



# DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022 | VOL.5

*Advent  
Edition*



## THE EUCHARIST: GOD AMONG US

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As we begin our journey toward a Eucharistic Revival, I write with great hope and joy in God that His Presence will ever be our guide. I offer you my prayerful reflection about how we might begin our journey together and consider our relationship with God as the defining moment of our faith. I ask you to pray and discern where we might together recommit our desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist that we are filled with God's Presence and become Christ to one another. It is my fervent prayer that, on our journey, we will love Jesus in one another...

[Click here to access the article](#)

Also available:

[Spanish](#)

[Creole](#)

[Vietnamese](#)

[Tagalog](#)

[Polish](#)

[Korean](#)

[Portuguese](#)



### CONTENT

[EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL](#)

[DIACONATE RETREATS](#)

[DIACONATE CONVOCATION](#)

[IN REMEMBRANCE](#)

[VIRGIN MARY SERIES](#)

[CELEBRATIONS](#)

[LITURGICAL CORNER](#)



**Behold, I make all  
things NEW**

FROM THE USCCB

## OFFICE OF THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

As you know, on Corpus Christi Sunday 2022, the bishops of the United States launched a three-year Eucharistic Revival. The mission of multi-year movement is “to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist,” and I write to ask your help in spreading the word.

Specifically, we would be very grateful if you would consider inviting your audiences and contacts to begin the journey of Eucharistic Revival in our nation by signing up to receive the weekly [Heart of the Revival](#) newsletter.

Links for the primary "calls to action" we recommend:

[Newsletter Sign Up](#)

[National Eucharistic Revival Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)





# DIACONATE RETREATS

We are excited about the diverse lineup of excellent retreat directors for this year's retreats. Please sign up early to ensure your spot. Remember, all retreats are at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center and are open to both deacons and their wives.

CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER



## **JANUARY 20-22, 2023, FR. ALBERT HAASE, OFM, "HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD"**

God speaks to us every day through the people we encounter as well as in our deepest feelings and most creative thoughts. Are we listening? How do we hear the voice of God in our nitty-gritty daily routines? Franciscan Father Albert Haase, OFM, explores practical ways we can grow in a deeper relationship with God. Partially based upon Fr. Albert's three bestselling books, *BECOMING AN ORDINARY MYSTIC: Spirituality for the Rest of Us*, *SAYING YES: Discovering and Responding to God's Will in Your Life*, and *CATCHING FIRE, BECOMING FLAME: A Guide for Spiritual Transformation*, these 4 presentations are practical and down-to-earth.

*Ordained a Franciscan priest in 1983, Albert Haase, OFM, is a popular preacher and teacher. A former missionary to mainland China for more than eleven years, he is the author of 13 books on popular spirituality and the presenter on five bestselling DVDs.*

Visit his website at [www.AlbertOFM.org](http://www.AlbertOFM.org).

## DIACONATE RETREATS CON'T

CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER

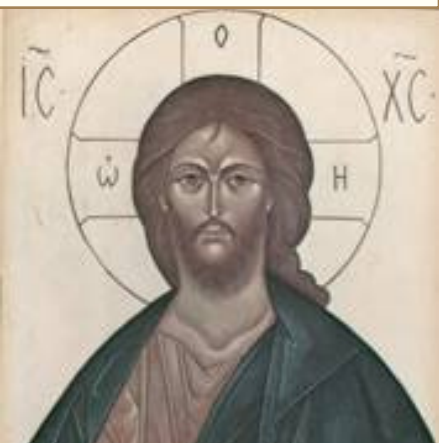


### FEBRUARY 24-26, 2023, FR. AUGUSTINE WETTA, OSB, “HOW THE DEACONS OF ORLANDO WILL (IN ALL HUMILITY) SAVE THE WORLD”

A deacon’s life is all about serving with humility. Father Augustine will take us on the journey of how that humility, fueled by the Eucharist, and embracing inevitable moments of failure, will allow us to fulfill our mission of evangelizing the world (“Benedictine style”).

*Augustine Wetta is a monk of [Saint Louis Abbey](#) in Saint Louis Missouri. He has degrees in Theology, Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations and English. For 20 years he has taught English, Classics, and Theology at [the Priory School](#), in Saint Louis, Missouri, where he also coached rugby and served as Director of Chaplaincy. He is the author of [HUMILITY RULES: SAINT BENEDICT’S TWELVE-STEP GUIDE TO GENUINE SELF-ESTEEM](#), [THE EIGHTH ARROW](#), a fantasy prison break set in Dante’s Inferno, and [SAVING GRACE](#), an illustrated children’s book about a three-legged turtle. Father Augustine was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1971, but grew up in Galveston, Texas. There he learned to surf, and he remains an avid surfer. In fact, if you Google “surfing monk” his is the first name that comes up—along with a news report about how he was nearly eaten by a shark.*

CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER



### MARCH 24-26, 2023, DEACON MIKE AND MARY FRANCES BERSTENE, “CONFIGURED AS THE ICON OF CHRIST”

The Sacred Order of Deacons is permanently restored as a “living icon of Christ the Servant within the Church.” The lives of the deacon and his wife are profoundly transformed by the diaconate and in their respective calls they become living icons of Christ the Servant. This retreat explores the spiritual journey through which we become aware of God presence and the image of Christ that shapes every part of our lives.

## CONTINUED

We will use an icon of Christ as a focal point that invites us to a deep spiritual reflection on how we see God, how we see ourselves and how that leads us to be a reflection of God's love as living icons.

Deacon Mike and Mary Frances Berstene have been married for 51 years. Mike was ordained in 1993 and served as the director of deacons for the Diocese of Norwich Connecticut. Mike was awarded the Bart O'Leary award for outstanding leadership and service by the National Association of Diaconate Directors in 2013. Mike and Mary Frances have led more than 40 retreats for Deacons and Wives and Married Couples.

CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER

## APRIL 28-30, 2023, SPANISH LANGUAGE RETREAT – FR. FRED RUSE

Retreat Theme Being Developed!



## CONTINUING FORMATION

### WORKSHOP: DEVELOPING YOUR ASH WEDNESDAY HOMILY

Saturday, January 28th, 10am – 3pm (lunch included) at Nativity Catholic Church, Longwood, FL

Fr. David Scotchie will lead another in his successful series of homiletics workshops. This time it will be a hands on work session where attendees will develop a homily to use on Ash Wednesday, just in time for the start of Lent. Join brother deacons as you select your “one scripture, one theme, and one image” to create a compelling homily that will help your congregation start their Lenten season on a proper footing. By the end of the workshop you should be well on the way to having your homily written!

<https://forms.office.com/r/CbtHEW5ZD8>

# DIACONATE CONVOCATION

Thank you to those who completed the survey providing wonderful feedback on what you enjoyed and ways that you feel our Convocation could be improved. We read every comment and will look for consistent patterns to help us offer a better event each year. However, only half the attendees completed the survey. We would truly appreciate full participation in the future



**SAVE THE DATE FOR**

**NEXT YEAR'S CONVOCATION, OCTOBER 7, 2023!**



## SOUTH AFRICAN BISHOP SPEAKS OF IMPORTANCE OF PRIEST/DEACON PARTNERSHIPS

In a recent issue of The Deacon magazine Archbishop Buti Joseph Tlhagale of Johannesburg, South Africa shared important advice for priests and deacons attending his August General Meeting of Permanent Deacons for his Archdiocese.

“It is important that there be a good working relationship between the priest and the deacon. The two should develop a certain style of work, a working relationship, and a sharing of responsibilities.” He further issued caution that they avoid “personality clashes.” He encourage priests to “see a deacon as a collaborator, a fellow cleric. Pulling rank in the event of a misunderstanding should never be entertained.” At the same time, he reminded deacons of our role to proclaim the Gospel, “the plan of God’s salvation not only in words, but by example and personal testimony.” He emphasized the deacons’ roles to “to perform works of charity thereby becoming personal witnesses of Christ.”

May we all heed Archbishop Tlhagale’s wise counsel and dedicate ourselves to a deeper partnership with our priests so we can truly serve God’s plan for salvation.

“THE PLAN OF  
GOD’S SALVATION  
NOT ONLY IN  
WORDS, BUT BY  
EXAMPLE &  
PERSONAL  
TESTIMONY.”



# IN REMEMBRANCE

## PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Deacon John Crotty of Good Shepherd Catholic church and Deacon Israel Pineiro from Resurrection Catholic Church.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace



## MEMORIAL MASS SCHEDULE

Scheduled for December 30, 2022, at the Mary, Mother of God Chapel at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center.

- 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Hours for the Dead
- 8:30 a.m. Memorial Mass for Priests, Deacons & Laity recently buried

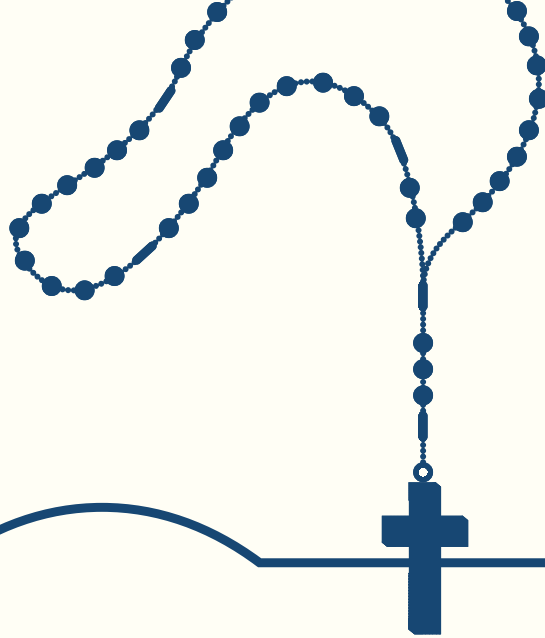
### PRIESTS

Msgr. Vidal Arboleda  
Rev. Stephen Phillips  
Msgr. William Mullally  
Rev. William O'Farrell  
Rev. Vincent E. Smith  
Rev. Gerry Granahan

### DEACONS

Deacon James Boerstler  
Deacon John Timmes  
Deacon James Sowinski  
Deacon Chester de  
Marsh  
Deacon Frank Diaz  
Deacon Frank Gingras  
Deacon Leonard  
Lapointe  
Deacon Robert Pleus

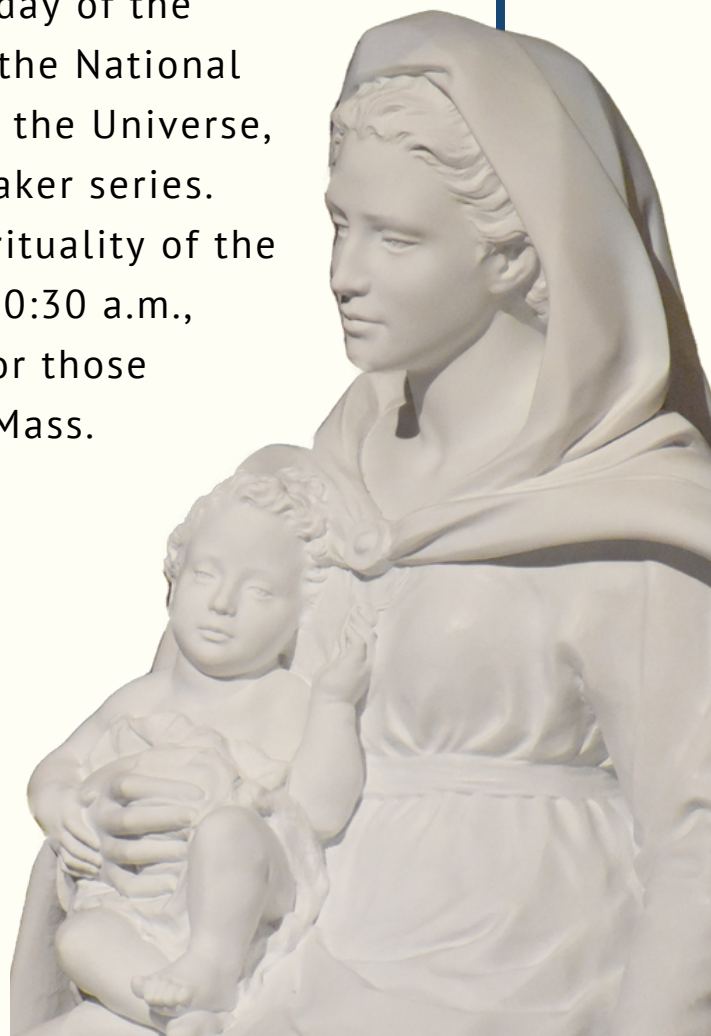




## VIRGIN MARY SERIES

Meet us every first Saturday of the month at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, for our new monthly speaker series. Talks focused on the spirituality of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At 10:30 a.m., confession is available for those desiring it. Followed by Mass.

[Click to Register](#)



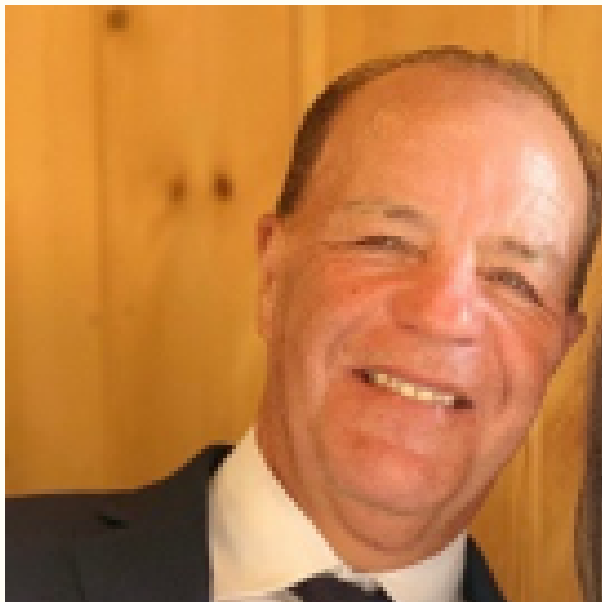
# CELEBRATIONS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS!

Deacon Byron Otradovec - 90  
Deacon Charles Mallon - 85  
Deacon George Mattison - 84  
Deacon Mickey Vessels - 83  
Deacon Esteban Cruz - 82  
Deacon Esteban Ortiz - 80



CHEERS TO YOU!



## WELCOME OUR NEWEST EXTERN DEACON!

Deacon José Lopez and his wife, Carmen Recently relocated to Florida. He will serve at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Palm Bay. They moved from the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, where Deacon José was ordained in 2010. Born in Orocovis, Puerto Rico, his family moved to Lancaster, PA when he was nine. Deacon José has fourteen brothers and sisters, and he and Carmen have three children and four grandchildren. José is still in the workforce as a licensed truck driver and has actively ministered in diverse ministries including faith formation, leading charismatic prayer groups and retreats and much more. He also enjoys ministering to the sick and homebound. Please welcome Deacon José and Carmen to the Diocese of Orlando!

# DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Check out some of the wonderful events going on in December.

Go to

<https://www.orlandodiocese.org/our-diocese/events-calendar/>.



## LITURGICAL CORNER



DIOCESAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR



DIOCESAN BULLETIN



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE



DIOCESAN BULLETIN IN SPANISH



MARRIAGE PREPARATION

# Merry Christmas



THE TEAM IN THE OFFICE OF PERMANENT DEACONS  
WISHES YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A BLESSED COMPLETION  
OF ADVENT, A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND  
A WONDERFUL START TO THE NEW YEAR!

Please note Our Diaconate office will be closed  
beginning December 23, 2022 through January 2, 2023.

