

# SENIOR PRIEST CONNECTIONS

#### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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Health Tips: Everybody Needs A Good Night's Sleep



#### **BISHOP'S LETTER**

#### Hosanna

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We join Jesus and the people of Jerusalem, praising God and saying, "Hosanna in the highest!" for we begin this Holy Week with great joy as our Redeemer is upon us. He came to rescue us! We must also look deep into our heart to make sure we are ready for the King of Kings, the Savior of the world. Are we worthy to receive Him?

#### Continued

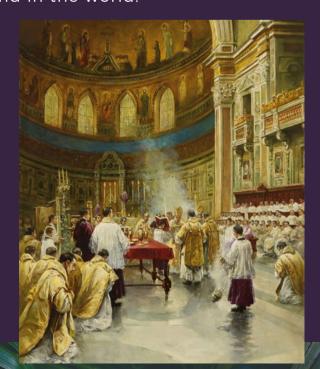
#### Pray to the Holy Spirit to move your heart

Of course we are! We are made by God for God and we have been anointed with the Sacrament of Baptism. We receive Him into our soul each time we avail ourselves to receive the Eucharist. Unlike the people who received Jesus, "the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee," we already know "the rest of the story." Throughout His ministry on this earth, Jesus's purpose was to draw the people to the Father. His ministry was to help everyone understand that God is not far away, but right here with them. He chose His apostles, His 12, to learn this in a most intimate way. Jesus attends to them as His beloved and prepares them to carry forth the Father's mission—to draw people to Him.

Throughout the celebration of Mass, the story of salvation unfolds before us. We participate in the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus from the proclamation of the Word to our 'sending forth'. We receive the eternal gift of Jesus, and how daunting it can seem! At the end of the celebration of Mass, Jesus sends us forth to evangelize. He sends us forth to love and serve Him and to share that love with one another.

God calls us from our mother's womb to proclaim the Gospel among the nations. We possess one common salvation, one hope and one undivided charity.

Pope Francis tells us that the experience of the 12 apostles and the testimony of St. Paul invites us all to this call. "The treasure you have received with your Christian vocation, are obliged to give it: it is the dynamic nature of the vocation, the dynamic nature of life . . . Christ conferred on the apostles and their successors the duty of teaching, sanctifying, and ruling in His name and power. You share in the priestly, prophetic, and royal office of Christ and therefore have your own share in the mission of the whole people of God in the Church and in the world."



#### Pray to the Holy Spirit to move your heart

Are you ready for more hosannas? We begin with Palm Sunday, I hope you join me for the Chrism Mass on Monday, April 3, 11:00 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe where the priests of the Diocese of Orlando renew their priestly promises and we praise God with gratitude for our jubilarians. I am personally filled with great joy as the Diocese of Orlando is gifted with priests whose service to God is made manifest through you, the faith-filled people. The Chrism Mass is a beautiful liturgy where the oils of anointing are blessed and consecrated. We begin the Triduum with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, where we experience the humility of the service to which we are called by witnessing the washing of feet and receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. We walk with Jesus on the Way of the Cross as we participate in Good Friday of the Lord's Passion. We hear our story of salvation and sing hosanna as we welcome 581 catechumens to the community of faith on Holy Saturday of the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter. The Resurrection of the Lord on April 9 is the most holy celebration of the Church. Through His Passion, death and resurrection, we are bequeathed eternal life. Hosanna in the highest!

As we receive the greatest love, may we, with all our heart, mind, strength and spirit, return to God His service to one another.

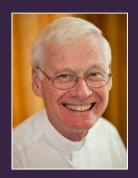
Most Reverend John Noonan Bishop of Orlando



#### **MISSION**

The Office of Senior and International Priests was established to collaborate with the Bishop and his senior priests. We are happy to provide support, information, and assistance to the Senior and International Priests of our diocese. If you have any questions, concerns, or updates, please do not hesitate to contact us.

#### **STAFF - SENIOR & INTERNATIONAL PRIESTS**



Rev. Fred Ruse fredruse@yahoo.com (386) 451-3865



Deacon Joe Gassman jgassman@orlandodiocese.org (321) 258-8973



Jennifer Kuhn jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org (407) 246-4898

#### Mark your calendars!

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **Saturday, May 27, 2023**

Priests Ordination Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe 10:00 a.m.

#### Senior Priest Webpage

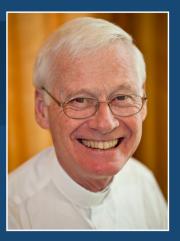
We have a new webpage dedicated to Senior Priests. This site will give you beneficial items that you should know about. Should you have any suggestions on additional items to add to the webpage, please email Jennifer at jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org

https://www.orlandodiocese.org/ministries-offices/priests/senior-priests/

# FROM THE VICAR OF SENIOR PRIESTS

Dear Brothers.

I have a very dear friend who has for decades worked on Florida's death row in her capacity as an attorney. She is of the Quaker tradition. Recently we were talking about the changes in our lives which mean we have to "slow down", or what I call "pivot".



Rev. Fred Ruse, Vicar for Senior Priests

She also observed that the concern for COVID has diminished her ability to get out and about as has always been her custom. For more than 40 years she has been "showing up", as she says, "knowing that is what I was to do." For her "showing up" all those years, she has been fondly referred to by many as the "Mother Teresa of Florida's death row."

We both landed on the recognition that our path now, more than anything else, is best captured by that quote we have all heard: "They also serve who only stand and wait." (John Milton)

For Milton those words were his last sentence in a sonnet he wrote as he struggled to adjust to losing his sight, wondering how he would continue. In fact, he embraced that moment and in blindness he created his most notable piece of art: Paradise Lost (he dictated it to others to write).

A recent visit with Father Sean Cooney was powerful for me. He noted he spends his days praying the rosary, praying more rosaries than he has ever prayed. It was a glimpse of an essential part of our lives as we age and find ourselves with changed agendas and abilities. It is a posture akin to Milton's "serving by waiting," or what we know as "contemplation."

I heard the same in a recent phone conversation with Father Bill Neumann (known to many as "Willie"). I mentioned to him about another brother who was going through some challenges. It was like an urgency overtook Willie to reach out to that brother with a note of encouragement, as he asked me for his address. I was so impressed by his affection and joy to do that, which for me, comes from a place that is cultivated by the contemplative life.

These words of Pope Francis in The Joy of the Gospel are on target for us: "Our commitment does not consist exclusively in activities or programs of promotion and assistance; what the Holy Spirit mobilizes is not an unruly activism, but above all an attentiveness."

As the "Elders" scattered across our diocese we are the "contemplatives," which has both a unique prophetic and pastoral character. In this way our many good people in our Lord's ministry are accompanied by our prayerfulness and witness which will form them in their discipleship and mission.

Peace to all of you,

Fred

#### **EMMAUS**



We have our 1st resident of Emmaus. Welcome Father Ron Oser & Father Ed Waters

As you can see by the photos of the interior and know the peaceful environment of San Pedro Spiritual Development Center, what more could one ask for? This development is a tremendous gift for priests who have given their life to the service of God people, by the people they served.

Retired incardinated priest of the diocese are eligible for residency. To be considered for Emmaus the priest must:

- 1) Express your interest in writing to the Office for Senior Priests.
- 2) Meet the independent living standards by enrollment into the diocesans IndeQuest Nurse Care Management program. After you have completed these first two steps, you will receive a confirmation letter with the next steps in the process, which includes reviewing and updating a Priest Verification Form and your funeral arrangements.

For more information, scheduling a tour, and the criteria and availability of an Emmaus unit, please contact the Office for Senior Priests (407) 246-4898.

Teacon Joe Gassman

### **EMMAUS HOME**













#### **SEE WHAT'S INSIDE**

To schedule a tour, please contact the Office for Senior priests.

(407) 246-4898

#### **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY**



Very Rev. Anthony Aarons, Rector of the Basilica National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, is extending an invitation to assist the Basilica ministries. If you are interested in serving the international and local pilgrims of the Basilica, Please contact Wanda Zambrana <a href="mailto:wzambrana@mqus.org">wzambrana@mqus.org</a>, or 407-239-6600.



# INDEQUEST NURSE CARE MANAGMENT PROGRAM

IndeQuest is a nurse care management company specializing in the management and coordination of the healthcare needs of their clients. Their highly qualified nurses are certified care management specialists with nursing skills encompassing the spectrum of healthcare systems. As your nurse care manager (NCM) they will coordinate and oversee your specific healthcare needs to include coordination of medications, advise on direct care costs to what medical insurance will cover, navigate through the healthcare system in finding specialists, schedule appointments, and help maintain your medical records. They are your personal healthcare advocates, responsible for ensuring all aspects of your healthcare providers function efficiently and effectively.

Program successes have included reducing the number of overnight hospital stays, elimination of duplicate and unnecessary medications, and encouraging happier and healthier lifestyle of the priest.

The two most common questions asked about the program are:

- 1) What about my privacy? Your nurse is bound by the same HIPPA rules as any of your doctors. No, the nurses do not report to the bishop.
- 2) How much will it cost me? Absolutely nothing! This is a free benefit to you. You and your NCM determine how often you use their services; it can be as simple as a quarterly phone call.

#### **OUR NURSE CARE MANAGERS:**



Gwen Ledene, RN, BSN IndeQuest Nurse Case Manager License RN #: 1897602



Nicole Crouser, RN, BSN IndeQuest Nurse Care Manager License RN #: 9190260



Lindsey Mankoff, RN, BSN, IndeQuest Nurse Case Manager License RN #: 9182118

THE INDEQUEST NURSE CARE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO INCARDINATED SENIOR PRIESTS (65+ YEARS OF AGE)

TO ENROLL CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR SENIOR PRIESTS (407) 246-4845.

#### THE CARA REPORT

### MOST PRIESTS FLOURISHING, BUT CONCERNED ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS WITH BISHOPS, BURNOUT

The Catholic Project of The Catholic University of America brings together clergy and laity to address some of the challenges the Catholic Church faces today. On October 19, it released highlights of the largest study of Catholic priests in more than 50 years, based on three research components: a census of bishops by CARA, which had a response rate of 67 percent; a survey of 10,000 priests (3,516 responses) by Gallup; and in-depth interviews of more than 100 priests, managed by Dr. Tricia Bruce of the University of Notre Dame.

According to the report's introduction, "Priests on the whole are doing well, they report significant levels of well-being. However, younger priests display signs of ministry burnout and diocesan priests are doing less well than those who belong to religious orders. Priests find significant support from their lay friends. When it comes to trust, there is a broad range of answers to the question, 'Do you trust your bishop?' Priests who trust their bishop report higher levels of well-being on all measures, so this is significant. Priests are supportive of the policies the Church has implemented to combat abuse. However, they are concerned about false allegations and being abandoned by the diocese." The following are excerpts from the report, edited for length and clarity.

#### Well-Being ... and Its Threats

Using the cutoff scoring recommended in the Harvard Flourishing Index, 77 percent of priests and 81 percent of bishops can be categorized as "flourishing." But 45 percent of priests report at least one symptom of ministry burnout, which is unevenly distributed between diocesan (50 percent) and religious (33 percent) priests, and 9 percent exhibit severe burnout.

#### **A Crisis of Trust**

Diocesan priests report significantly lower levels of trust in their bishops (67 percent) than do religious priests in their major superiors (49 percent). Confidence in U.S. bishops in general was reported at 24 percent.

Every member of the Church needs to be able to turn to a spiritual support system when needed, and for the laity this is often a priest. It would seem to make sense, then, for priests to seek support from their bishops. Yet among their various sources of social support, priests rank their bishops in last place: Lay friends (93 percent), family (88 percent), parishioners for diocesan priests (87 percent), the leader of one's religious institute for religious priests (80 percent), fellow priests (73 percent), and the bishop of a diocesan priest's diocese (60 percent).

#### **CARA REPORT**

#### Continued

While more than 90 percent of bishops claimed that they would help a priest who approached them for help with personal struggles "very well," only 36 percent of diocesan priests said this of their bishop. And many priests do not feel that their bishop is the father figure to them that they wish he were.

#### Living in a State of Fear

Fully 90 percent of priests see their dioceses as having a strong culture of child safety and protection, and nearly 70 percent of diocesan priests see the policy as a positive demonstration of the Church's values and important for rebuilding trust with the wider public. Yet 40 percent of priests see the zerotolerance policy as too harsh. Many priests fear that, in the present climate, it has become all too easy for someone to falsely accuse priests of abuse. A single allegation, even if proven false, can destroy a priest's reputation permanently. Notably, 82 percent of priests regularly fear being falsely accused of sexual abuse. Following are priests' expectations in case of false accusations of abuse:

You would be provided with sufficient resources by your diocese/local religious community to defend yourself(e.g., in court): diocesan priests (36 percent), religious priests (85 percent).

- Your bishop/major superior would support you: diocesan priests (51 percent), religious priests (86 percent).
- The legal process would prove your innocence: diocesan priests (61 percent), religious priests (71 percent).
- Your brother priests would support you: diocesan priests (70 percent), religious priests (86 percent).



#### **CARA REPORT**

#### Continued

#### A Mismatch in Perspective

The Rite of Ordination depicts bishops as shepherds, fathers, brothers, and coworkers in relation to their priests. But the following are the contrasting images of the bishop held by diocesan priests and by bishops themselves:

- Brother: bishops (73 percent), priests (28 percent)
- Father: bishops (70 percent), priests (28 percent)
- Co-worker: bishops (73 percent), priests (32 percent)
- Servant: bishops (68 percent), priests (34 percent)
- Shepherd: bishops (83 percent), priests (54 percent)
- Administrator: bishops (44 percent), priests (55 percent)

Priests' Recommendations on How to Move Forward When asked what steps need to be taken in order to improve priests' trust in their bishops and superiors, priests identified three main needs, each of which is accompanied by several action steps necessary for their realization:

- Strengthening personal relationships as brother and father, rather than employer. This includes, for instance, knowing priests' names, authentically engaging with priests in social events, and finding ways to relate to priests with humility and in a non bureaucratic fashion.
- More clear and open communication (by both bishops and major superiors) as well as transparency regarding planning and decision-making around matters such as finances and assignments. Priests also emphasized the need for transparency about the review process for allegations of abuse, ensuring due process, providing more clarity around allegations made against priests, and treating accused priests as innocent until proven guilty.
- Need for accountability of bishops in order to rebuild trust with priests and the laity.

#### HEALTH TIPS

### EVERYBODY NEEDS A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP...ESPECIALLY AN OLDER BODY!

#### DR. ROSEMARY LAIRD

Ever since my days as a sleep-deprived medical resident, I've known to take sleep complaints, or the lack of sleep, seriously. I felt the mental dullness along with the physical and emotional strain that chronic sleep deprivation creates. For many of us, the aging process makes changes that disrupt sleep and leave our bodies chronically sleep deprived. Much like a computer that needs to reboot, our bodies need that time to heal, repair, and grow. This time is more critical as we age since it can take longer to heal and repair old parts!

If we want to work our way to get more sleep each night, let's first review what happens to our sleep patterns as we age. Then we will review the most common forms of sleep disturbance and strategies that can help. (Please discuss any concerns this generates with your nurse care manager and personal primary care provider.)





#### **Sleep and Aging**

Most adults need about 7 - 9 hours of sleep per night, and typically we need the same amount as when we were younger. What often changes is when we sleep.
Remember, early to bed, early to rise? Most older adults go to sleep and wake up earlier. Another change is that we spend less time in deep sleep (when the body does all its work to repair and restore) and have more interruptions. Put all those changes together, and many people have a poor sleep. As many as 60% of the older population at any one time complain of insomnia.

The most common sleep disorders among older adults are:

- Insomnia
- Sleep Disordered Breathing, such as snoring or sleep apnea
- Movement disorders such as restless leg syndrome & periodic limb movement

# EVERYBODY NEEDS A GOOD NIGHT

#### Insomnia

Insomnia is the inability to fall asleep or remain asleep throughout the night.

- Taking a long time (more than 30-45 minutes) to fall asleep
- · Waking up many times each night
- Waking up early and being unable to get back to sleep
- Waking up feeling tired

#### What causes insomnia?

 Many things, including pain, cause insomnia; neurologic conditions such as Parkinson's or dementia; heart or lung conditions; depression or excessive worry; consuming caffeine or alcohol or excessive fluids near bedtime, certain medications, and environmental factors in the sleeping area.

#### **Sleep Disordered Breathing**

A partial blockage of the airway passage from the nose and mouth to the lungs causes snoring. The blockage causes the tissues in these areas to vibrate, leading to the noise produced when someone snores.

**Sleep Apnea** is when a person stops breathing for ten or more seconds multiple times throughout the night.

**Obstructive Sleep Apnea** is common in older adults and people who are overweight. It occurs when the air entering the nose or mouth is partially or wholly blocked.

**Central Sleep Apnea** is less common and occurs when the brain does not send the right signals to the brain to start the breathing process. Both obstructive and central sleep apnea can increase a person's risk for high blood pressure, strokes, heart disease, and cognitive problems.

**Movement Disorders** Two movement disorders that may disrupt sleep is restless leg syndrome and periodic limb movement.

**Restless Leg Syndrome** affects more than 20% of people aged 80 and over. An uncomfortable feeling in the legs, such as tingling, crawling, or the sensation of pins and needles, characterizes restless leg syndrome.

Periodic Limb Movement is where a person often kicks or jerks one or both legs during sleep.

#### **EVERYBODY NEEDS A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP**

#### Continued

If you have any concerns, make an appointment to talk with your primary care provider. In the meantime, review and follow the "sleep hygiene" steps below to ensure you've done all you can to have a good night's rest.

#### Sleep Hygiene

- Follow a regular schedule go to sleep and wake up at the same time most nights, aiming for 7 hours total.
- Do not nap during the day.
- Exercise for at least 30 minutes and at regular times each day. Try to finish your workout at least 3 hours before bedtime.
- Get natural light in the afternoon each day.
- Be careful about what you eat and drink after dinner. Don't drink beverages with caffeine late in the day. "Only sips after six."
- Don't drink alcohol or smoke. Even small amounts of alcohol make it harder to stay asleep, and nicotine in cigarettes is a stimulant. No nightcaps!
- Create a comfortable place to sleep. The room should be dark, well-ventilated, and quiet.
- Consider buying a new pillow, mattress.
- Develop a bedtime routine. Please do the same things each night to tell your body it is time to wind down.
- Sleep only in your bedroom. After turning off the light, give yourself 15 minutes to fall asleep. If you are still awake after 15 minutes, get out of bed and do a quiet activity such as reading or listening to music. When you are sleepy, go back to bed.

#### SENIOR SERVICE - BY COUNTY

#### ORANGE COUNTY

Seniors First, Inc.

#### Services:

Meals on Wheels
In-Home Care
Guardianship
Stepping Stone Medical Equipment

5395 LB McLeod Road Orlando, FL 32811 (407) 292-0177

Email: info@seniorsfirstinc.org

### SEMINOLE COUNTY

Meals on Wheels, Etc.

#### **Services:**

Meals on Wheels
Transportation
Homemaking Services
Chores & Home Improvements

2801 S. Financial Court
Sanford, FL 32773
(407) 333-8877
Email: info@mealsetc.org

### BREVARD COUNTY

Aging Matters in Brevard

Services:

Meals on Wheels Seniors At Lunch Transportation Catering

3600 W. King Street Cocoa, FL 32926 (321) 632-0469 www.AgingMattersBrevard.org

### OSCEOLA COUNTY

Osceola County Council on Aging.

Inc.

#### **Services:**

In Home Services
Nutrition
Transportation
Weatherization/Chores

700 Generation Point Kissimmee, FL 34744 (407) 846-8532

Email: info@osceola-coa.com

#### **UPPER ROOM CRISIS HOTLINE**

The Upper Room Hotline is a faith based hotline in the Catholic Tradition. The Upper room Crisis Hotline is motivated by the mercy and compassion of Jesus. The Upper Room provides a non-judgmental listening and referral hotline to anyone in spiritual need including clergy, religious, and lay people of all faiths

Call 1-888-808-8724 Central Time between 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

#### SENIOR SERVICES - BY COUNTY, CONT'D

### VOLUSIA

Council on Aging of Volusia County

#### Services:

Personal Care
Chores
Meal Services
Respite Program
Guardianship
Senior Activities

420 Fentress Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Phone: (386) 253-4700
Fax: (386) 253-6300

#### POLK COUNTY

VISTE (Volunteers in Service to the

Elderly)

#### Services:

Transportation Supplemental Groceries Hot Meals Birthdays

1232 E. Magnolia Street Lakeland, FL 33801 Phone: (863) 284-0828 Email: info@viste.org

#### **SUMTER COUNTY**

Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.
Free Meals - Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.
Lunch at 11:00 a.m.
410 East Belt Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513
Phone: (352) 793-6111

Phone: (352) 793-6111 (Pre-registration required)

#### MARION COUNTY

Marion Senior Services

#### **Services:**

Nutritional Programs
 Transportation
 In-home support
 (Including, Adult Day Care, Case
 Management, Emergency Alerts,
Energy Assistance, Homemaker Services,
 Meals on Wheels,
Personal Care, Respite Care, Nutritional
 Supplement, etc.

1101 SW 20th Court Ocala, FL 34471 Phone: (352) 620-3501

#### LAKE COUNTY

#### **Elder Options**

#### Services:

Elder Helpline Get Help: (800) 262-2243
Elder Abuse Prevention
Options & Benefits Counseling
SHINE-Guidance on health insurance
Saavy Caregiver Training
Care Transitions Program
Healthy Aging Classes
Tele-Talk

100 SW 75th Street, Suite 301 Gainesville, FL 32607 Phone: (800) 262-2243 Fax: (352) 378-1256

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

**APRIL** 

Rev. Robert Brown

Rev. John Murray

Very Rev. Ralph Duwell

Rev. Nicholas O'Brien

Rev. Robert Traupman

MAY

Rev. Sean Cooney

Rev. Peter Sagorski

Rev. Peter Mitchell

Msgr. Richard Walsh

Rev. Patrick O'Doherty

Rev. Edward Waters

Very Rev. Tim Daly

**JUNE** 

Msgr. David Page

Rev. Alvaro Jimenez



# PRIEST ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

Rev. Tom Connery Rev. Robert Krisman Rev. Robert Mitchell

21, 1983 40 years 25, 1973 50 Years

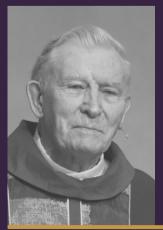
27, 1973 50 Years

JUNE

Msgr. John Bluett

13, 1963

60 years









# ANNIVERSARY OF DECEASED PRIESTS

## A PRIEST FOREVER

#### **APRIL**

Rev. John Walsh

Rev. Eduardo Benitez

Msgr. Terrence Farrelly

Rev. Domingo Gonzalez

†Most Rev. Thomas Grady

Rev. Edward Hamilton

Rev. Stanislaus Morawski, C.S.s.R

†Most Rev. William Borders

Rev. Colin Kidd, O.F.M.

#### **MAY**

Rev. Robert McDonnell

Rev. Edwin Pawlak

Rev. John Garvy

Msgr. Fachtna Joseph Harte

Rev. James MacLoughlin

Rev. Patrick O'Carroll

Rev. William Foley, S.M.

#### JUNE

Rev. Francis Browne, C.S.s.R.

Rev. Michael Dillon, C.S.s.R.

Rev. William Corry

Rev. Peter Henry

Rev. Franklin Salazar

Rev. Sante Reale. C.P.P.S

Rev. Albert J. Fornace

Rev. Paul Woodyard

Msgr. Michael Beerhalter

Rev. Mariano Coba

Rev. Joseph Majewski, C.S.s.R

Priest

To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures; To be a member of each family. yet belonging to none; To share all suffering; to penetrate all secrets: To heal all wounds: to go from men to God and offer Him their prayers; To return from God to men to bring pardon and hope; To have a heart of fire for Charity. and a heart of bronze for Chastity To teach and to pardon, console and bless always. My God, what a life: and it is yours, O priest of Jesus Christ.

-Lacordaire

# PRIEST IS INCARDINATED ON HIS SILVER ANNIVERSARY



ORLANDO | Father Justin Vakko's silver anniversary celebration during the Chrism Mass brought with it yet another joy as he also became a diocesan priest that day. Incardinated into the Diocese of Orlando by Bishop John Noonan, he said he looks forward to continuing to pastor his parish, Prince of Peace in Ormond Beach, and serve the diocese with humility. "It is always my prayer, and I am always aware that God called me," he said. "God calls the weak in order to challenge or shame the strong. It is a simple reminder that God called the foolish in order to shame the wise."

Originally from Kerala, India, Father Vakko was a Discalced Carmelite before becoming incardinated. He said growing up, the Catholic Church was like a second home to him. He and his seven brothers and sisters were at church daily, praying as a family. Thanking God for his family he said, "I am excited and grateful to God for all His many blessings and plan to continue to seek God's blessings in the years to come. God is always good to me and generous. I continue to trust in God's mercy and to be faithful to Him always."

click to watch video

# ORDINATION: SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023 AT 10 A.M.

BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

# ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD



**DEACON ÁNGEL GARCÍA**HOLY REDEEMER, KISSIMMEE



**DEACON ZACHARY PARKER**EPIPHANY, PORT ORANGE



**DEACON EDGAR SERRANO**ST. MARY'S, ROCKLEDGE

# ORDINATION: SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 AT 11 A.M.

ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH
To View the Mass via Livestream - www.svdp.edu/live

# ORDINATION TO THE TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE



PHILLIP RICHARD MILLS
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY,
CANDLER



MICHAEL BATISTA ST. CHARLES BORROMEO, ORLANDO

