



## OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE



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

### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Wishing you and your families a joyful time of prayerful preparation for the Coming of Our Savior!*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

These young men are celebrating octogenarian birthdays. Let's wish them a very happy day and blessed year!

**Deacon Byron Otradovec, St. Vincent de Paul, Wildwood, is turning 89**

**Deacon George Mattison, St. Timothy, Lady Lake, is turning 83**

**Deacon Michael Vessels, Holy Cross, Orlando, is turning 82**

**Deacon Esteban Cruz, St. Catherine of Siena, Kissimmee, is turning 81**



## [APPLICATIONS FOR NEXT DEACON FORMATION COHORT BEING SENT](#)

As of December 1<sup>st</sup>, the application window for men pursuing a potential vocation to the Permanent Diaconate is open. Emails have been sent to pastors of men who either attended a Discernment Night or who have reached out directly to our office. These emails list the names of the men from that pastor's parish, who must reply to our office requesting applications be sent to the men whose application they wish to support.

If you know a man who has expressed interest in the Diaconate from your parish, you can assist this process by checking with your pastor to see if he has received the email and had responded to it. Only the pastor can request the application on behalf of the interested man. **The deadline for the return of all completed applications to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate is March 1, 2022.**

*Please pray for these men and their families during this application process.*

## [ANNUAL DEACON AND WIFE RETREATS](#)

We are pleased to announce wives will once again be able to join the deacons on retreat this year. We are offering three English language retreats and one Spanish language retreat.

All retreats run from Friday evening through Sunday midday, and take place at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center, 2400 Dike Road, Winter Park, FL.

**January 21-23, 2022 - Directed by Fr. Hector Troche, priest from Archdiocese of Miami.** Fr. Hector is a 'late vocation,' entering seminary after his wife passed away. As a man who has experienced both the vocations of marriage and ordination, he promises to bring a unique insight for deacon couples and their families.

**February 25-27, 2022 - Directed by Fr. Paul Ruttle, CP, from Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center.** As a Passionist Priest from the Palm Beach Retreat Center, Fr. Paul is an accomplished retreat director with experience in ministry to our world.

**March 25-27, 2022 - TBD**

**April 22-24, 2022 - (Spanish Language) Directed by Fr. Hector Troche, priest from Archdiocese of Miami.** Fr. Hector is a 'late vocation,' entering seminary after his wife passed away. As a man who has experienced both the vocations of marriage and ordination, he promises to bring a unique insight for deacon couples and their families.

***Registration for these Retreats on the Diaconate Calendar of Events!***

## DEACON'S DEN PODCAST

We had a lot of fun in gaining new insights during our latest Deacon's Den Podcast episode. We invited three DKs (Deacon Kids) to share their thoughts on the impacts that their dad's vocation had on their lives and the lives of their families. Doris Quiñones, daughter of Deacon Juan Cruz; Katherine Laguna, daughter of Deacon Pablo Laguna; and Dani Camous, daughter of Deacon Dave Camous, shared equally heartwarming and hilarious insights on the way the Diaconate has affected them, as daughters of deacons. Check out the latest episode and all previous episodes on Faith Fit Podcasts.



[Click to Listen](#)

## ADMINISTRATIVE

### FILLABLE FORMS ON WEBSITE

We are pleased to announce the forms on our website, such as annual forms, funeral forms, transfer forms, and database update forms, are now easily fillable. We wanted to make this process easier for each of you. You can download the forms, type in required information, save them and email them to Jennifer at [jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org).

### DEACON CLEARANCE REMINDER

Just a reminder to our “inactive” deacons, you **MUST** maintain your clearances and safe environment certification every five years. We provide at least a 60-day notice of when your clearances will expire. Per our policy, you no longer must complete annual forms, however, you need to maintain your background checks and safe environment certification to retain active faculties.

If you would like a copy of our policy manual, please email Jennifer at [jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org).

### DIACONATE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Diaconate Endowment Fund was established to provide tuition assistance for formation of new deacons and continuing formation to those already Ordained. Contributions to this fund will allow the Order of Deacons in the Diocese of Orlando to continue to grow and flourish. The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida is helping manage this fund. Our donations help our brothers in need. **Help ‘pay it forward’ to ensure the vitality of the Diaconate in the Diocese of Orlando.** To learn more, [CLICK HERE](#).

## IN MEMORIAM

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Deacon Bob Kreps, St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

Ellen Pettengill, wife of Deacon Howard Pettengill  
St. Timothy Catholic Church

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and may perpetual light shine upon them.*

## CONTINUING FORMATION

### Theology Roundtable: The Spiritual Life of the Deacon

*When speaking on spirituality and the needs of the Church, Pope Francis explained that, “Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulties, and our fervor dies out. The Church urgently needs the deep breath of prayer, and to my great joy groups devoted to prayer and intercession, the prayerful reading of God’s word and the perpetual adoration of the Eucharist are growing at every level of ecclesial life” (Evangelii Gaudium, 262).*

**What does that mean for deacons and deacon candidates?** How does the spiritual serve as the foundation for the daily life of the diaconate in service to the Church?

**Join Deacon Scott Conway and Dr. Daniel Lloyd  
to discuss spirituality as the soil of fruitful ministry.**

Deacon Scott Conway is the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of St Augustine. He has an undergraduate degree in philosophy and master’s in education from St. John’s University. Dr. Daniel Lloyd is Associate Professor of Theology at Saint Leo University. Dr. Lloyd earned his MTS from Weston Jesuit School of Theology and his PhD from Marquette University. His focus is Church history, Trinitarian theology, and Christology.

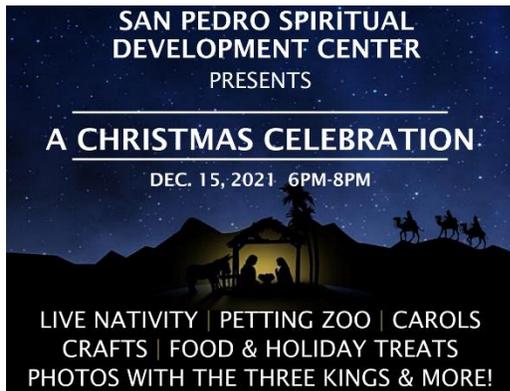
**To RSVP and receive the link to the seminar  
Email: [randall.woodard@saintleo.edu](mailto:randall.woodard@saintleo.edu) or visit [www.saintleotheology.com](http://www.saintleotheology.com)**

### [SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER](#)

San Pedro Spiritual Development Center offers a variety of online resources to help you continue spiritual development during this time of social distancing.

<https://www.sanpedrocenter.org/at-home-retreats>

## LIVE NATIVITY AT SAN PEDRO CENTER



Bring the whole family for our Annual Live Nativity featuring live animals, Christmas carols, food & holiday treats, photos with the Three Kings, Christmas crafts, and presentations of the Live Nativity throughout the evening on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm. Admission is FREE, with food and treats for purchase. [CLICK TO RSVP.](#)

## MINISTRY FORMATION CONFERENCE



**Bishop Moore Catholic**  
3901 Edgewater Drive, Orlando, FL 32804  
8:30am-4:00pm  
English ● Español ● Português

Love our Catholic faith but not sure how to share it? Join us for the 2022 Ministry Formation Conference, *Into the Deep*, to discover how we can accompany others to a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. How do you know what to share with somebody who has never heard the gospel? What do you share with people who were raised Catholic, but have fallen away?

We will answer these questions and more at *Into the Deep*. [CLICK TO REGISTER.](#)



Register today at  
<https://mfc2022.eventbrite.com>

## LITURGICAL CORNER

*Ministry of Liturgy*

[DIOCESAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR](#)

[Click here](#)

[CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE](#)

[Click here](#)

[DIOCESAN BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

[\(English / Spanish\)](#)

[MARRIAGE PREPARATION ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

[Click Here](#)

## OUTSIDE THE WALLS

*Ministry of Charity & Justice*

### DEACON MICHAEL MCELWEE SHARES THE GREAT WORK OF OPEN TABLE OUTREACH



Click on the link below to hear Deacon Mike share the good news with the *Mercy in Action* podcast through the work being done at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Community

SoundCloud: <https://bit.ly/2ZQ83rS>

Apple Podcasts: <https://apple.co/3oE8no7>

*We are eager to hear the good works in which you are involved. Please take a few minutes to send us an email with your stories so we can share them with your brothers in ministry.*

*God bless you for all you do in serving those on the margins!*

## FORMATION

Cohort	Saint Leo Course	Dimensional Workshop
2022	Theology and Spirituality of Ministry	Marriage Rite Practicum with Dcn. José Rodriguez
2024	Christology	Identity Revisited With Dcn. Joe Gassman
2026	History, Theology and Spirituality of the Diaconate Deacon	Myers-Briggs Type Indicator With Mark Metoyer

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendars*

For a complete calendar of events visit the [Deacon Webpage](#).

**QUESTIONS?** If you have questions you would like to see addressed by this office, you may email them to [dcamous@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:dcamous@orlandodiocese.org) or [jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org).

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