



OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE



“For nothing will be impossible for God.” (Lk 1:37)

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19

We pray you and your families are doing well during this challenging and unprecedented time. Please ensure you take care of your health. We will not be able to serve others in need if we, ourselves, are sick. We will all learn new skills in how to live our ministry within the constraints of social distancing.

As you are aware our state and local governments have issued 'stay at home' orders, requesting that people stay at home except for essential functions. As a result, the Office of Permanent Deacons is doing our best to work remotely to meet the needs of the community.

Due to this virus, we have had several Deacons let us know of family members who have been affected. Please continue to send me your prayer intentions at dcamous@orlandodiocese.org . I will do my best to send updated notices every few days so that we may all join our prayers for our community.

SCHEDULED EVENTS IMPACTED BY THE PANDEMIC

DIACONATE ORDINATION, scheduled for June 13th, has been postponed. We have decided, in discussions with Bishop Noonan, to postpone the ordination of the 15 men who are completing formation until the late summer or fall. The best data currently available indicates that June may still not be an appropriate time to conduct a celebration as large as the gathering expected for this ordination. We will advertise the new date as soon as it can be determined. Please keep these men in prayer during this extended time of preparation for their ordination.



MAY DEACON COUPLES RETREAT, scheduled for May 1st-3rd, has been cancelled. Deacons who had registered for this retreat will be given credit for attending this retreat on their annual forms. This retreat will not be rescheduled, as it is unlikely we will be able to reschedule it between the end of restrictions of gatherings due to the coronavirus and the end of the diocesan fiscal year on June 30th. If you are able to take a separate retreat prior to the end of this fiscal year in place of attending a diocesan sponsored retreat, please remember you can submit an invoice for reimbursement of up to \$300 of its cost.

Please note that the Spanish language retreat scheduled for August is still scheduled to be conducted, as planned. As a reminder, this retreat fulfills the deacon's retreat obligation for the next fiscal year (July, 2020 - June, 2021)

DIACONATE FORMATION schedule will continue to be modified. Saturday Intellectual Dimension classes offered in partnership with St. Leo's will be conducted via distance learning into the students' homes. Sunday human, pastoral, and spiritual dimension workshops will be postponed from April to the second Saturday in May. If that weekend is also not available for in-person classes, further adaptations will be made to the schedule. It is expected that St. Leo summer school classes will be conducted via distance learning modalities, unless we are advised otherwise. Details forthcoming.

ADMINISTRATIVE

[We are Accepting your Annual Forms!](#)

We are accepting your Annual forms which are due June 1, 2020. As it may be more challenging at this time to schedule meetings with your pastors, please begin this process soon, if you have not already done so, in order to complete process in a timely manner.

In addition, now is a great time to make sure your funeral instructions are updated and turned into our office.

[Deacon Polo Shirts](#)

At this time, we will be unable to order Polo shirts until we are back in the office.

[Letters of Good Standing](#)

Please allow us at least two weeks to prepare all Letters of Good Standing. These letters cannot be issued more than 90 days before the scheduled event. A form to request these Letters of Good Standing may be found online on the Diaconate page on the Diocese of Orlando web-site.

Background Clearances

You will receive an email reminder when your clearances are expiring, usually 60 days prior to expiration date. PLEASE DON'T WAIT once you receive these notices, otherwise SUSPENSIONS WILL HAPPEN. This is not something we want to do!

IN MEMORIAM

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

- Orlando, Brother of Dcn. Alan Espinoza, St. Issac Jogues, Orlando

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

LITURGICAL CORNER

Ministry of Liturgy

SERVING AT MASS DURING THE PANDEMIC

One of the first questions I received from deacons after the Bishop suspended live masses in our Diocese, was whether deacons should assist their pastors and priests during their daily masses, many of which are being streamed for the faithful. The answer depends on several factors. First, it is purely the decision of your pastor or priest as to whether he is open to you serving with him. Remember that we are there to assist our priests. We should never take the position that it is 'our right,' but rather should make the offer to assist if we are feeling called to serve in this way. If the priest is more comfortable presiding without our assistance, then we must be humble enough to accept his decision.

The second question has to do with the reasons for social distancing. The purpose of this strategy is to reduce the possibility of transmission of the disease. If your priest, or you, are in an 'at risk' population due to age or chronic medical condition, it is appropriate to make the decision to not serve at the mass for your mutual protection.

The third question I suggest you ask yourself regards your first sacrament of vocation, your marriage. As your wife is unable to attend the masses at this time, how does she feel about you attending and serving at masses? Have an open discussion and respect her feelings.

Finally, consider how your serving, or not serving, at mass helps you be the bridge to the lay faithful. Some of you will decide that you provide the voice of the faithful in the dialogue with the priest during the mass. You become their representative in the liturgy. Others of you may decide to unite yourself with the laity in their sacrifice of being absent from the mass, receiving with them, *spiritual communion*. Either of these are valid conclusions, but I encourage you to be intentional regarding whichever choice you make.

[DIOCESAN HOLY WEEK LITURGIES](#)

During Holy Week, Deacon Joe Gassman and I have been asked to assist Bishop Noonan in his liturgies. In normal circumstances we would have invited a representative cross-section of deacons to assist at these various masses. However, given the need to limit the possibility of potential viral contamination across a wider number of people, the decision was made to limit the deacons to those who already worked in close proximity with the Bishop at the Chancery.

Thank you for your understanding that this decision was in no way made to exclude anyone, but was merely employing a practical limitation to better address the issue of public health. Please pray for us that we may adequately represent our diaconate community in these liturgies.

[DIOCESAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR](#)

[Click here](#)

[SPECIAL COLLECTION SCHEDULE](#)

[Click here](#)

[CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE](#)

[Click here](#)

[DIOCESAN BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

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

[MARRIAGE PREPARATION ANNOUNCEMENTS 2020](#)

[Click Here](#)

CONTINUING FORMATION

[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. **Most events have been converted to online. Please check San Pedro's web-site for details.** Events include:

Holy Week Retreat Day-

Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 10 a.m. to 2: p.m.

www.sanpedrocenter.org/upcoming-events/2020/4/7/lenten-day-retreat

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday

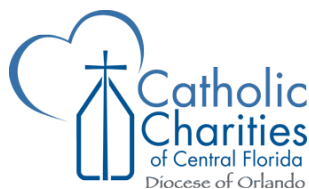
Friday, April 10, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

<https://www.sanpedrocenter.org/upcoming-events/2020/4/10/stations-of-the-cross>

OUTSIDE THE WALLS

MINISTRY OF CHARITY & JUSTICE

Please share with me, via email at dcamous@orlandodiocese.org , ways in which you are continuing to deliver, adapting as necessary, your Ministries of Charity and Justice during this pandemic. I would like to feature your stories in the next issue(s) of Director's Notes. Thank you!



[Click here for News & Events](#)

FORMATION

FORMATION WEEKEND: Classes for the 2019-2020 Semester.

Cohort	Saint Leo Course	Dimensional Workshop
All		
2020		Postponed
2022	Homiletics (online classroom)	Postponed
2024	Christian History (online classroom)	Postponed

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 or jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org.

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