



| *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)

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

DIOCESAN POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Recently the Diaconate office sent out a set of policies with the requirement for each deacon to sign and return the original Acknowledgement page to the Diaconate office. As is often the case, it took a sensitive incident that fell outside the policy norms to bring to light that all deacons with faculties in the Diocese of Orlando need to be made aware of policies designed to ensure the safe environment and defined boundaries for the sake of the clergy, diocesan staff, volunteer ministry leaders and all the people of God, especially the most vulnerable of the worshipping community of faith.

This policy acknowledgement should have always been a part of the deacon's annual requirements and at the Bishop's direction it has now become a requirement. Regular review of diocesan policy and procedures by clergy are important because they form the basis of how we are allowed to interface with the vulnerable population that we serve.

We have had a few deacons or men in formation who have pushed back on the need to sign this certification. Recognize that these policies were developed by the Diocese Policy Review Board - if there are concerns with the policies you must identify the specific issues you feel exist through the Diaconate Office. The Diaconate office will coordinate with the Human Resources office who will address any concerns. This is the proper way to voice concerns or to challenge policy. There is room for common sense application of these policies but no room for disregarding policies we may disagree with.

On the day of your ordination you were asked by your bishop, "Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors?" Our response: "I do." (Rites of Ordination, Ordination of Deacons, 201)

The policy acknowledgement form you have been asked to sign highlights diocesan policies that have been enforced for many years. Some may not have been aware of them or fully complied with them, but none the less they exist and we are required to comply.



Flat out refusal to comply with this review and acknowledgment will result in loss of faculties or dismissal in the case of those in diaconate formation.

DIACONATE CONVOCATION: October 6th @ St. Mary Magdalen, 7:45 - 3:30.

The invitation has been sent. Another reminder will be sent to those who have not responded the week of September 3rd. As of August 27th we have 105 of 192 deacons registered.

If you cannot attend please respond to the RSVP with a note explaining what is preventing you from attending.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Annual Deacon Assessments

84% of the Assessments have been collected to date.

6% of the invoiced parishes noted their deacons were no longer active in the life of the parish.

Annual Survey

The survey was closed on August 24th. The response rate for the survey was 69%. While this is statistically sound to gaining an understanding of the health of the Order of Deacons in the Diocese of Orlando. We were not able to update the records of 31% of the deacons serving in the diocese.

We are in the process of analyzing the data received to draft a report for the Bishop. Once complete the results will be made public.

Deacon Annual Documents

Thank you to those of you who have complied with the Diocesan policy to submit the annually required documents.

Return rate for the Annual documents are as follows:

- SME & Parish Assessment w/Continuing Formation Report: **58%**
- Funeral Arrangements: **45%**
- Policy Manual Acknowledgement: **8%**

All the forms are on the [Deacon Webpage](#) in English & Spanish. They are regularly updated as we work to ensure clarity in what is required.

Information Coming Out Soon

Diaconate Curriculum Review: On July 14, 2018 at Annunciation Catholic Church 32 Deacons and lay persons gathered to review the existing diocesan diaconate formation curriculum. All the notes have been turned in and you can expect to see a summary report on the findings and recommendations as we continue to improve the formation program. There will be invitations to assist in completing the curriculum.

Deacon Congress 2018: 50 years young is the Order of the Permanent Diaconate. We will be publishing our notes, but if you would like to watch and listen to the presentations they can be found by following this link:

[2018 National Diaconate Congress](#)

Diocesan Shirts

We submit order requests on the 30th of each month. Payment must be received prior to processing your order. Shirt cost is \$20.00 for S-XL (there is an up charge of \$2.00 for each size over XL; i.e. 2XL= \$22; 3XL= \$24, 4XL= \$26)

Colors available to order include: White, Red, Purple, Green & Black.

LITURGICAL CORNER

Deacon Wanted

We have two unfilled requests for deacons to assist at a parish.

1. Most Precious Blood, Oviedo is looking for a deacon who can preach in Spanish.
2. St. Theresa, Belleview is looking for a deacon to assist at the parish, bilingual preferably.

If you are interested in applying for either one of these parish communities who desire a deacon contact Jennifer Kuhn @ jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org.

Question of the Month

A deacons posted the following question in the Deacon Survey:

“I would like someone to explain to me, why if we are Ordained clergy, why does the deacon need to ask the priest for a blessing before proclaiming the Gospel? I would like the pastoral and the Theological explanation of it.”

RESPONSE: Among the duties proper to the deacon is the proclamation of the Gospel (See *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, nos. 175 and 212; *Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass*, no. 50; see *Ceremonial of Bishops*, no. 24). In the absence of a deacon, a priest may proclaim the Gospel (See *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 212, *Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass*, no. 49).

Don't we all want God's blessing? Let's reframe the question just a little bit, "Why does the Deacon ask the **Presider** for a blessing before proclaiming **God's Word**?"

First we must understand the roles we fulfill during the Mass.

The Vatican published a Motu Proprio from Pope Benedict called "Omnium in Mentem" and dated October 26, 2009. Writing in an explanatory note for the Motu Proprio, Archbishop Francesco Coccopalmerio, president of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, commented on the modified canons (1008, 1009, 1086, 1117 and 1124). These variations, he said, "concern two separate questions: adapting the text of the canons that define the ministerial function of deacons ... and suppressing a subordinate clause in three canons concerning marriage, which experience has shown to be inappropriate."

The first issue addressed by the Motu Propio is the role of the diaconate.

Part of the current canon describes sacred orders as participating in the headship of Christ. The Motu Proprio clarifies that priests and bishops participate in the headship of Christ 'in persona Christi,' whereas deacons serve the Church, the people of God, through the ministry, services, or 'diakonia' of liturgy, word, and charity. Thus, the document emphasizes there is a "clear distinction between the diaconate and the presbyterate. The distinction is between the deacon who acts "in imago Dei" and the priest who acts 'in persona Christi. ([Full Text](#) of Article)

Therefore, we seek God's blessing from the presider, who stands 'in persona Christi' to seek God's blessing so that our proclamation of His Word is done in truth, that we totally empty ourselves making room for the Holy Spirit who acts through us so that God may enter into an intimate dialog between Himself and his children present.

Why wouldn't the deacon want the blessing of God who has taught us from our youth; to proclaim His wondrous deeds, so that He would strengthen us through the Holy Spirit that we may proclaim His mighty Word to all generations yet to come, with His power and justice, to the highest heaven? (Ps 71:17-19)

CONTINUING FORMATION

DIOCESAN CONVOCATION: GIFT OF SACRED MYSTERY

Saturday, September 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Rosen Shingle Creek. Event is free of charge with lunch included. Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Diocese with Bishop Noonan and invited guest speakers. To register, [click here](#).

UPCOMING MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. **“Marriage, Memories, and Music.”** A one-day retreat for couples (married, dating, engaged, Catholic or Non-Catholic)

September 15, 2018 Blessed Trinity Catholic Church (Orlando)
Parish Center, Rooms 1-4
Registration: 8:30, Retreat 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM
\$10.00 per couple, lunch included

Presenters: Deacon Felix and Digna L. Montanez, CSW.
 David and Heidi Peckham, LMHC.

Contact Yliana Soto 407-277-1702 x106 or Louis Murgia 407-277-1703 x103 for registration and more information. **Registration Deadline is September 7**

2. **World Wide Marriage Encounter**

Looking for a way to increase the love and romance in your marriage? Do you need time just for the two of you? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend Experience may be the answer!

Instead of simply listening to lectures about how to improve your marriage, you will actually learn a practical communication technique and have an opportunity to rediscover your hopes and dreams for your marriage.

English: Oct 5-7, 2018. For information call Bob & Sheila Baker 407-647-4289.
To register: [click here](#).

Español: Oct 20-21, 2018. Hotel Clarion, 3835 McCoy Rd, Bldg A. Orlando 32812.
To register: [click here](#).

3. FULLY ENGAGED

Two new training opportunities for Fully Engaged Mentor Couples!

Saturday, September 29: St. Catherine of Siena,
2750 East Osceola Parkway
Kissimmee FL 34743

Saturday, November 10: St. Joseph
5310 Babcock St. NE
Palm Bay, FL 32905

8:30 AM Check-in

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Presentation

\$65 per couple, includes materials, continental breakfast and lunch

Contact Lynda Monckton for registration information:

lmonckton@orlandodiocese.org

OUTSIDE THE Walls

Ministry of Charity & Justice

[New Ministry Opportunity](#)

Reconciling Veterans Retreat. November 11 @ Bishop Moore High School. For more information contact Steve Smith, MBA, CSCS @ 3sigmawellness@gmail.com

[Volunteer Opportunities in Legal Services](#)

Our Legal Services team, which serves many individuals coming from other countries or needing assistance with visas and related paperwork, is expanding focus to assist individuals facing deportation hearings and also seeking to do more to assist minors who have arrived in the United States without a legal guardian. Volunteer opportunities including pro bono legal services are being created. If your parish is interested in having a representative of the legal team do a public presentation on our services and related issues, please contact Carly Matthews at carly.matthews@cflcc.org.

[Long-Term Recovery Assistance](#)

Our Disaster Recovery Services Division is providing long-term recovery assistance to residents of Brevard and Osceola counties through grant support from Volunteer Florida. Disaster case managers continue to be hired to support these ministry needs. Please share with your parishes in Brevard and Osceola counties the

information about these services. For more information, call Catholic Charities at (407) 658-1818.

Mental First Aid Training

Catholic Charities is able to provide “Mental Health First Aid” Training to interested parishes/communities. This is a nationally recognized, evidence-based program aimed at helping us to better understand adults who may be experiencing mental health concerns, training us on how to respond to them with compassion and sensitivity and increasing awareness of the many facets of mental illness. Many of our parishes engage in outreach ministries to the homeless and the poor and mental health concerns are often evident. This class better equips us to respond with love and compassion. Classes can accommodate up to 30 individuals. The training takes 8 hours and can be done in one day or in two four hour sessions. We will soon be offering this training to individuals working with children and youth as well. [Click Here](#) to learn more or schedule a session. Contact Kyle at kosborn@cflcc.org for information on scheduling Training at your parish.

There will be four sessions of the program from 7 - 9 p.m. on Sept. 5 and Sept. 26 at Sts. Peter and Paul, (5300 Old Howell Branch Rd.) and on Sept. 19 and October 3 at St. Margaret Mary (526 Park Ave. N) in Winter Park. If you are interested in attending these sessions, please contact us.

FORMATION

Formation Weekend: September 8th & 9th @ San Pedro Center.

Cohort	Saint Leo Course	Dimensional Workshop
2020	Philosophical Foundations for Theology	Baptismal Preparation <i>by Jody Breaud</i>
2022	Philosophical Foundations for Theology	Order of Christian Funerals <i>by Dcn Larry Herbert</i>
2024		Discernment Session #1 <i>by Dcn Joe Gassman</i>

Deacon Mentors. We are in need of deacon mentors. We would like to keep the one-on-one, Mentor: Mentee ratio as we find it most beneficial for both the mentor and mentee.

We are willing to travel to the deaneries to do the Mentorship Workshop. If you are interested in hosting a mentor workshop for your deanery, please contact me to schedule a date.

Interested in becoming a deacon mentor contact: jgassman@orlandodiocese.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

PRAYER REQUESTS. Our office releases a monthly Prayer Request list. It is prepared after the 20th of each month and emailed within that particular week.

Your petition can be very specific or general. We do believe God knows the specifics already so we are requesting your petitions/intentions arrive via email or from our Deacon Webpage.

Prayer intentions are due to jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org or web page request by the Close of Business **on the 20th of each month.**

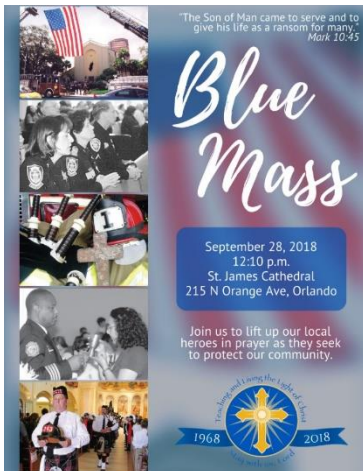
ORDINATION, Priest. Deacon Edwin Cardona will be ordained on **September 6, 2018** @ 10:00 a.m. at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Celebration. If you would like to vest for this event, please email jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org.

Diocesan Convocation.

September 8, 2018.

RSVP Link:

giftofsacredmystery.eventbrite.com



September 28, 2018 @ 12:10,

St. James Cathedral

RSVP to jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org

2018 CONVOCATION. Will be on **October 6, 2018** @ St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, Altamonte Springs. Mass with the Rite of Lector (Cohort 2020) @ 8:00 a.m.

Bishop John Noonan presiding
Keynote Speaker: Deacon William T. Ditewig

2019 DEACON RETREATS.

This year's retreats will be focused on the Eucharist and be held at San Pedro Center on the following weekends:

- February 1 - 3, 2019 Retreat Master: Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary
- March 1 - 3, 2019 Retreat Master: Rev. Ivan Olmo, Pastor St. Mary, Rockledge
- April 5 - 7, 2019 Retreat Master: Rev. Ivan Olmo, Pastor St. Mary, Rockledge

San Pedro Center has 48 rooms. Rooms are booked on a first come first serve basis. If you need first floor accommodations, please note this in your room request.

Reservations can be made by emailing: jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org or register online [CLICK HERE](#).

For a complete list of calendar of events visit the [Deacon Webpage](#).

QUESTIONS? If you have particular questions you would like to see addressed by this office, you may email your question(s) to jgassman@orlandodiocese.org or jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org.

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

(Jn 16:12)