



DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

BISHOP'S LETTER: LET FREEDOM RING

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Where have you found Jesus in your daily living? I ask this question hoping your first answer will be, "I found Him in myself, in the depth of my soul." I ask this question hoping your second answer will be, "I found Him in my family, friends and neighbors; and in strangers whom I just met."

[Click here to read the letter](#)



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ANNUAL FORMS DUE

Current Deneary Standings:

76.4% Southern (26 of 34)

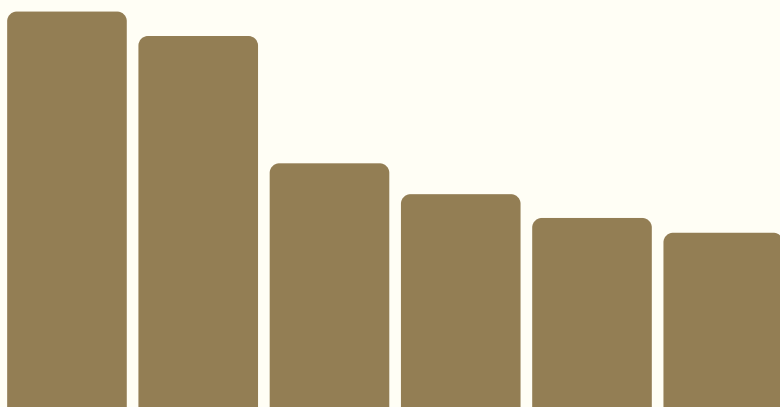
68.4% Western (13 of 19)

42.8% Eastern (9 of 21)

48.4% North (16 of 33)

33.3% Central South (18 of 54)

33.3% Central North (11 of 33)



Please remember to be in good standing with your annual forms, you must turn in your Self-assessment Form and your Continuing Education Form. We understand that our Pastors are extremely busy and may not “remember” to send in their Pastor Assessment form. This will not count against you as long as you have fulfilled your requirement of turning in your Self-assessment and Continuing Education forms.

ANNUAL DEACON CONVOCATION

Our Annual Deacon Convocation will be Saturday, October 7, 2023, at Annunciation Catholic Church in Altamonte Springs. We intend to host a social evening on Friday, October 6th, if there is sufficient interest.

To Register for Convocation- [Click this link](#)

To Register for the Friday Evening Social- October 6th- [Click this link](#)

DIACONATE ENDOWMENT FUND

Please help grow our benevolent fund to provide tuition assistance for the 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](#)





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 identifying 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. Several new mentors were trained last month and we are planning one more Zoom workshop to familiarize deacons with the mentor responsibilities during the last week of July.

CHARITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Deacon George Ferraioli has been a member of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society for many years and now serves the Saint Vincent DePaul Diocesan Council of Orlando as Spiritual Advisor. He recently wrote with the following request regarding the need to start new St. Vincent de Paul Councils.

“You may be familiar with the St Vincent de Paul society from a national sense, but I wanted to take a minute to tell you how the society serves the poor and needy in our backyard, every day. According to the annual report, almost 80,000 people in our diocese have been helped with \$2.6 million in assistance to our neighbors in need including help with rent, utilities, transportation, medicine and more.

Vincentians have done 30,204 visits with our brothers and sisters, including 6,239 Home Visits. Vincentians visited people behind bars, in hospitals and in eldercare facilities. All this has been done by Vincentians who are volunteers, serving with 166,325 volunteer hours this past year. Vincentians are not paid for their services and funds are solely used to help the poor and needy. The needs are great and assistance of the poor and needy are growing as inflation and high rental and utility charges increases, causing families to face eviction, forcing them into homelessness.

Therefore, I am asking for your help as brother Deacons, in our service to the Church and her people in need, to make it more possible for the poor and needy to get the help they need within their community. Saint Vincent DePaul Society needs Permanent Deacons to establish new conferences in these areas ; Kissimmee , Poinciana, Haines City, Clermont, Bartow, Lake Wales, and Mulberry. Our St Vincent DePaul Diocesan Council provide information on how to start a conference and can provide all training necessary. Information can also be found at <https://ssvpusa.org/> .

Thank you for all you do in our mission of Christ as deacons and please feel free to contact me if you need anything to help get new conferences started.

gferraioli28@gmail.com





TOURISM MINISTRY MINISTRIES

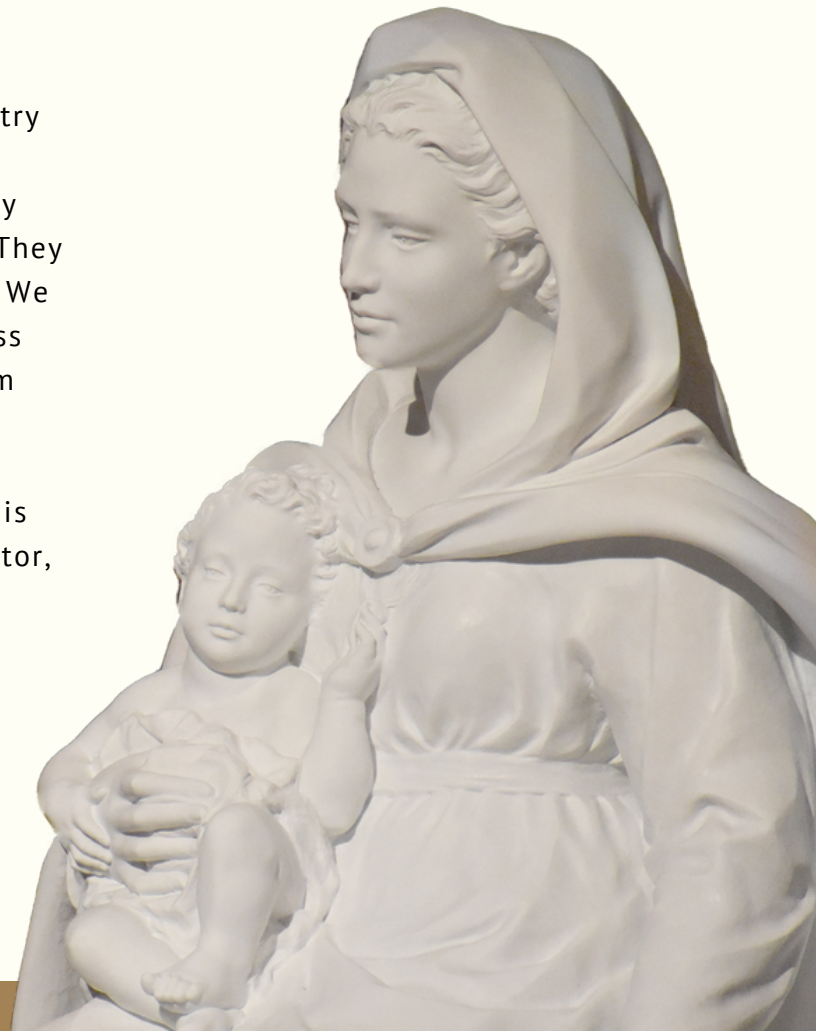
Congratulations to the Basilica National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, for the 2023 Travelers' Choice Award.

We have 25 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 ministry is the opportunity to engage the pilgrims as they leave the Mass. We engage them as they come out in awe at the beauty of the Mass. They come out with hearts full of joy and sorrow. We celebrate with them, cry with them, and bless them and the articles they've purchased from the gift shop.

Deacons interested in serving as a part of this ministry, must contact the ministry coordinator, Deacon Joe Gassman via email: jgassman@orlandodiocese.org.

BE A
WITNESS
TO THE
TRAVELING
PUBLIC



MINISTRIES

PRISON MINISTRY COORDINATOR

It is a true blessing that so many 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, primarily within the state prison system, but also fielding calls received by the Diocese to connect those in prison or in jails in the federal or county institutions or their families with needed services.

Unfortunately, Richard must step back from these duties due to health concerns. We have been blessed by Richard's dedication to those to whom he ministers, but now we must find the next capable man to fill this role. If this notice tugs at your heart, please take it to prayer, and if God urges, please contact Deacon Dave for more details on this critical voluntary position.

Email 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 July 28th, 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. John Stanislaus Murray
Rev. Arthur Dunnigan
Rev. Joseph Achilles Nolin
Msgr. Valentine Sheedy
Rev. Frank Mutsko
Rev. Paul Couming
Rev. Felix Baños
Rev. Francis X.J. Smith

DEACONS

Deacon Wilfred Steinmetz
Deacon Joseph Costa
Deacon Edward Rinderle



CONTINUING FORMATION

BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

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

Two spots remain.

Modules and Special One-Week Courses

Ministering within the LGBTQ Community (1-credit course)

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

Three-Credit Courses, July 17 – August 3

Sacraments in the Life of the Church

Liam Bergin, Professor of the Practice, Boston College

8:45 am – 11:45 pm

Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality

Gillian Ahlgren, Professor Emerita, Xavier University

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

The Church

Margaret Eletta Guider, OSF, Associate Professor, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

For a full list of summer courses and programs, check out our [Summer at STM website](#).

If you have questions, feel free to contact us at stmadm@bc.edu or 617-552-6506.

[APPLY TODAY](#)



CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS!

Deacon Bruce Dwyer- 94
Deacon Henry Libersat- 89
Deacon Frank Campione- 84
Deacon Oswaldo Ramos- 84
Deacon David Sandburg- 83
Deacon Jesus Davila- 82
Deacon John Howell- 81

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
JULY 2023 | VOL.12
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO