



DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

BISHOP'S LETTER: CHRISTIAN HOPE IS A FREE GIFT FROM THE LORD

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Think about all the saints and those who have gone before us in faith! They are the fruit of God's overwhelming love, drawing us to Himself. We are filled with hope as we are given these holy people to guide us on our journey to heaven. St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "Holiness is not the luxury of a few, but a simple duty for you and me." We think of those who are officially declared saints; but during the celebration of Mass, we pray with the choir of angels and the communion of saints, who are more numerous than we can count.

[Click here to read the letter](#)

CONTENT

CONVOCATION

RETREATS

MINISTRY

PODCAST

LITURGICAL CORNER



CONVOCAATION

2023 WAS A TRUE CELEBRATION!

It was great to see so many of our diaconate community gathered at Annunciation Catholic Parish on Saturday, October 7th! 280 of us celebrated our vocation together, including 132 deacons, 89 wives, 3 wives of our deceased brothers, and formation cohorts 2024 and 2026. At our morning Mass with Bishop Noonan the 18 men from Cohort 2024 were installed as acolytes, a significant milestone as they move toward their planned ordination on June 8, 2024. Father Jorge Torres was able to share both a morning and afternoon talk, which were each educational and inspirational. Thank you to Cohort 2026 and their wives for serving the community in so many different roles that day. We were delighted to bring back the Friday evening social this year, and it was wonderful to have that time to simply relax in each other's company before the full day on Saturday.





REGISTER NOW! 2024 DEACON COUPLE RETREATS

Registration is open for 2024 Deacon Couple Retreats. All retreats are at San Pedro, Spiritual Development Center begin Friday evening and conclude midday Sunday.

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)



JANUARY 26-28, 2024 **“RECOVERING OUR DIACONAL IDENTITY AS A BELOVED CHILD OF GOD”**

Directed by Deacon Stephen Miletic, the Director of the institute for Diaconate Renewal at the Franciscan University at Steubenville. Are you tired, in need of refreshment, encouragement and support? This contemplative retreat will give you time to listen to God’s Word in the silence of your hearts. In silence, God’s Word deepens our bond of love with Christ the Servant. This 3-day silent retreat is designed to help us decompress, push back on the “urgent” and “necessary” duties we face. Like Jesus, leave your home, work and ministry and find solitude with the Father and tender love. The heart is where we learn of and experience God’s deepest passion for intimacy and friendship with us. This is the path to personal and ministerial renewal. It is the power behind fruitful diaconal ministry.

Deacon Stephen has served in many and varied capacities of diaconal formation over his career. He served on the Editorial Board for the Josephinum Diaconal Review, where he wrote on human integration in diaconal formation. He has taught scripture and homiletics for the Dioceses of Steubenville and Columbus. He serves on the Theological Commission for the Cause of Sainthood in Steubenville, is certified in spiritual direction and supervision, and has served as the coordinator for the Diocesan Healing and Deliverance Ministry. His books include, “One Flesh: Marriage and the New Creation.”

CLICK TO REGISTER



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 to one being offered to priests in the Diocese of Orlando this year, and ideal for both deacons and their wives as our life and ministry evolves during the stages of our life.



[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)



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

Directed by Deacon Keith Stroh. 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.

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)



APRIL 26-28, 2024 **(SPANISH LANGUAGE)**

Details to be announced

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 for you and your wife is completely covered. Optionally, if you choose to schedule a retreat at a different location to fulfill your obligation, you may submit your receipt after the retreat has been completed, and our office can reimburse you for up to \$350.

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

URGENT

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. email dcamous@orlandodiocese.org or by call (407) 246-4878.

I WAS IN
PRISON
AND YOU
VISITED
ME.

(MATTHEW 25:3)





DISCERNMENT NIGHTS

The last week of September and the first two weeks of October saw the Formation Team on the road visiting parishes in each of the six deaneries as we hosted diaconate discernment nights at St. Charles Borromeo in Orlando, St. Paul in Leesburg, St. John the Evangelist in Viera, St. James Cathedral in Orlando, St. John Neumann in Lakeland, and Our Lady of Hope in Port Orange. Approximately 40 men attended evenings of prayerful adoration and reflection followed by a brief discussion of key information regarding the diaconate and the formation process. The application window for Cohort 2030 will open on December 1st, with completed applications due by March 1st, followed by applicant review and interviews.

If you know a man who believes he has a vocational call to the diaconate but who was not able to attend, he should meet with his pastor to discuss. Only pastors may request applications on behalf of the men in their parish when the application window opens.

DEACONS DEN PODCAST HAS RETURNED

After a long hiatus, the boys are back in the studio! Deacon Joe and Deacon Dave were finally able to schedule time in the brand-new diocesan recording studio and welcomed their first guest back to “The Den.” Deacon Dom and Audrey Delio shared what it has been like to move from “being formed” to doing “the forming” as they recently completed their first year of serving as Cohort 2028’s Facilitator Couple. Check out the latest episode to hear their excellent insights!

Keep an eye out for the next Deacon’s Den Podcast episode which will be released in early November.

[CLICK TO LISTEN](#)



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, October 27th, 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. Philip Stegeman
Rev. Neil Sager
Rev. Joseph Aiden Nolan
Rev. Raymond James O'Leary
Msgr. Paul Kamide
Rev. Louis Dunleavy
Rev. Bernard L. Hickey
Rev. Michael Edward Giglio
Msgr. Matthew Connolly
Rev. Patrick O'Reilly
Msgr. Charles A. Bartok

DEACONS

Deacon James Campbell
Deacon Julio Gonzalez
Deacon John Lahart
Deacon Robert Landers
Deacon Wayne Phelps
Deacon Deacon Sam Ryan
Deacon Harold Times
Deacon Gilberto Torres

DIOCESAN WEBSITE

We have a new website. It looks wonderful and is so easy to use. If you haven't already, please check it out.

orlandodiocese.org

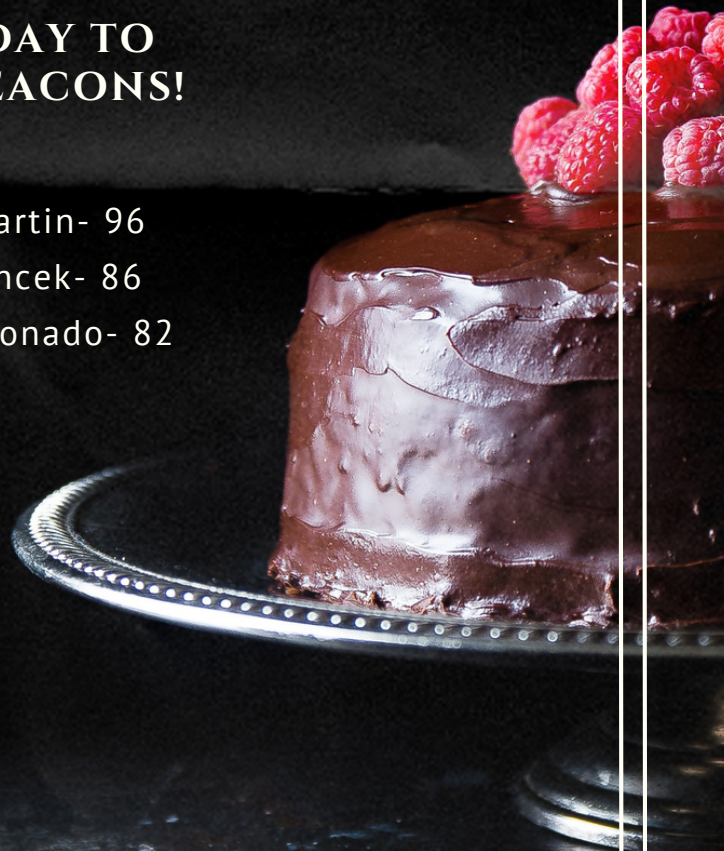
CLICK TO VIEW



CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS!

Deacon Leonard Martin- 96
Deacon Bruno Wiencek- 86
Deacon Eliezer Maldonado- 82



"You are God's building."

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9C

Bishop John Noonan invites you to the celebration of



RED MASS

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

12:10 PM | ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL



St. Thomas More is the patron saint of attorneys, lawyers, public servants, court clerks, politicians, and civil servants.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

[Click to view the Diocesan Calendar](#)



LITURGICAL CORNER



DIOCESAN
LITURGICAL
CALENDAR



DIOCESAN
BULLETIN



CONFIRMATION
SCHEDULE



DIOCESAN
BULLETIN
ESPAÑOL



MARRIAGE
PREPARATION



NUNTATE MAGNIFICENTIAM DEI



DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS
OCTOBER 2023 | VOL.15
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO