



## OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE



*"For nothing will be impossible for God." (Lk 1:37)*

### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ANNUAL RETREATS

If you haven't decided on an annual retreat yet, consider one of our Diocesan Retreats. [Click here to view our calendar and register.](#) March and May retreats will be led by Fr. Anthony Aarons.

#### Reminder: RETREAT SOCIALS AND ADULT BEVERAGES

And while we are on the subject of retreats, I need to inform you of a diocesan policy change that will affect the Friday night socials. It has been our custom that after evening prayer and opening comments about the retreat on Friday evening, we provide an opportunity for attendees to gather for an evening social. Our office provides an assortment of hors d'oeuvres (not intended to be a full dinner), and have traditionally provided water, wine, and beer. The diocese will no longer reimburse departments for the purchase of alcoholic beverages for official functions, so effectively immediately, we will continue to provide the food along with non-alcoholic beverages. **If interested, attendees may choose to bring beer or wine to share with the community, as is done by our formation classes for their monthly socials.** However, no hard spirits are allowed. We are confident, however, the Holy Spirit will be present!

#### SEASONAL DEACONS

We welcome seasonal Deacons. Our mandated process for a Seasonal Deacon is they must supply a letter of Good Standing from their home diocese. Also, they must complete our extern application and complete our safe environment training and have their fingerprints taken and cleared. Once we receive these required items, they will receive faculties from Bishop Noonan.

A question arose with a seasonal deacon who decided to retire and move to Florida. His parish was unaware of our Diocesan policy and allowed him to serve. A seasonal Deacon, who moves to our area and wants to serve, must supply our office with an updated letter of good standing from his home diocese, recommendation letter from the pastor at his previous parish, and a hand-written letter to Bishop Noonan requesting full time faculties.



If you know of a seasonal Deacon, who has moved to our area, please let us know. We want to make sure ALL of our Deacons are accounted for.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

### We are Accepting your Annual Forms! Annual Forms are DUE by June 1, 2020

As we complete the full implementation of the new Diaconate Personnel Manual, promulgated last year, **please note that there are new annual forms that will replace all previous versions.** For copies of these forms, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#).

The annual Statement of Mutual Expectations is being **replaced by separate Pastor's Assessment for Deacons and a Deacon Self-Assessment.** The Continuing Formation Activities form will still be required. **Note that previous forms will not be accepted, so please prevent rework for yourself by using these new forms.** Forms must be turned in no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> but are welcome earlier. Thank you!

*In addition, the beginning of a new year is a great time to make sure your funeral instructions are updated and turned into our office.*

### What is the Diocese Doing Regarding the Coronavirus?

February 28, 2020

Friday after Ash Wednesday

My Brothers in Christ,

We are in the midst of the 'flu' season and continue to monitor with concern the questions that are arising about the spread of the coronavirus. Please note that the fundamentals always are to be applied:

- urging priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to practice good hygiene, washing their hands before Mass begins or even using an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution at their pew before and after distributing Holy Communion;
- assuring the faithful that if they are sick or are experiencing symptoms of sickness they are not obliged to attend Mass, and even that out of charity they ought not to attend.

Based upon the information that I have received, I am not recommending any other precautionary measures for the celebration of Mass at this time. It is good to be consistent in the celebration of the Mass so that you do not cause panic among the people or disparaging remarks as one parish does something different than another. In addition, we uphold the sacredness of all people and do not want to create a situation of bullying against anyone who may appear sick, etc. and have made the decision to come to the celebration of Mass.

I am pleased to offer one final consideration on this topic: sample petitions, below, which may be included during the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass.

- For those who are suffering in the current outbreak of sickness that they might be healed, and for the happy repose of all who have died from this sickness in recent weeks; let us pray to the Lord.

- For scientists, health professionals, public officials, and all who are serving the common good in this difficult and uncertain time, that they will be filled with wisdom and understanding; let us pray to the Lord.
- That in times of illness our merciful and loving Father will strengthen our faith and trust in his goodness and divine providence; let us pray to the Lord.
- That our compassionate Father would touch all affected by the current outbreak with healing and peace; let us pray to the Lord.

Thank you for your kind attention to this information. I ask that you share it with the appropriate staff members. May God bless you this holy season of Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend John Noonan

Bishop of Orlando

### Schedule of Events for March-

**Rite of Election Mass-** Basilica of Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine- 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## IN MEMORIAM

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

**Deacon John Landry**

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.*

### DEACON FUNERALS a reflection offered by Deacon Joe Gassman

On Saturday, February 22, 2020, we laid to rest Deacon Eugene “John” Landry who served at St. Joseph in Winter Haven. Bishop Noonan reorganized his schedule so that he could preside over the funeral. By rescheduling, I mean he got a replacement Bishop for a Confirmation and drove straight from his business in Miami to be present for Deacon John’s family.

Four deacons were present, three from the Central Deanery and one from the Western Deanery. One deacon needed assistance just to process and approach the altar for communion. Many times, through various mediums, we’ve talked about the importance of the Order of Deacons and your desire for communion within the Order, especially at

the Deanery level. Yet we can't seem to find a way to order our lives to give a proper final goodbye to a brother deacon and be there for their widow and family.

Before responding, we know that jobs need to take a priority, we have family commitments that can't be broken, and some have health issues presenting a challenge for travel. Those are valid reasons. Yet the most common response we get is "I didn't go because I didn't know him."

Let me share with you what the homilist, a retired Monsignor, shared. He said, "the challenge with living such a long life is that we are often forgotten." He confessed, that when he got the call to serve and be the homilist, he didn't know who "Eugene" was, because he only knew him as "John;" and that he truly thought he was already dead. He went on to share that if he knew he was alive and ill he would have visited him. His remarks touched my heart and I thought, should I be blessed with a long life, will my brothers in the Order of Deacons forget me? When I pass away and the invitation goes out, will my brothers say, "I didn't go because I didn't know him?"

Deacon John was a World War II veteran, a medic, who participated in the Normandy Invasion, served in the Battle of the Bulge. He was about to turn 95 and was a deacon for 41 years. Sadly, as an Order of 198 active and senior active deacons, we could only muster 4 to send him to his eternal reward on a Saturday.

I would suggest if the Bishop can rearrange his schedule to make a deceased deacon and his family a priority, then the Order of Deacons can do the same. We may not know the man, but we do know the sacrifice the man and his family has made and that needs to be the reason for our presence, to celebrate his life and support his loved ones left to mourn.

May none of us be forgotten by our own brothers and when we are called to our heavenly home, may our voices be raised with all the heavenly angels and saints to hail the Queen of Heaven in the Salve Regina.

## LITURGICAL CORNER

*Ministry of Liturgy*

### LITURGICAL NORMS WHEN SERVING WITH THE BISHOP

We are pleased to announce that the Norms for Deacons Serving at Mass have been updated in partnership with the Office of the Bishop and the Diocesan Office of Liturgy and Music. This version includes annotations specific to serving a mass presided by the Bishop. I would ask that all deacons review this document which you may find [CLICK HERE](#). Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this document, and I will be happy to address those in the future.

[DIOCESAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR](#)

[Click here](#)

[CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE](#)

[Click here](#)

[DIOCESAN BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

[\(English / Spanish\)](#)

[MARRIAGE PREPARATION ANNOUNCEMENTS 2019](#)

[Click Here](#)

## CONTINUING FORMATION

### [MEN'S MINISTRY WORKSHOP INVITATION FROM LAITY, FAMILY, AND LIFE SECRETARY](#)

On March 28, 2020 Secretary for Laity, Family and Life will host the annual men's conference, *Rise Up: Put on the Armor of God*, which takes place at Holy Family Catholic Church. *Hundreds of men from our diocese will attend, and we want to capture their enthusiasm and plug them in to parish ministries.*

How can I learn more and register?

- You can go to our diocesan page, <https://www.orlandodiocese.org/riseup/>, to learn more and register. Please share this too.

[SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER](#)

[Click Here](#)

Check out the link above to see the details on all upcoming Days of Reflection or Retreat Weekends offered at San Pedro. Events include:

#### **Franciscan Hermitage Retreat**

Thursday, February 13, 2020, 5:00pm to Sunday, February 16, 2020, 11:00am  
A silent retreat guided by Franciscan Fr. Vianney Cunningham, TOR and Jeanne & Tony Walter, Members of the Secular Franciscan Order.

#### **Art and Soul - February**

Saturday, February 29, 2020, 10:00am - 12:00pm  
Each month a local artist will guide you in making a one of a kind creation, all while focusing on a particular aspect of the Catholic Faith.

#### **Lenten Taize Prayer Service**

Thursday, March 19, 2020, 7:00PM- 8:00PM

#### **Lenten Retreat Weekend**

Friday, March 20, 2020, 4 PM- Sunday, March 22, 2020, 11:00 Am

## OUTSIDE THE WALLS

MINISTRY OF CHARITY & JUSTICE

### EL SALVADOR IMMERSION MISSION TRIP

For Deacons and Wives, and other parish ministers

**March 21 - 27, 2020**

Join Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers for a mission immersion trip to learn more about the people and church in El Salvador and explore how we are linked to the people of Central America in the bonds of global solidarity.

#### Immersion Includes

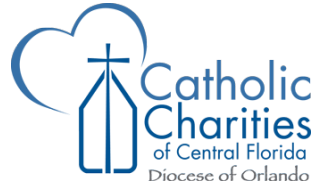
- Pre-trip orientation
- On-site introduction to the cultural, economic, and political realities of El Salvador
- Celebrate the Feast Day of St. Oscar Romero and visit many of the sites associated with his life
- Walk in the footsteps of the martyrs of Central America, including Blessed Archbishop Romero, the U.S. Church Women, and Jesuits at UCA
- Visit Maryknoll missionaries, hear their stories of working with the people of Central America and discover how their work in mission connects with yours
- Pastoral work with the Missionaries of Charity
- Meet the people of El Salvador and listen to stories of hope and challenge
- Daily communal prayer, liturgies and theological reflection
- Visits to historic and cultural sites
- Post-trip debriefing and reflection
- Credits for Continuing Formation

#### Estimated Costs

- Room, meals, and in-country transportation: \$920/single; \$850/double (per person)
- Participants are responsible for air travel to and from San Salvador (est. \$650)
- Passport Required (no Visa required)

#### If Interested, Contact

Deacon Kevin McCarthy (413) 374-3861 [kmccarthy@maryknoll.org](mailto:kmccarthy@maryknoll.org)



[Click here for News & Events](#)

## FORMATION

**FORMATION WEEKEND:** Classes for the 2019-2020 Semester.

Cohort	Saint Leo Course	Dimensional Workshop
All		
2020		Final Liturgy Practicum
2022	Homiletics	The Role of the Deacon at Mass
2024	Christian History	Rites of Initiation & Catholic Identity

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Mark Your Calendars*

**2020 Deacon's Convocation  
Annunciation Catholic Church,  
October 3, 2020.  
Mark your calendars Now!**

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 [dcamous@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:dcamous@orlandodiocese.org) or [jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org).

*“I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.”* (Jn 16:12)

