



OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE



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

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

May the light of the Star of Bethlehem dispel the darkness and bring new light into the year ahead.

Goodbye 2020! Welcome 2021 and Happy New Year!

CALL TO RENEW OUR SERVANT HEARTS IN 2021

As the new year begins, we are each provided with important opportunities to act in the image of Christ the Servant. The darkness of disease and economic hardship cover the earth, thick clouds of division and anger cover the peoples. We are called to the same opportunity to which Isaiah called the people of Jerusalem in last Sunday’s first reading. We are called to “rise up in splendor,” and through our words and actions shine the Lord’s light to dispel the darkness in our parishes, our communities, our nation, and throughout the world. In every action taken, in every word spoken, in every homily preached, in every social media post, you and I are all called to respond to calls to division with the message of unity, to anger with love, to despair with hope. We will have the opportunity to build bridges to replace walls that have been erected. The world is in desperate need of more gentle, humble servants to heal the wounds of the pedantic demagoguery that has left so many injured. I pray we may all more fully embrace our call to servanthood in the year ahead.

COVID-19 AND 2021

Many of us are looking forward to the rollout of the COVID vaccines and pray that with socially responsible behavior and effective vaccination we may be able to return to a greater sense of ‘normalcy’ by summer. In the meantime, we need to continue to follow all CDC and Diocesan guidelines to ensure our health and that of the people we serve. Diocesan policies will be kept updated on the Diocese of Orlando website.

We are pleased that we were able to keep formation moving forward during the Fall without causing any spread of the virus. We will be using the same pandemic protocols during our deacon retreats this Spring out of respect for your health and safety.



REGISTER NOW FOR DEACON RETREATS!

Registration for the diocesan hosted Deacon Retreats is now open. **Due to some current website issues due to recent diocesan technology upgrades, please use the links in this newsletter to sign up for these retreats.** Please also remember that this year to reduce total attendees at San Pedro, the retreats are limited to deacons, only. We pray we will be able to return to couples' retreats next year. Deacons will have their own room, but this limitation allows us to achieve social distancing in the conference room and the chapel.

March 19-21, 2021- Led by Father Anthony Aarons- [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

March 26-28, 2021- Led by Father Fred Ruse- [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

May 21-23, 2021- (Spanish language Retreat)- Led by Father Fred Ruse- [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE

TEMPORARY ISSUES WITH DEACON WEBSITE

Recent upgrades to the Diocesan website appear to have disrupted some of our online forms. For now, please send requests for letters of good standing and shirt orders directly to Jennifer at jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org . If you have submitted such a request via the website in the past few weeks, please resend that request via email to Jennifer. We will let you know as soon as this is corrected.

ANNUAL FORMS

For those of you who like to get things done early, we are now accepting submission of your annual forms for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. **All deacons must submit the required annual forms and stay current on Safe Environment Certification in order to remain in Good Standing. Forms must be submitted no later than June 1st.** Please always download the required forms each year from the Diaconate website to ensure you are using the most current version. **Each year a deacon must complete a Self-Assessment, obtain a Pastor's Assessment, and complete their Continuing Education form.** Since it may be more difficult to meet with your pastor during this time of pandemic, we suggest you start now. (Zoom meetings count!)

DIACONATE ENDOWMENT FUND

Don't Forget- Help grow our benevolent fund to provide tuition assistance for formation of new deacons and continuing formation to those already Ordained. The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida is helping manage this fund. Our donations help our brothers in need. *To learn more, [CLICK HERE.](#)*

IN MEMORIAM

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Deacon Frank Diaz, St. Francis of Assisi

Father Eamon Tobin, Ascension

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

CONTINUING FORMATION

WEBINAR SERIES ON THE LITURGICAL BOOKS

Don't forget to sign up for the new FDLC webinar series on the Liturgical Books! Although the series has begun, they will continue every Wednesday until March 2021.

These weekly 75-minute seminars are FREE! Online registration is easy! Visit <https://www.fdlc.org/formation>



On Thursday, January 14, Karl A. Schultz will be giving a Senior day retreat at San Pedro Center in Winter Park. It is entitled "From Joseph to Jesus" Encountering Matthew's Inspired Model of Masculinity, Discipleship, and Collaboration." Cost of \$15 includes breakfast, lunch, retreat, and Mass.

For retreat information and **TO REGISTER** use the following link:

<https://www.sanpedrocenter.org/upcoming-events/2021/01/14-senior-day>

The registration is reimbursable by submitting your paid registration receipt to Jennifer Kuhn at the Office of the Permanent Diaconate.

2021 ORLANDO MINISTRY FORMATION CONFERENCE: I THIRST



God thirsts for us and we thirst for Him, too! This year's Ministry Formation Conference, *I Thirst*, will help us recognize we can only be satisfied by the love of God, and He yearns to give it to us.

Who can come? Everyone! For those active in ministry and those who hear God's invitation to serve!

What is it? *I Thirst*, the annual Ministry Formation Conference for the Diocese of Orlando to prepare people to serve Christ in His people.

When? February 5-6, 2021. Bishop Noonan will share a livestreamed opening reflection on Friday evening at 7:00pm, and the conference takes place 9:30am-1:00pm on Saturday.

Where? The conference is virtual and in-person at satellite sites around the diocese.

Why should I come? To experience the love of God in a new and profound way.

I Thirst will feature a series of talks on God's desire for us from **Mother Adela Galindo**, foundress of the Pierced Heart Sisters of Jesus and Mary, **Br. Adam Neri** of the Brotherhood of Hope and Director of Campus Ministry at UCF, and **Michelle and Asís Lopez**, leaders of Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Miami.

Reflections will be available in **English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Creole**. To register visit <https://mfc2021.eventbrite.com> or scan the QR code.



The registration is reimbursable by submitting your paid registration receipt to Jennifer Kuhn at the Office of the Permanent Diaconate.

SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

San Pedro Spiritual Development Center is offering a variety of online resources to help you continue spiritual development during this time of social distancing. The following link has many free resources.

<https://www.sanpedrocenter.org/spiritualresources>

LITURGICAL CORNER

Ministry of Liturgy

[DIOCESAN LITURGICAL CALENDAR](#)

[Click here](#)

[CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE](#)

[Click here](#)

[DIOCESAN BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

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

[MARRIAGE PREPARATION ANNOUNCEMENTS 2020](#)

[Click Here](#)

OUTSIDE THE WALLS

MINISTRY OF CHARITY & JUSTICE

[VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES with CATHOLIC CHARITIES](#)



Diaper Distribution. There are many volunteer opportunities at the Rosemont Mission Market and mobile food drops. To sign up, [CLICK HERE](#)

FORMATION

[FORMATION WEEKEND](#)

Cohort	Saint Leo Course	Dimensional Workshop
All		
2022	Ecclesiology	Parish Life
2024	Hebrew Scriptures	Sacramental Language of the Mass
2026		No meeting in January

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

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

QUESTIONS? If you have questions you would like to see addressed by this office, you may email them to dcamous@orlandodiocese.org or jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org.

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