



DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

BISHOP'S LETTER: YOUR LIGHT

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Do you love Jesus? If we love Jesus, then wouldn't we want to do what He asks? Jesus ever calls us to a new commandment. He said, "love one another as I have loved you" (cf: John 13:34). When we participate in the celebration of Mass and approach the altar, we make of our hands a throne to receive Jesus, the Bread of Heaven.

From receiving Jesus, we are compelled to go forth wrapped in His love to bring His love, the Eucharist, to one another. We become His dwelling place. "When, at the Visitation, Mary bore in her womb the Word made flesh, she became in some way a "tabernacle" – the first "tabernacle" in history – in which the Son of God, still invisible to our human gaze, allowed Himself to be adored by Elizabeth, radiating His light, as it were, through the eyes and the voice of Mary" (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia* 55).

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ANNUAL FORMS

Why be stressed about submitting your annual forms on time? All active deacons are required to submit an annual self-evaluation, pastor's evaluation, and continuing formation summary to the Office of Permanent Deacons no later than June 1st. However, early submissions are accepted! Given your pastor's busy schedules, we recommend you get on his calendar now for a meeting to get his pastor's evaluation.

[Click here for Annual Forms](#)

A close-up photograph of a hand with fingers spread in a prayer gesture, resting over an open book. A lit candle in a brass holder is visible in the background, casting a warm glow. The scene is set on a wooden surface.

DIACONATE RETREATS

Twenty-nine deacons, most with their wives, enjoyed an excellent retreat with Fr. Albert Haase, OFM, in January at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center. If you haven't yet registered for your annual retreat, please do so ASAP as we have a great lineup of retreat leaders, and the retreats are filling up quickly.

CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER



FEBRUARY 24-26, 2023, FATHER 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.

DIACONATE RETREATS CON'T

[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.

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

“Soñemos Juntos” Let’s dream together.
More details to come.



FORMATION MENTORS

Every candidate for diaconal formation is required to have a deacon mentor walk with them during their last three years of formation, as well as their first year after Ordination. We need experienced deacons who can offer these men 2-3 hours of their time each month to accompany them on this journey. The process involves meeting with the candidate and, ideally, his wife each month to discuss the growth and challenges during formation. Each mentor is required to complete a brief appraisal each month to submit to the Formation Director. If you feel called to help form our future deacons and have not yet completed the mentor training, please email Deacon Dave at dcamous@orlandodiocese.org to indicate your interest. We will be training in the Spring.

WORKSHOPS FOR DEACONS WITH THE DIOCESAN TRIBUNAL

We are partnering with the Office of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Orlando to offer workshops, either in person or via Zoom, to help deacons enhance their skills and knowledge regarding the requirements for administering Sacraments or in helping married couples address irregularities in their marriages.

Please email Deacon Dave with specific topics you would like to see covered.

dcamous@orlandodiocese.org.



IN REMEMBRANCE

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

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 Scheduled for Friday, February 24th, 2023, at San Pedro's Mary,
Mother of God Chapel

- 8:15 a.m. Liturgy of the Hours for the Dead
- 8:30 a.m. Memorial Mass for Priests, Deacons & Laity recently buried

PRIESTS

Most Reverend Norbert Dorsey, C.P.
Reverend Brendan Donnelly
Reverend Anthony Palmese
Reverend Michael Hanrahan
Reverend Edward Condren
Reverend Edward Thompson
Reverend Antonio Pons
Reverend Patrick J. Malone
Reverend Larry Lossing

DEACONS

Deacon Edwin Maddex
Deacon Ron Keehner
Deacon Gerald White
Deacon Orlando Lendoiro
Deacon Frank McDonald
Deacon Ismael Almodovar
Deacon Gerard Ward
Deacon Joseph McCabe

UPCOMING DIOCESAN LITURGIES

RITE OF ELECTION

Saturday, February 26, 2023, at Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe beginning at 3pm.

CHRISM MASS

Scheduled for MONDAY, April 3, 2023, beginning at 11am at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

If you plan on vesting and attending, please email Jennifer at jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org.



CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS!

Deacon Rafael Hernandez- 90

Deacon Richard Stevens- 81

Deacon Jude Arceneaux- 79

Deacon Tom Stauffacher- 79

Deacon Manny Garcia- 78

Deacon Richard Bigelow- 77

Deacon Robert Duncan- 76



DIOCESAN CALENDAR

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

[Click to view the Diocesan Calendar](#)



LITURGICAL CORNER



DIOCESAN
LITURGICAL
CALENDAR



DIOCESAN
BULLETIN



CONFIRMATION
SCHEDULE



DIOCESAN
BULLETIN
ESPAÑOL



MARRIAGE
PREPARATION



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DIOCESE OF ORLANDO