“For nothing will be impossible for God.” (Lk 1:37)

STATEMENT OF MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS: Your annual forms which include statements of mutual expectations and continuing education forms are due by June 1, 2019. Please schedule meetings with your pastors now. To stay in Good Standing, please submit your annual forms by June 1, 2019.

DEACONS ARE CONSIDERED “VOLUNTEER-STAFF”: Deacons with the Diocese of Orlando are considered “volunteer-staff.” What does this unique category imply? In this category, many of the rules, policies, and procedures of a paid diocesan staff person apply to us, based on our ordination as clergy. Simply put, we are held to a higher standard in terms of behavior, like that of employees. We are subjected to a more rigorous background check; and policies regarding communication, social media use, and conflicts of interest, including employment of relatives, apply to us. Please make yourself familiar with these rules, and if you have any questions regarding these policies please direct them to me so we can work together to stay in compliance. dcamous@orlandociocese.org.

WIDOWS: We would like to make a concerted effort to stay in touch with the Widows of Deacons. Ladies, you are still valued members of our community. We are open to suggestions on how to increase this connection. Please submit ideas to Jennifer at jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org.

We would like to thank Father Ivan Olmo of St. Mary Catholic Church, who was the Retreat Master for our March Deacon Retreat. The Deacons who attended this retreat loved Father Ivan’s passion for the Diaconate. It was no surprise to us of the positive feedback from the attendees. Father Ivan will also be the Retreat Master for our April Deacon Retreat. We are looking forward to the upcoming Retreat.

DIACONATE POLO SHIRTS- if you would like a Diaconate Polo Shirt, click here to order. Shirts cost $20.00 plus shipping costs.
2019 DEACON RETREATS

The remaining diocesan sponsored retreat will be held at San Pedro Center on:

April 5 - 7, 2019  Retreat Master: Rev. Ivan Olmo, Pastor St. Mary, Rockledge

*If you have already completed your 2018-2019 retreat requirement through a retreat other than those we host*, please send in retreat information details to Jennifer at jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org, so she can update the database.

CHRISM MASS

If you would like to participate in this year’s Chrism Mass on April 17, 2019 at St. James Cathedral beginning at 6:30pm, please email Jennifer at jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org. Please refer to Deacon Dave’s email dated March 21st for all the relevant details.

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

If you wish to vest and participate in this Ordination Mass for Deacon Derek Saldanha at St James Cathedral on May 25, 2019, please let Jennifer know now. You can email her at jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org or register online by Clicking Here.

REMINDER ON LETTERS OF GOOD STANDING

As summer is fast approaching and many of you will be taking vacations, mission trips, etc.; should you need to request a Letter of Good Standing from our office, please CLICK HERE. If you meet the requirements** of Good Standing, complete the form. Jennifer will get the request and prepare your letter. Requests must be made within 90 days of the event date. Please remember to give at least 2 weeks’ notice, as it can take that long for Father John Giel to sign the letters. Father John travels a bit in the summertime.

**Please remember that your annual paperwork is due by June 1st, 2019. If this office hasn’t received it, then you ARE NOT in Good Standing.
Liturgical Notes

When two deacons are serving together at mass, the division of responsibilities should always be clear. One deacon is assigned as Deacon of the Word responsible for the following tasks: processing with the Book of the Gospels, leading the penitential rite (if the third form is used), proclaiming the Gospel, and offering the Universal Prayer. The second deacon is the Deacon of the Table responsible for preparing the table and the gifts of bread and wine, elevating the chalice at the Doxology, inviting the congregation to exchange the sign of peace, and proclaiming the dismissal.

Deacons serving together should also discuss before mass whether they will kneel or stand during the prayers of consecration from the epiclesis until after the priest shows the chalice. Kneeling is the usual and preferred posture, but if either deacon is unable due to physical limitations, then both deacons should remain standing.

By coordinating our actions before mass, deacons serving together express a unified and reverent sign of our liturgical ministry, enhancing communal worship.

If you ever encounter questions regarding liturgy, do not hesitate to raise it to our office and we will be happy to assist you in resolving the matter.

DIOCESAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR  Click here
SPECIAL COLLECTION SCHEDULE  Click here
CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE  Click here

CONTINUING FORMATION

ORLANDO LITURGICAL CONFERENCE  Click Here

Liturgy in Action: Crossing the Threshold

SAVE THE DATE!  August 22nd - 24th, 2019
Location: Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Parkway. Orlando

The Orlando Liturgical Conference is committed to evangelize, inspire, form, and educate diverse liturgical ministers. "Liturgy in Action: Crossing the Threshold" will explore how encountering Christ through the progression of the Mass leads to thresholds of transformation, inspiring us to become missionary disciples. More information will be forthcoming at www.orlandoliturgicalconference.org.
STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCE- Rest and Renewal Retreat, June 17-21, 2019. Click Here to register.

SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER  Click Here

MINISTRY PROFESSIONAL GATHERING helping Teens have Rock Solid faith and Building Intercultural Competencies for Ministry
Register Now by Clicking Here

OUTSIDE THE WALLS
MINISTRY OF CHARITY & JUSTICE

MINISTRY TO THE INCARCERATED The Diocesan Ministry to the Incarcerated has recently updated its ministry service lists for mentoring and sacramental services to the incarcerated. We are in particular need of priests willing to celebrate Mass and Deacons to provide Eucharistic services in select prison and jail facilities throughout the Diocese. For information or inquiries please contact Deacon Richard Dodd at volunteermti@orlandodiocese.org.

SONG BOOKS FOR PRISON MINISTRY Your assistance is requested! The inmates at the women’s units at Lowell in Ocala need replacement Catholic song books for their services. If your parish is replacing your hymnals, perhaps rolling over to the new year of Breaking Bread, a donation of ‘retired’ books in reasonable condition is appreciated. Please email Deacon Mike Balchus at mjbalchus@gmail.com to arrange pickup.

CHAPLAINS TO BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA The Secretariat for Laity and Family Life is in need of chaplains for the Boy Scouts of America in the Diocese of Orlando. The goal is to have one chaplain per Deanery. This is a fitting ministry for deacons, especially if you have a long-term association with the Boy Scouts. Please contact Deacon Dave Camous at dcamous@orlandodiocese.org if interested.

TOURISM MINISTRY The Tourism Ministry seeks to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to travelers who visit Central Florida for work or vacation. We are currently seeking two deacons to assist with the chaplaincy at Orlando International Airport. Future opportunities for deacons include the Apostleship of the Sea at Port Canaveral and potentially at the Basilica, Mary Queen of the Universe Shrine. If interested, please contact Deacon Dave Camous at dcamous@orlandodiocese.org.
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

From the Office of the Permanent Diaconate

Click here for News & Events

FORMATION

FORMATION WEEKEND: April 13-14, 2019 @ San Pedro Center.

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UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark Your Calendars

DIOCESAN BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (English / Spanish)

MARRIAGE PREPARATION ANNOUNCEMENTS 2019 Click Here

2019 CONVOCATION. October 5, 2019 @ Annunciation in Altamonte Springs.
Mass @ 8:00 a.m. with the Rite of Acolyte (Cohort 2020)
Bishop John Noonan presiding
Keynote Speaker: TBD

For a complete list of calendar of events visit the Deacon Webpage.

QUESTIONS? If you have particular questions you would like to see addressed by this office, you may email your question(s) to dcamous@orlandodiocese.org or jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org.

“I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.” (Jn 16:12)