



BISHOP'S LETTER

BREAK OPEN THE BEATITUDES AND LIVE FAITHFULLY

Beloved Children of God,

The Scripture readings for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, commonly known as All Souls Day, are rich in imagery professing God's love for us. The Scripture describe God's everlasting faith in each one of us and while we receive salvation, we are compelled to trust in God and to live through, with and in God. The Holy Spirit breathes for us when we abide with God in love. We are given grace and mercy, and His care of each one is everlasting.

[READ MORE](#)

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ANNUAL DEACON COUPLE RETREATS

Registration for the Annual Deacon Couple Retreats for 2026 has begun. [Click Here.](#)

January 23-25, 2026: Developing the Interior Life

Led by Deacon Matthew Newsome

Deacon Matthew Newsome serves in campus ministry and the office of catechetical formation in the Diocese of Charlotte. He is the author of **The Devout Life: A Modern Guide to Practical Holiness with St. Francis de Sales** (Sophia Institute Press, 2023), and writes a monthly column for the **Catholic News Herald**. His writings have also appeared in The Deacon, Envoy, This Rock (now Catholic Answers Magazine), and online at Homiletic and Pastoral Review, Dappled Things and Catholic Exchange. He holds a master's degree in Theology from Holy Apostles College & Seminary. His homilies, reflections, and musings on ministry can be found at teachingandpreaching.substack.com.

He and his wife Joannie have seven children and live on a little plot of land in the mountains of North Carolina that they share with a small flock of sheep, a smattering of chickens, and an ornery old donkey.

February 20-22, 2026: Draw Near to God and He Will Draw Near to You

Led by the religious sisters of the Missionaries of the Holy Family

This retreat will lead deacons and their wives to deepen their personal and spousal prayer life. Topics will include Encountering the God Who Loves First, The Deacon and His Wife: Praying as One, and Interceding for the People of God. **The Missionary Sisters of the Holy Family** are a religious Congregation rooted in the communion of the Holy Trinity and modeled on the unity of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Three congregation members will lead the talks.



CONTINUED

ANNUAL DEACON COUPLE RETREATS

March 20-22, 2026: God Needs Storytellers!

Led by Deacon Rick Wagner

God is constantly tapping us on the shoulder, letting us know He is actively engaged in our lives. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, many people do not recognize God's presence.

That is where we come in – God needs storytellers! By virtue of our Baptism, we - all Christians – have an obligation to proclaim the Gospel. “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

This retreat experience will explore our role as storytellers, answering questions such as:

- What do we mean by storytelling?
- Why is it important – especially now?
- What types of stories should we be telling?
- We must walk the walk and talk the talk.

Retreat includes presentations, small group discussion, and some large group sharing.

April 17-19, 2026: Spanish Language Retreat TBD



PARISHES STILL IN NEED OF DEACONS

Several pastors have requested additional deacons be assigned to their parishes. If you feel God may be calling you to one of these parishes, or that God may be letting you know it is time to change parishes, please contact **Deacon Dave** to discuss one or more of these opportunities:

ST. ANDREW PARISH

801 N. Hastings St., Orlando | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

Pastor: Father Leo Hodges

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH (WINTER HAVEN)

532 Ave. M, NW, Winter Haven | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

Parochial Administrator: Father Glenn Lopez

BLESSED TRINITY PARISH

4545 Anderson Rd., Orlando | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

Pastor: Father Phil 'Skip' Negley

ST. PAUL PARISH AND SCHOOL

1330 Sunshine Ave., Leesburg | Needs a deacon (bilingual Spanish/English preferred).

Parochial Administrator: Father Stephen Ogonwa

As we approach our next Diaconate Ordination, we will begin to review parishes with an abundant number of deacons and thus reassignments will be made. As you can see, several parishes need help. It is our duty to serve the people in need.



DIACONATE CONVOCATION SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you so much to all who attended Convocation and participated in the survey. Your suggestions and comments are greatly appreciated. While many deacons who responded to the survey were disappointed in not hearing from Bishop Noonan, this is understandable. We will look at the schedule for next year and work with Bishop Noonan on when he can address his deacons. We understand your need to socialize with your brother deacons. We provide time before Mass, during lunch, and afterward. You have your deanery meetings, ordinations and other various diocesan events to connect with your brother deacons.

SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONVOCATION

October 3, 2026 | Holy Family Catholic Church, Orlando

CHAPLAIN

CATHOLIC SPIRITUAL CARE MINISTERS NEEDED AT ORLANDO HEALTH – ORMC

There is an urgent need for Catholic Spiritual Care Ministers at Orlando Regional Medical Center in downtown Orlando. While our parishes remain the spiritual home for many, the hospital becomes a temporary “church” for thousands each year. Hospital rooms are often the margins of parish life and places where the Church is most needed. Each hospital visit becomes a small liturgy of love, a sacred encounter between Christ, His Church, and those who suffer.

Deacons are uniquely positioned to bring the light of Christ into these vulnerable spaces. In times of medical uncertainty, a deacon’s presence offers calm, reassurance, and hope. Hospital ministry provides a grace-filled opportunity to encounter Christ in the sick through compassionate listening, prayer, and words of hope. The deacon also stands as a witness to resurrection faith which offers the peace of Christ to those facing fear, grief, or death. Volunteers will also help coordinate sacramental needs such as Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation in partnership with priests serving at ORMC.

Currently, only four Catholic volunteers serve weekly in this 1,700-bed hospital alongside our chaplains. We are seeking deacons and men in formation to join this important work. The ministry is also open to deacon wives and wives of men in formation who feel called to this ministry and are trained as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

We invite you to prayerfully consider this vital ministry. The hospital is a sacred place where the wounded Body of Christ is present, where souls long for comfort, and where the Gospel is proclaimed, not only in words but through a ministry of presence.

If you feel called to serve, please contact **Deacon Bryan Zornik** for more information.

There are also requests for part-time chaplains at Advent Health Hospitals, as well! Contact **Deacon Dave if you’re interested.**

If you are associated with an outside-of-the-walls ministry that needs help, please share the information with us so we can put it in our next newsletter.



REMINDERS

FUNERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Should you want to update your funeral arrangements, to help and make the process easier for your spouse and/or children, then **please see our website.**

UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION

Have you moved, gotten a new email address, or a new cell phone number? Please let **Jennifer** know so she can update your contact information on the Clergy database.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WITNESSING HOPE & RECONCILIATION: **Human Dignity and the Death Penalty**

- **Robert Dunham**, *Death Penalty Policy Project*
 - **Monique Lee-Coleman**, *Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty*
 - **Margaret Pfeil**, *University of Notre Dame*
 - **Sylvester Schieber**, *Father of a Daughter Who was Murdered*
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NOVEMBER 19 | 2 P.M. ET

Register Here



MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, PATHWAYS TO CARE

[Learn how to volunteer.](#)

TOURISM

Contact **Deacon Joe Gassman** to learn what is needed to serve at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

MINISTRY TO THE INCARCERATED

If you want to learn more about this ministry, reach out to **Deacon Jimmy Avellan**.
If you know of prisons or jails that are underserved, please let us know.

Happy Birthday

— TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS! —

DEACON BOB TURBITT	88
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DEACON JOE ISKRA	85
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DEACON TOMMY TATE	85
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DEACON MIKE BIENNAS	83
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DEACON HUGH MULLER	81
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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

SPANISH - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 8:15 A.M.

Mary, Mother of God Chapel
San Pedro Spiritual Development Center

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Click to view
Diocesan Calendar



LITURGICAL CORNER



**DIOCESAN
LITURGICAL
CALENDAR**



**DIOCESAN
BULLETIN
ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**CONFIRMATION
SCHEDULE**



**ANUNCIO DEL
BOLETÍN
DIOCESANO**



**MARRIAGE
PREPARATION**



DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS
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