



# DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

## BISHOP'S LETTER: THE EUCHARIST IS JESUS

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

This is a time for rejoicing. Each moment we are given a precious opportunity to remember with wonder that the Lord's call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others. Our relationship with God as the defining moment of our faith. We are called to a faith that bears witness, one that closely connects the life of grace, as experienced in the Sacraments and ecclesial communion transcending our entire being.

[Click here to read the letter](#)

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# REFLECTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DEACONS



Excerpted from comments by the Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI  
ARCHBISHOP OF MILWAUKEE

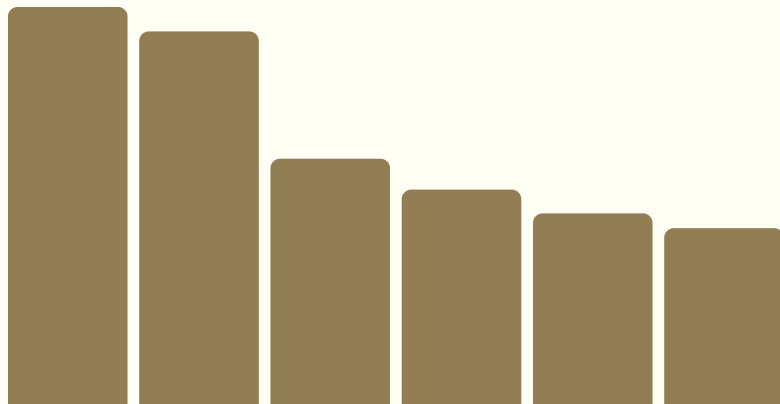
I was privileged to address the Archdiocese of Milwaukee deacons. I began with the realization there are some things in my life that have always been a part of my experience. One is the television. I was born in 1949 and, as a child growing up, we always had a television in our home. This was not true for most of the homes in my neighborhood. It would not be until 1955 that half the homes in the United States would claim to have television. My father owned a tavern on the Southside of Chicago and had a 12-inch black-and-white television for his customers. There was not much to watch; wrestling was number one. In the early 1950s, Dave Garroway's Today show was extremely popular and thoughtful. It is hard for me to imagine that there was a time without television when families huddled around a radio and listened to their favorite programs. Although television has evolved through the decades, its purpose is still the same – the projection of images to entertain and/or inform. With the advent of the computer in the communication age, technology produced incredible advances. Many of these minor technological miracles today we take for granted. Today's generation wonders what it was like to watch a black and white screen with options of only three stations.

It also struck me that, as a bishop and priest, I have never experienced a Church without deacons.

Although deacons had been a liturgical fixture for the celebration of Mass, the order of deacons had ceased to exist for hundreds of years. For the purposes of the Liturgy, priests assumed the role of the deacon. There are two most visible aspects of the effect of Vatican II – the liturgical reform experienced, especially in the use of the vernacular, and the restoration of the order of the diaconate.

I was ordained a priest in 1975, when the education and call of the diaconate was in its initial stages. I was assigned as a transitional deacon in 1974 to St. Michael Parish in Orland Park, Illinois, and already there were two permanent deacons who were part of the parish staff. I have experienced the tremendous support that deacons offer to the ministry of parish life. In my role as auxiliary bishop in Chicago, I could not have conducted effective ecclesial ministry without the work of the diaconate. In La Crosse, in addition to pastoral ministries, bishops and deacons assumed significant roles as directors of diocesan offices. Now, as Archbishop of Milwaukee, I could not imagine the proper functioning of our parishes and offices without deacons. I, the bishops, priests, and laity give thanks to God for their vocations. In the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament, deacons are established to serve, reaching out in charity to LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

# ANNUAL FORMS DUE



Current Deneary Standings:

61.7%	Southern (21 of 34)
57.9%	Western (11 of 19)
38.1%	Eastern (8 of 21)
33.3%	North (11 of 33)
29.6%	Central South (16 of 54)
27.3%	Central North (9 of 33)

Thanks to all who worked so diligently to get their Annual Forms in by the due date of June 1st. Quite a flood of mail landed on Jennifer's desk during that time! It was easily the best response we've seen, and quite a few more have come in since. That's good, because despite the good surge, as of June 1st, there is still a long way to go.

Can Southern hold it's lead? Who will rise in the standings? Check back next month!





# LETTERS OF GOOD STANDING

With summer fast approaching and lots of vacation planning going on, please remember you must have your annual forms turned in to be in good standing.





# DISCERNMENT NIGHT SCHEDULE

We have confirmed our discernment night schedule to begin the process of identifying the men seeking to enter Cohort 2030 for the Permanent Diaconate. If you know of someone who believes they are being called to the Diaconate, please ask them to first speak with their pastor and then attend one of these prayerful and informative nights. All evenings will begin at 6:30pm.

September 26th St. Charles Borromeo, Orlando

September 28th St. Paul, Leesburg

October 3rd St. John the Evangelist, Viera

October 5th St. James Cathedral, Orlando

October 11th St. John Neumann, Lakeland

October 12th Our Lady of Hope, Port Orange

# FORMATION MENTORS NEEDED

Thank you to those who have already indicated their willingness to be added to the mentor list for deacon candidates in formation.

We have scheduled the Mentor Orientation Workshop for Thursday evening, June 22nd, at 7pm, over Zoom. Deacon Dave will send the link to all who expressed interest in joining this process a few days before the event.

For those of you still contemplating this opportunity, every candidate for diaconal formation is required to have a mentor to 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 to discuss 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, please email Deacon Dave at [dcamous@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:dcamous@orlandodiocese.org) to indicate your interest.



# DIACONATE ENDOWMENT FUND

Please help grow our benevolent fund to provide tuition assistance for formation of new deacons and continuing formation to those already ordained. The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida is helping manage this fund. Help 'pay it forward' to ensure the vitality of the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Orlando. [Click to learn more](#)

## SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL DEACON CONVOCATION

Mark your calendars now to attend our Annual Deacon Convocation on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at Annunciation Catholic Church in Altamonte Springs. We also hope to host a social evening on Friday, October 6th. More details to come this summer, but please reserve those dates now!



# MINISTRIES

## TOURISM MINISTRY

We have 24 deacons who participate in the Tourism Ministry by serving the pilgrims visiting Central Florida at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. Our men in formation also serve at the Basilica as part of their liturgical familiarization.

One of the blessings of serving in this primarily liturgical ministry is the opportunity to engage pilgrims as they leave the Mass. We engage them as they leave in awe at the beauty of the Mass. They come out with their hearts full of joy and sometimes sorrow. We celebrate with them, cry with them, and bless them and the articles they've purchased from the gift shop.

Deacons interested in this ministry must contact Deacon Joe Gassman via email: [jgassman@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:jgassman@orlandodiocese.org).

BE A  
WITNESS  
TO THE  
TRAVELING  
PUBLIC





# MINISTRIES

## PRISON MINISTRY COORDINATOR

It is a true blessing so many of our deacons and men in formation respond to this Gospel call and visit and care for our incarcerated brothers and sisters. For years Deacon Richard Dodd has worked to coordinate requests for prison ministry, and connected those in prison/jail with needed services. Unfortunately, Deacon Richard must step back from these duties due to health concerns. We have been blessed by his dedication, but now we must find the next capable man to fill this role. Please take this to prayer, and if God urges, please contact Deacon Dave for more details on this critical position.

Email [dcamous@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:dcamous@orlandodiocese.org).  
or by call (407) 246-4878.

I WAS IN  
PRISON  
AND YOU  
VISITED  
ME.

(MATTHEW 25:3)



# 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. Amen.



## MEMORIAL MASS SCHEDULE

Scheduled for June 30th, 2023 at The Mary, Mother of God Chapel at San Pedro  
Spiritual Development Center

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

### PRIESTS

Rev. Albert J. Fornace  
Rev. Paul Woodyard  
Rev. Franklin Salazar  
Rev. Peter Henry  
Msgr. Michael Beerhalter  
Rev. William Corry  
Rev. Mariano Coba

### DEACONS

Deacon Richard Coleman  
Deacon Alfredo Del Torre  
Deacon Marshall Gibbs  
Deacon Manuel Lacsamana  
Deacon Ronald Linford  
Deacon Harvey Mondor  
Deacon John Pelloisie





# CONTINUING FORMATION

Greetings from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry!

We're excited to again offer a robust set of summer courses as part of [Summer at STM](#), continuing our dedication to providing high-quality theological and pastoral education. Courses can be taken for enrichment or count toward a degree program. For example, our [hybrid M.A. in theology and ministry](#) can be completed through a combination of in-person courses during the summer and online courses during the academic year.

*Scholarships are available.*

*Affordable on-campus housing is available*

# COURSES AND PROGRAMS

## **Advanced Spirituality Studies Offering**

Post-Master's Certificate in Spiritual Formation

July 17 – 28, 2023

## **Modules and Special One-Week Courses**

Ministering within the LGBTQ Community

Arthur D. Canales, Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology, Marian University

July 17 – 20, 2023

6:00 – 9:00 pm

*Limited seats remain.*

Ignatian Spirituality and the 12-Step AA Program

Peter E. Fink, S.J., Part-Time Faculty, STM

July 1, 8 & 15

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

## **Sample Three-Credit Courses**

### **Session 1 (June 26 – July 13, 2023)**

Theology in Context: Faith and Culture in American Catholicism

Hosffman Ospino, Associate Professor of Hispanic Ministry and Religious Education, STM

8:30 am – 11:45 am

Religious Leadership, Education, and Trauma

Callid Keefe-Perry, Assistant Professor of Contextual Education and Public Theology, STM

8:30 am – 11:45 am

### **Session 2 (July 17 – August 3, 2023)**

Like Shining from Shook Foil: A Sacramental Vision for Education in Faith

Paul D. Melley, Visiting Assistant Professor, Providence College

8:45 am – 11:45 pm

Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality

Gillian Ahlgren, Professor Emerita, Xavier University

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Intercultural Pastoral Care

David Cho, Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care and Counseling, Boston University School of Theology

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

If you have questions, feel free to contact us at [stmadm@bc.edu](mailto:stmadm@bc.edu) or 617-552-6506.

[APPLY TODAY](#)





# CELEBRATIONS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS!

Deacon Don Boland, 95  
Deacon Howard Pettengill, 91  
Deacon John Bellacicc, 86  
Deacon Alfred Somma, 86  
Deacon James Brown, 81  
Deacon Felix Morillo, 80

# DIOCESAN CALENDAR

[Click to view the Diocesan Calendar](#)



## LITURGICAL CORNER



DIOCESAN  
LITURGICAL  
CALENDAR



DIOCESAN  
BULLETIN



CONFIRMATION  
SCHEDULE



DIOCESAN  
BULLETIN  
ESPAÑOL



MARRIAGE  
PREPARATION





DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS  
JUNE 2023 | VOL.11  
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO