



| *From the:*

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE



"Urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received." (Eph 4:1)

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Christine Shields Departure. For the past four (4) years, Christine has been a blessing to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate as the Administrative Assistant. In her note to all of us she states: "I have seen and experienced God at work through your ministry, witness to faith, and personal testimony. I have made personal connections and gotten to know a lot of you through my position here."

She, and our office, believe God is doing a new thing in her life with the accepted opportunity to move down the hall to the Office of Music and Liturgy. Most know her signing talents as shared during our convocations and other events. This is an opportunity to further share her passion and musical education.

We certainly will miss her assistance in the office. We will be looking for a suitable replacement in the near future. We expect the position to be posted soon. In the meantime direct all correspondence to Deacon Joe Gassman, jgassman@orlandodiocese.org or 407-246-4897.

Annual Submissions.

- A. We will begin conducting an Annual Review of the Permanent Diaconate. We will be using Survey Monkey as the platform. The annual review will help us to determine the health and welfare of the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Orlando and evaluate future assignments and recruitment efforts. Expect the Review Form in your email in early May 2018.

- B. To be considered a deacon in good standing the following canonical and diocesan requirement must be met:
 1. Be assigned as a Diocese of Orlando parish as an **active** deacon (Senior & Retired deacons may still be considered active),
 2. Complete and submit an annual SME agreement and assessment to the Diocese,
 3. Document 30 hours of Continuing Formation and submit to the Diocese,
 4. Attend an annual overnight retreat (documented on the Continuing Formation Form),
 5. Maintain a current diocesan Safe Environment Training program and background check, and
 6. Have a current Funeral Arrangement Form filed with the Diocese.

Failure to maintain these minimum standards could render a deacon ineligible for certain assignments, appointments, and issuance of letters of good standing.

- C. Typically these reports and evaluations are due on February 1st of each year. Since we have begun assessing the parishes for deacons on the diocesan fiscal year (July 1 to Jun 30) we are adjusting the reports due dates to match.

Webpage Update. Our diocesan webpage for deacons has been completely updated. It includes the most current information of who we are as deacon, good standing requirements, forms, & policies. It also includes the deacon necrology and list of deacon assignments. [Diocese of Orlando Deacons.](#)

LITURGICAL CORNER

Deacon's Posture. There has been much conversation on the appropriate posture of a deacon serving on the altar, and I would take that a step further, while present and fully participating in a Mass, even as a member of the congregation. The Vatican put forth an INSTRUCTION ON CERTAIN QUESTIONS REGARDING THE COLLABORATION OF THE NON-ORDAINED FAITHFUL IN THE SACRED MINISTRY OF PRIEST, *LIBRERIA EDITRICE VATICANA*, VATICAN CITY 1997.

Article 6 *Liturgical Celebrations*

§ 1. Liturgical actions must always clearly manifest the unity of the People of God as a structured communion.(89) Thus there exists a close link between the ordered exercise of liturgical action and the reflection in the liturgy of the Church's structured nature.

This happens when all participants, with faith and devotion, discharge those roles proper to them.

§ 2. To promote the proper identity (of various roles) in this area, those abuses which are contrary to the provisions of canon 907 are to be eradicated. In Eucharistic celebrations deacons and non-ordained members of the faithful may not pronounce prayers — e.g. especially the Eucharistic prayer, with its concluding doxology — or any other parts of the liturgy reserved to the celebrant priest. Neither may deacons or non-ordained members of the faithful use gestures or actions which are proper to the same priest celebrant. It is a grave abuse for any member of the non-ordained faithful to "quasi preside" at the Mass while leaving only that minimal participation to the priest which is necessary to secure validity.

Thus the deacon, when he serves, is encouraged to fold his hands, Figure 1, and limit his movements to those necessary to perform his duties to assist the presiding bishop/priest. We do not extend our hands for



Figure 1

blessings, nor do we lip the words of consecration, we do our best to become invisible until we are fulfilling our proper functions of the liturgy.

We by our position, as an ordained minister, are a teacher to the lay faithful by our actions & posture, more so than just our words.

FORMATION UPDATES



Formation Cohorts. The men from Cohort 2018 were installed as Acolytes on December 9th at San Pedro Center. Their canonical retreat is scheduled for June 1st through the 5th with their ordination scheduled for 10 a.m. on June 9th at the National Shrine of Mary Queen of the Universe. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they enter these final months of discernment.

Recruitment (Cohort 2024). We're looking for a few good men (couples),

"It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (Acts 6:2-4)

We are calling on you and the Church community of the diocese to bring forth reputable men, servants, filled with the Spirit, to discern a call to the permanent diaconate. The Diaconate Information Night is the first step.

We have completed 4 information nights with 43 inquirers attending. The last Information Night is tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. at **St. Mary Magdalen, Altamonte Springs.**

Timeline for Applications.

December:	Complete Information Nights
January - March:	Pastor's may order an Application
April 1 st :	Applications are Due (No applications will be accepted late)
May:	Applicant Interviews
June 15 th :	Bishop Recommendations to invite applicants into discernment
July 1 st :	Official notifications will be sent out.

"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now."

(Jn 16:12)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2017		
Dec 12	Diaconate Information Night	Our Lady of Hope, Port Orange
Dec 14	Diaconate Information Night	St. Timothy, Lady Lake
Dec 19	Diaconate Information Night	St. Mary Magdalen, Altamonte Spg
2018		
Feb 2-4	Diaconate Retreat (Couples) Marriage Encounter International	San Pedro Center
Mar 16-18	Diaconate Retreat (English)	San Pedro Center
Apr 13-15	Diaconate Retreat (Spanish)	San Pedro Center
Jun 9	Deacon Ordination	Mary Queen of the Universe
Jul 22-26	2018 Diaconate Congress www.deacon2018.org	New Orleans Marriott
Oct 6	Convocation Rite of Lector (Cohort 2020)	St. Mary Magdalen, Altamonte Springs