



| *From the:*

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE



"I urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received."

(Eph 4:1)

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Annual Assessments. We are preparing to send out the Annual Assessment invoices to parishes soon. The annual assessment totals \$500.00/deacon "active in ministry". (\$300 for the annual retreat; \$100 for the convocation; \$100 for continuing education). The annual assessment has enable this office to bring in quality speakers and upgrade the event menus.

The challenge has been gaining the complete participation of some parishes, for various reasons. One reason, we hear, that a pastor refuses to pay the assessment are for deacons whom they classifying as "inactive" deacons. Meaning they are not engaged in parish ministry. Our parishes are expecting a return on their investment in supporting their deacons.

What's the solution? First and foremost, we have the individual responsibility to develop and engage in relationship with our assigned parishes, from the neediest parishioner, the lay leadership, the parish staff right up to the pastor himself. The other option, should the pastor still refuse to pay the assessment, each deacon will be invoiced, a la cart, for attendance at the convocation and diocesan sponsored retreats.

There is a process to access the continuing education and annual retreat funds (if you do not participate in the diocesan sponsored retreats) paid by your parish by submitting a copy of the event/retreat registration for and payment receipt to this office. You may be reimbursed up to \$300 for a retreat and \$100 for a continuing education program.

Statement of Mutual Expectations (SME) & Continuing Education Record (CER).

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.

Therefore the next SME & CER reports are due June 1, 2018. The current forms are available on the Diocese of Orlando webpage "Ministries & Offices" - "Deacons". In the side menu you will see "Policies and Procedures".

What is a Deacon in Good Standing? To be considered a deacon in good standing the following canonical and diocesan requirement must be met:

1. Attend an annual overnight retreat,
2. Be assigned to a Diocese of Orlando parish,
3. Have a current SME agreement on file with the Diocese,
4. Annually document 30 hours of continuing education on file with the Diocese,
5. Maintain a current diocesan Safe Environment Training program and background check every 5 years, 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 to serve outside the Diocese of Orlando.

Diocese of Orlando Personnel Policy Manual for the Permanent Diaconate. We are in the process of drafting an updated manual that is long overdue. We would like to obtain the Bishops signature on the manual for the 50th anniversary of the diaconate next year. The evolution of the permanent diaconate since its restoration by Pope Paul VI on June 18, 1967 (*Sacrum Diaconatus Ordinem*) and the bishops of the United States Bishops petition to the Holy See for authorization to restore the permanent diaconate in the United States in the spring of 1968.

Webpage Update. COMING SOON! We are in the process of updating our diocesan webpage for deacon. It will include the most current information of who we are as deacon, good standing requirements, forms, policies. It will include the team that supports our local deacons and men in formation and the latest appointments & assignments.

Social Media. We're on facebook. The "Diocese of Orlando Deacons" have had a page since 2014. This year we have grown to 198 priests, deacons and our wives, seminarians, and required diocesan staff. This is a forum to share leadership and church related news and events. To join the group search for "Diocese of Orlando Deacons". It is a closed group, so this office needs to approve all members and posts.

APPOINTMENTS

Director of the Permanent Diaconate: Deacon Joe Gassman

Deanery Lead Deacons:

Northern	Deacon Chuck Lee	St. Patrick, Mount Dora
Southern	Deacon Tom Flavell	Our Lady of Grace, Palm Bay
Eastern	Deacon Mike Pettit	Our Lady of Hope, Port Orange
Western	Deacon Jim Spindler	Resurrection, Lakeland
Central (N)	Deacon German Romero	Sts. Peter & Paul, Winter Park
Central (S)	Deacon Rick Chabot	Holy Family, Orlando

Duel Assignments. Due to the shortage of “active” deacons and the growing demand for “active” deacons, some of our brothers are now being asked to support more than one parish. In these cases the deacon is assigned a primary parish and a second parish to support as needed. The two pastors work out the extent of the service agreement.

LITURGICAL CORNER

Serving with the Bishop. Recently it has been noted that there are differences in the correct posture for the Eucharistic Prayer when there are more than two deacons at a liturgy. So the following clarification is from the Office of Liturgy. There is no question to the appropriate liturgical posture for the deacons of the Word & Eucharist during consecration. If able the deacons will kneel at the beginning of the Eucharist and rise at its completion. If one of the deacons is unable to kneel, both deacons will remain standing and perform a profound bow with the presider’s genuflection after showing the body and the blood.

For all other deacons who are vested and in the pews, they will mirror the liturgical position of the congregation. The rationale, we are not performing our liturgical role proper to the Office from the pew, we are representing the Order from the pew. Unlike the priest who are concelebrating from their position in the pew and fulfilling their liturgical office and duties.

FORMATION UPDATES

Diaconate Formation Program. After years in the making, we believe we have a solid six (6) year formation program in place. We will post the Level I syllabus once our webpage is redesigned.

Formation Facilitators. Beginning with Cohort 2020 we recruited deacon couples to be facilitators for each cohort. Facilitators attend all sessions with their assigned cohort and be, what I like to describe as, a mirror for the couples to better see themselves. The facilitators are also chosen to be the model deacon that the men in formation and his wife may emulate.

Our cohort facilitators are:

Cohort 2020	Dcn Joe & Elly Moran, St. Joseph, Palm Bay
Cohort 2022	Dcn Bill & Wendy Shelden, Blessed Sacrament, Cocoa
Cohort 2024	Dcn Eddie & Mariela Cruz, Resurrection, Lakeland

Formation Cohorts. We have 45 men in formation: Cohort 2018 (8 men); Cohort 2020 (17 men); Cohort 2022 (17 men); 3 men are in a period of postponement.

Postponement of Formation. A man in formation may be asked to step back or out of formation while they respond to life issues that will/is hindering their full and active participation in the formation program (i.e. change of job, relocation, change of parish community, or other readiness indicators impacting their formation).

Deacon Mentors. Deacon mentors play a critical role in the discernment of men who feel they are being called to the vocation of the permanent diaconate. To be a Deacon Mentor a deacon must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a deacon in “good standing” assigned in the Diocese of Orlando (see above section on “What is a Deacon in Good Standing?”)
2. Be a deacon for a minimum of 3 years.

We are exercising the practice of one-on-one mentors. In other words, we will NOT normally assign a mentor more than one mentee.

We have recently updated many of the forms and communication processes for the formation program. We will be conducting Deacon Mentor Workshops to share the numerous changes (see the below upcoming events).

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.

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

(Jn 16:12)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2017		
Aug 24-26	Orlando Liturgical Conference www.orlandoliturgicalconference.org	Orlando Airport Marriot
Sep 2	Deacon Mentor Workshop	St. Charles Barromeo
Sep 23	Deacon Mentor Workshop	Ascension, Melbourne
Oct 7	Diaconate Convocation Keynote: Dcn James Keating Rite of Candidacy (Cohort 2020)	St. Mary Magdalen
Nov 18	Fully Engaged Workshop	TBD
Dec 5	Diaconate Information Night	Resurrection, Lakeland
Dec 7	Diaconate Information Night	Holy Name of Jesus, Indialantic
Dec 10	Rite of Acolyte (Cohort 2018)	San Pedro Center
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)	San Pedro Center
Mar 16-18	Diaconate Retreat (English)	San Pedro Center
Apr 13-15	Diaconate Retreat (Spanish)	San Pedro Center
Jul 22-26	2018 Diaconate Congress www.deacon2018.org	New Orleans Marriott