Orlando, FL 32801

407 246-4878

E-mail: dgray@orlandodiocese.org

www.orlandodiocese.org/permanent-diaconate-office