



DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

BISHOP'S LETTER: SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES-BECOME "THE TOUCH OF JESUS"

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. I write to you today with a joyous heart because you are on the road of God's ways, receiving Him in the Eucharist and offering Him to one another. You are His hands and feet, His arms and legs within our world and you have shown His face to the people through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy you offer. Your daily labor is a gift for His beloved through Catholic Charities of Central Florida.

[Click here to read the letter](#)

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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. 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. This is the path to personal and ministerial renewal. It is the power behind fruitful diaconal ministry.

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, 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 Strohm, former Director of the Office for the New Evangelization in 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 with the Catherine of Siena Institute.

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)



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

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. 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 by fulfilling this canonical requirement.

I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME.

(MATTHEW 25:3)

MINISTRIES

PRISON MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Sadly, after several months of seeking someone to coordinate the diocesan prison ministry, no one has yet stepped forward. In the meantime, my name has been placed on the diocesan website to be an initial contact point for those seeking help for those in prison and their families. While I have a strong desire to assist our incarcerated brothers and sisters, conflicting demands on my time mean that I will not do this as well as it needs to be done. In the meantime, I have sent out a request to every deacon and man in formation asking you to help me create a list with the names and contact information of all those in your parishes or in your community who you know are providing Catholic ministry to those in jail and prison. This central contact list will allow me to quickly refer people who contact the diocesan office with requests to the appropriate ministers.

*The need for a volunteer coordinator of the prison ministry is **URGENT**. If this notice calls to you, please take it to prayer, and if God urges, email dcamous@orlandodiocese.org or by call (407) 246-4878.*



PREACHING IN AN ELECTION YEAR

Every good preacher knows that the purpose of a homily is to connect the Word of God with the lives of the congregation to inspire them to live a more Christ-centric life. When the lives of the faithful are too often agitated by the divisive discourse of society during an election season, how should a preacher share the truth of God's Word in a way that best reaches those with 'ears to hear?' The first step is to ensure that we are sharing the message that God wants shared at that moment based on the Scripture read, and not try to use the Gospel to support our preferred political agenda. A good homilist will ask himself the important question, "What was Jesus saying to his listeners at the time these words were spoken and how do those words speak to His beloved brothers and sisters now?" Whatever message that is, Jesus' preaching style was to meet people where they were and invite them into the relationship with Him that would allow them to walk forward on a new path. Even with great sinners, Jesus' tone was one of love and mercy, not one of strident condemnation. He consistently issued the invitation to follow Him, knowing the more they walked with Him the more they would be on God's desired path.

As ministers of God's Holy Church, we must remember we are obligated to minister to all God's children, especially those have strayed from God's path. We should never preach a message that seeks to divide. Yes, we must clearly speak God's truth into the world, but our goal is not to angrily chase away those who we believe are sinning in their behavior, for in fact, we all are sinners. We are called, as Jesus did, to invite lovingly and mercifully those who stray to follow the Word of God more closely.



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, November 24th, 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. John Caulfield
Reverend Charles Anderson
Reverend Thomas Bergin
Reverend James Fahey
Reverend William Killion
Reverend Hugo Londono
Reverend George Moreau

DEACONS

Deacon Nemsy Gubatan
Deacon Robert Kloznick
Deacon Kevin Mills
Deacon Agapito Olivo
Deacon Richard Shaw
Deacon Norbert Kazyk

CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS!

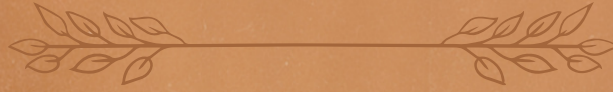
Deacon Bob Turbitt- 86

Deacon Joe Iskra- 83

Deacon Tommy Tate- 83

Deacon Mike Biennas- 81





OFFICE HOURS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Our office will be closed November 23-24, 2023 in celebration of Thanksgiving.
We will return November 27, 2023.



DIOCESAN CALENDAR

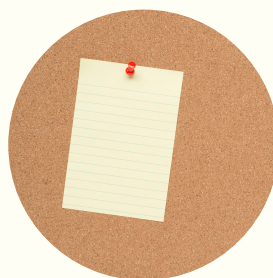
[Click to view the Diocesan Calendar](#)



LITURGICAL CORNER



DIOCESAN
LITURGICAL
CALENDAR



DIOCESAN
BULLETIN



CONFIRMATION
SCHEDULE



DIOCESAN
BULLETIN
ESPAÑOL



MARRIAGE
PREPARATION



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NOVEMBER 2023 | VOL.17
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO