



# DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

## BISHOP'S LETTER: ON A PATH OF GOD'S DESIGN

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:  
On the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear the prophet Isaiah tell us that our way is not God's way; that our thoughts do not compare to God's. God's way is above reproach. His love is everlasting. So, too, St. Paul reminds us that we should conduct ourselves in God's way – that is, worthy of the Gospel of Christ. As we journey through our Eucharistic living, it might be time to take a pause and ask ourselves if our ways are God's ways. And, perhaps avail ourselves to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for God is near to all who call upon Him – He is generous in forgiving.

[Click here to read the letter](#)

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# ANNUAL DEACON CONVOCATION

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

Doors open at 7a.m. for registration and a continental breakfast. Mass at 9 a.m. with Bishop Noonan at which the 18 men in Formation Cohort 2024 will be instituted as Acolyte, and all deacons will renew their Ordination promises. Father Jorge Torres, Executive Director of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations will be our keynote speaker. Father Torres previously served the USCCB as a Specialist for the Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis, focusing on the National Eucharistic Revival. Father Jorge 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 Catholic Church in Haines City, Holy Redeemer in Kissimmee and Most Precious Blood in Oviedo. After lunch we always look forward to our time with Bishop Noonan prior to completing our convocation by 3 p.m. To Register for Convocation- [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

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

**LAST CALL! You MUST RSVP by September 27, 2023**





# ANNUAL FORMS

We commend all active and senior active deacons who turned in their annual forms this year. As you can see by the numbers (on next page) some deaneries have done a solid job while others are lagging. Some may question if these forms are important. The answer is a resounding YES, for you as a deacon, for your pastor and parish, and for the diaconate community. Here are just a few benefits:

## **For you, the deacon**

- Provides a structured process for self-reflection how you are living and improving your ministry. As professionals in ministry, we owe it to the People of God to always improve our skills for their benefit.
- Ensures an annual formal feedback session with your pastor.
- Communicates with the Office of Permanent Diaconate to help us support your progress or issues in ministry. EVERY annual form is read by the Director of Permanent Diaconate.
- Provides us the confidence to issue Letters of Good Standing when you request them to serve outside the diocese.

## **For the Pastor**

- Provides a formal way to provide feedback on what he appreciates about your ministry and areas he needs you to develop.
- Provides a formal way to communicate with the Office of Permanent Diaconate.

## **For the Diaconate Community**

- Keeps us united as a community by sharing successes and challenges, and highlights opportunities for us to grow as a Sacred Order.



# ANNUAL FORMS STATS

Here are the current percentages of active and senior active deacons submitting their annual forms for this year, by deanery:

Current Deneary Standings:

**67.8%** Central North (21 out of 31)

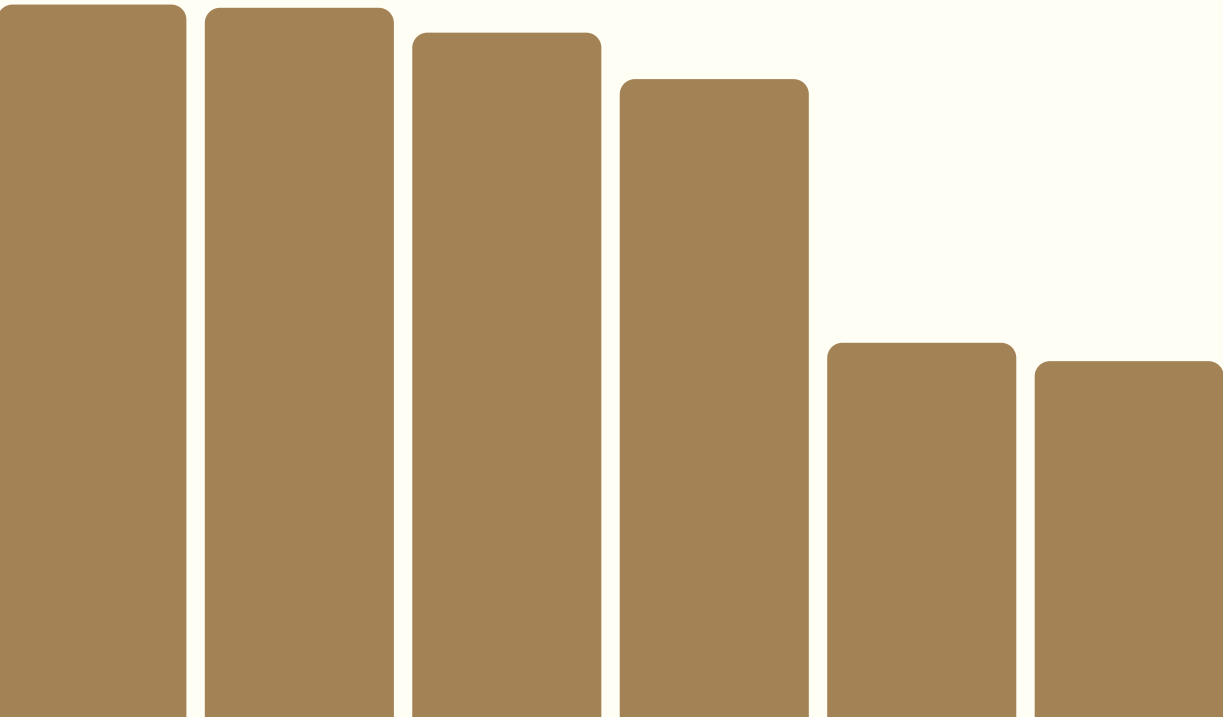
**67.5%** Southern (27 out of 40)

**65.2%** Western (15 out of 23)

**60.9%** Eastern (14 out of 23)

**36.5%** Northern (19 out of 52)

**34.8%** Central South (24 out of 69)







## 2024 DEACON COUPLE RETREATS

Registration opens soon for 2024 Couple Retreats. All retreats are at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center. They begin on Friday evening, and conclude midday on Sunday.

**JANUARY 26-28, 2024**

Retreat Director TBD



**FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024**

**“THE SPIRITUALITY OF GROWING OLDER  
GRACEFULLY”**

Directed by Mr. Greg Pierce, based on the book, Engaging the Gifts of Growing Older, by Frank Cunningham. This is a companion retreat being offered to priests in the Diocese of Orlando, and ideal for both deacons and their wives as our life and ministry evolves during the stages of our life.



## **MARCH 15-17, 2024** **“COOPERATING WITH GOD’S GRACE IN HEALING”**

Directed by Deacon Keith Strohm. Deacon Keith is the former Director of the Office for the New Evangelization and a deacon for the Archdiocese of Chicago. A well-known international and conference keynote speaker, he has helped tens of thousands of men and women hear the Gospel message and encounter the mercy, love and power of Jesus Christ. Deacon Keith has extensive experience in creating and sustaining processes and programs of evangelization and formation at the group, parish and diocesan level that focus on the making, maturation and missioning of disciples of Jesus Christ. He is the Executive Director of M3 Ministries and a long-time teacher and collaborator with the Catherine of Siena Institute.



## **ABRIL 26-28, 2024** **(ESPAÑOL)**

Retreat Director TBD

Remember if you are an active or senior active deacon and your parish has paid the annual assessment, the cost of one of these retreats are completely covered each year for you and your wife. Optionally, 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, and our office can reimburse you for up to \$350 of the cost.

Thank you for ensuring your spiritual selfcare by fulfilling this canonical requirement.

# DIACONATE FORMATION

The Diaconate formation year for 2023-2024 began on September 16th. Please pray for the 42 men currently in active formation, their wives, and their families as they seek to configure their lives more fully to the image of Christ the Servant.

## CONTINUING FORMATION

The following is an excerpt from the recent National Association of Deacon Directors eNews, penned by NADD President, Deacon Dennis Dornier. He recommends a three-part series of articles by Deacon Bill Ditewig. Deacon Bill was concerned by the lack of deacons invited to the upcoming global Synod on Synodality meetings in Rome. While Bill makes an interesting question in his first article on why more deacons weren't invited, what is more interesting is the journey he takes to help us discover how we might become 'involved' in the Synod from our home dioceses and parishes. I offer the links to Ditewig's three part series below for your consideration.

"Many of you know Deacon Bill Ditewig by his writing. Bill has written three insightful essays (links below) on the reality that deacons have not been included (other than one) in the official invitees to the October Synod gathering in Rome.

Our role, as servant leaders, isn't to always be out in front. Deacon Ditewig has shared some good ways that we can and will be involved as this process develops."

### *DEACONS AND THE SYNOD*

#### *A Three-Part Essay*

*Deacon William T. Ditewig, Ph.D.*

[Part one](#)

[Part two](#)

[Part three](#)



# 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 begin at 6:30pm.

September 26th at St. Charles Borromeo, Orlando

September 28th at St. Paul, Leesburg

October 3rd at St. John the Evangelist, Viera

October 5th at St. James Cathedral, Orlando

October 11th at St. John Neumann, Lakeland

October 12th at Our Lady of Hope, Port Orange



# PRIEST CONVOCAATION

Once again, Bishop Noonan invited the members of the Office of Permanent Diaconate to attend the annual Priests' Convocation for the Diocese of Orlando. Deacon Joe, Jenn, and I were able to meet and talk to many of our parish pastors and priests at this two-day event. We listened as they shared their joys of serving with their deacons, as well as the opportunities they see for our growth. We came to an even better understanding of our shared ministry. They were impressed with the depth and duration of our formation process, and we discussed with them the upcoming Discernment Nights as we look to form Cohort 2030, and how best to identify men who may have a diaconal vocation. We were pleased to hear the vast majority want to have deeper ministerial partnerships with their deacons, and we encourage you to take the time to strengthen your relationships with your priests and pastors in order to better serve the People of God.



# MINISTRIES

## PRISON MINISTRY COORDINATOR


The need for a volunteer coordinator of the prison ministry is 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 calls to you, please take it to prayer, and if God urges, please contact Deacon Dave for more details on this critical voluntary position. Reach out by either email to [dcamous@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:dcamous@orlandodiocese.org) or by phone (407) 246-4878.

I WAS IN  
PRISON  
AND YOU  
VISITED  
ME.

(MATTHEW 25:3)







# DID YOU KNOW? WATER AND HEALTHIER DRINKS

CDC.GOV

## BENEFITS OF DRINKING WATER

Getting enough water every day is important for your health. Drinking water can prevent dehydration, a condition that can cause unclear thinking, result in mood change, cause your body to overheat, and lead to constipation and kidney stones. Water has no calories, so it can also help with managing body weight and reducing calorie intake when substituted for drinks with calories, such as sweet tea or regular soda.

Water helps your body:

- Keep a normal temperature.
- Lubricate and cushion joints.
- Protect your spinal cord and other sensitive tissues.
- Get rid of waste through urination, perspiration, and bowel movements.

Your body needs more water when you are:

- In hot climates.
- More physically active.
- Running a fever.
- Having diarrhea or vomiting.

## TIPS TO DRINK MORE WATER

- Carry a water bottle with you and refill it throughout the day.
- Freeze some freezer safe water bottles. Take one with you for ice-cold water all day long.
- Choose water over sugary drinks.
- Opt for water when eating out. Save money and cut calories.
- Serve water during meals.
- Add a lime or lemon to your water to improve taste.

# 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 Friday, September 29th, 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

Msgr. Patrick Caverly  
Very Rev. John McCormick  
Rev. Louis Bamundo  
Rev. Charles Schneider

### DEACONS

Deacon Marvin Busing  
Deacon Raymond Doyle  
Deacon Howard Green  
Deacon Armando Quaglia  
Deacon Charles Robichaud  
Deacon Richard Rupp  
Deacon Richard Storum



# CELEBRATIONS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS!

Deacon Susano Neris- 89

Deacon Jacinto Ortiz- 87

Deacon Peter DiGiuseppe- 83

Deacon Carl Orbon-81

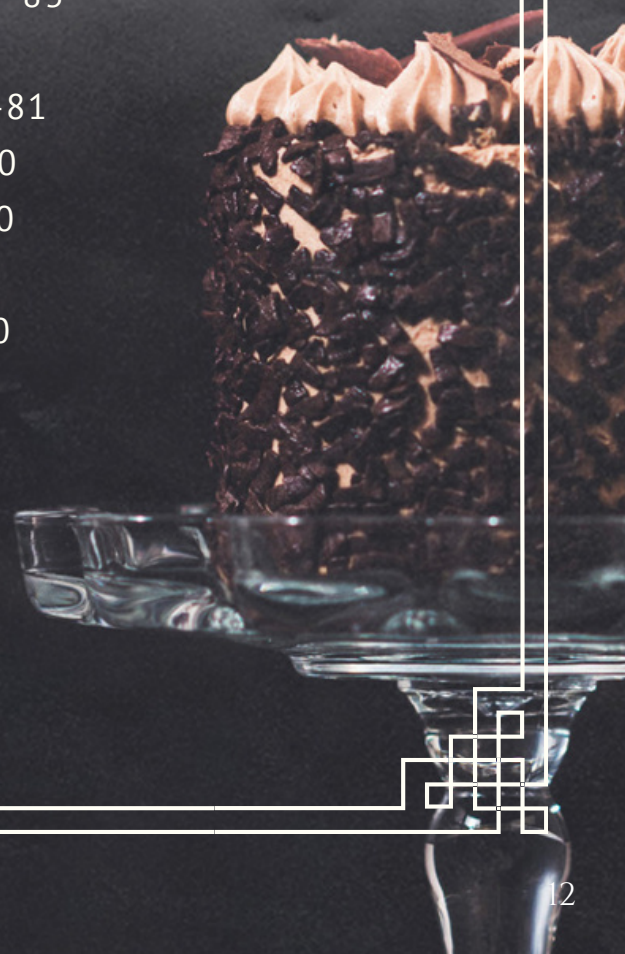
Deacon Rafael Gonzalez-81

Deacon Jose Serrano-80

Deacon Walter Price-80

Deacon John Riley-80

Deacon John Farrell-80





# DIOCESAN CALENDAR

[Click to view the Diocesan Calendar](#)



## LITURGICAL CORNER



DIOCESAN  
LITURGICAL  
CALENDAR



DIOCESAN  
BULLETIN



CONFIRMATION  
SCHEDULE



DIOCESAN  
BULLETIN  
ESPAÑOL



MARRIAGE  
PREPARATION





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