



DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

BISHOP'S LETTER: YOU ARE A TABERNACLE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:
Solomon ascended the throne of Israel in Jerusalem after his father, King David, died. King David wisely instructed his son to follow God's law. In his prayers to God about his appointment, Solomon asks God to give him, God's servant, an understanding heart so he is able to govern "this vast people of yours!" God replies to Solomon to not be afraid, that he will endow Solomon with a heart so wise and understanding that no one can compare. Solomon's humble prayer is an offering to God. He offers his entire self that he be worthy of God's call to him.

[Click here to read the letter](#)

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ANNUAL DEACON CONVOCATION

Please register today for our Annual Deacon Convocation, Saturday, October 7, 2023, at Annunciation Parish, Altamonte Springs. Convocation will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m. with Bishop Noonan. Eighteen men in Formation Cohort 2024 will be instituted as Acolyte and all deacons will renew Ordination promises. Father Jorge Torres, Executive Director of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations will be our keynote speaker. Father Torres is a priest of the Diocese of Orlando and served as campus minister at UCF as well as Vocations Director, in addition to his pastoral work at Our Lady of Lourdes in Melbourne, St. Ann in Haines City, Holy Redeemer in Kissimmee and Most Precious Blood in Oviedo.

Attendance is mandatory for all active and senior active deacons unless you have been specifically excused by Bishop Noonan. Requests must be sent in writing to Deacon Dave at least one week prior to the Convocation.

If we receive sufficient registrations, we will host a Friday evening social for deacons and their wives to catch up in a relaxed atmosphere. Please note you must register for the social on the separate link.

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR CONVOCATION](#)

[CLICK TO REGISTER FOR SOCIAL](#)



DIACONATE ENDOWMENT FUND

The [Diaconate Endowment Fund](#) was established to assist men who needed financial assistance during diaconal formation, or to aid deacons offset some of their costs if they were seeking specialized training to meet a need in the diocese, such as certification programs for spiritual directors. We need to build the principle of this fund in order to address these very real needs. Please help grow our benevolent fund by making a one-time or recurring donation. The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida is helping manage this fund. Help 'pay it forward' to ensure the vitality of the Diaconate in the Diocese of Orlando.





DATES FOR 2024 DEACON COUPLE RETREATS ANNOUNCED

For those of you who like to block your calendars early, the following are the dates for the deacon couples retreats for the coming year. All retreats are at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center, begin Friday evening, and conclude midday Sunday. We are currently finalizing retreat directors and hope to announce them next month.

January 26-28, 2024

February 23-25, 2024

March 15-17, 2024

April 26-28, 2024 (Español)

Remember if you are an active or senior Active deacon and your parish has paid the annual assessment, one retreat is covered each year for you and your wife. If you choose to schedule a retreat at a different location to fulfill your annual obligation, you may submit your receipt after the retreat has been completed. Our office can reimburse you for up to \$350.

FORMATION TEAM RETREAT

In July, the Formation Team, consisting of the members of the Office of Permanent Deacons, the facilitator couples for each cohort, and key facilitation and course development partners, met for two days to discuss the objectives, structure, and opportunities within our formation program. Deacon Chris Meehan led us in a review of his mapping of our current program against the requirements of the National Directory. We were pleased to announce the vast majority of our program is on track, and we were able to identify key areas of focus for the year ahead. One key area of attention is the development of post-ordination formation, which has been made a more stringent requirement by the USCCB in the directory. In addition to the continuing formation working group, focus teams were created to address enhanced formation opportunities for the wives of the men in formation; clarifying expectations and improving tools within our deacon mentor program; and establishing a process for standardizing curriculum and identifying and developing dimensional workshop facilitators to ensure consistent delivery of formation topics.

FORMATION YEAR BEGINS

Each formation year begins with a weekend retreat of all men in formation and their wives. This year we welcome the 16 men of Cohort 2028 who will be starting their first year of Aspirancy, as they join our two existing cohorts. Father Josh Swallows, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Orlando, will be our retreat director. Please pray for those in formation, formation mentors, and the facilitator couples.

CONTINUING FORMATION

In partnership with the Secretariat for Laity and Family Life, we are happy to share a wonderful self-paced continuing formation opportunity through the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation at the University of Dayton. These online courses are conducted over several weeks through a simple text-based computer interface. The costs per course for students in the Diocese of Orlando are generally between \$35 and \$50 per course. There is a wide range of courses that are offered over 7 Cycles during the year. To explore the course catalog and the offerings in any upcoming cycle, and even browse a sample course, go to the website vlcff.udayton.edu. Remember that the Office of Permanent Deacons will reimburse up to \$100/year in continuing formation expenses

DEANERY LEADS PASS THE TORCH

Our entire diaconate community is thankful for the deacons who selflessly volunteered their time over the past six years to serve as Deanery Leads.



Deacon Rick Chabot faithfully served as Dean Lead for the Central South Deanery for two three-year terms and his wonderfully organized deanery dinners were certainly an incentive that drew large turnouts every quarter. Rick also has served as the faithful assistant to his wife, Debbie, who created and made hundreds of our diocesan deacon stoles over the past many years. We thank Rick for his selfless service and his never-ending repertoire of stories and jokes.



Deacon Chuck Lee served the Northern Deanery for two three-year terms, despite his demanding work travel schedule. Chuck has diligently worked to faithfully arrange speakers for his deanery's insatiable appetite to learn and grow their ministry. Chuck is also known for starting each meeting with his Saint(s) of the Day, helping us all grow more familiar with the eternal Communion of Saints.



Deacon Elbert Pagan will take over as Dean Lead for Central South. Elbert was ordained in 2000, the (in)famous 'masked Ordination' delayed four months due to the height of the pandemic. Elbert serves at St. Rose of Lima in Kissimmee and will bring his passion and youthful energy (second youngest deacon in the diocese) to his new leadership role.



Deacon Jim Shelley will step into the leadership role as Dean Lead for the Northern Deanery. Jim was ordained in 2004, and is in his 20th year of ordained ministry, but that hasn't dimmed his youthful spirit. Jim served for many years at St. Francis in Apopka, before transferring to St. Mary of the Lakes in Eustis in 2022.



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 someone who believes they are being called to the Diaconate, please ask them to speak with their pastor and then attend one of these prayerful and informative nights. All evenings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

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

STILL NEEDED

MINISTRIES

PRISON MINISTRY COORDINATOR

The need for a volunteer coordinator of prison ministry is growing more urgent. While the number of requests we get from prisoners, families, or those serving in prison ministry is not great, it is important that each can be handled promptly to best serve those who feel society has abandoned them. If this notice tugs at your heart, please take it to prayer, and if God urges, please email Deacon Dave at dcamous@orlandodiocese.org or call (407) 246-4878

I WAS IN
PRISON
AND YOU
VISITED
ME.

(MATTHEW 25:3)



IN REMEMBRANCE

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Deacon Jack Rhine.

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 August 25th, 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. Bronis Benesevich
Rev. Michael J. Hannon
Rev. Donald Mainardi
Rev. Sean Shine
Rev. Felicito Baybay

DEACONS

Deacon William Fisher
Deacon James Flynn
Deacon Charles Foy
Deacon David Gray
Deacon Ramon Nevarez
Deacon James Schwartz
Deacon Jerry Vaughan

CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS!

Hector Colon-Defendimi, 89

James Wade, 86

Richard Krick, 85

Juan Vargas, 84



DIOCESAN CALENDAR

[Click to view the Diocesan Calendar](#)



LITURGICAL CORNER



DIOCESAN
LITURGICAL
CALENDAR



DIOCESAN
BULLETIN



CONFIRMATION
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MARRIAGE
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AUGUST 2023 | VOL.13
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO