



BISHOP'S LETTER

Rejoice in the Lord, Always

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We rejoice in all circumstances over what God has done for us and what He will accomplish! Jesus Christ is yesterday, today, and forever! St. Paul also tells the community of Philippi to rejoice because "the Lord is near." He encourages us as he does the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord, no matter the circumstance.

[Click here to read the letter](#)

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UPDATES

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2025 STUDY WEEK

Registration is now open for the sixty-third annual Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week. The theme is “In Communion with Christ: Joys and Hopes for All (En Comunción con Cristo: Gozo y Esperanzas para Todos).” It will be held in Victoria, Texas, February 5-8, 2025.

For more information and to register, visit [Southwest Liturgical Conference](#)

FINAL SYNOD DOCUMENT

The final summary has been released in various languages including English. It is well worth reading and contains some implications for further liturgical study.

To access this document, visit [Final Document of the XVI Assembly](#).

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL PREPARATION AID

Please be reminded this popular seasonal resource is available as a free download from the FDLC Website in both English and Spanish.

Download: [2024 Advent and Christmas Liturgical Preparation Aid](#)



WEBSITE

We are implementing significant improvements to our diaconate webpage. These enhancements will include updating the timeframe for the Letter of Good Standing to a minimum of three weeks prior to an event and adding a dedicated service opportunities page.

ONLINE PHONE DIRECTORY

We are still collaborating with our IT department on a phone directory accessible on your cell phone. We hope to roll this out at our next diaconate convocation.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF FORMATION

We are expanding the staff in the Office of Permanent Deacons due to the workload that has dramatically increased over the past six years. With approximately 275 deacons in the Diocese of Orlando, and a robust formation program, there is the need to have a new full-time Associate Director. We plan to have this position filled by the beginning of the new fiscal year. The ideal candidate will have a background in curriculum design and delivery as well as skills necessary to coordinate all aspects of a complex formation program. Interested parties should review the full position description.

[APPLY HERE](#)



CONTINUING FORMATION FORM

After a year of review, proposed modifications and more review; and partnering with the deacon dean leads and the formation team, we will be using an updated Continuing Formation form as part of next year's Annual Forms.

The biggest change is that the Continuing Formation Form will appropriately narrow its focus to Formation Activities. Previously, we could count performing some of our ministerial duties as "continuing formation." However, simply presiding at Eucharistic Exposition or funeral services, or delivering homilies, while good and necessary things, are not representative of Continuing Formation.

Continuing Formation is properly defined as activities that help us acquire knowledge or develop new skills to become better deacons. This includes reading books on spiritual or theological topics, participating in relevant courses either in person or online, attending retreats, pilgrimages or days of reflection, and similar activities. Another question that often arises is how to count the "Continuing Units." Per the recommendation of one of our deaneries we will have an "application chart" where you will look up an activity and find out how many units apply.



YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO USE THE NEW FORM WHEN YOU START YOUR ANNUAL FORMS IN 2025.



DEACON RETREATS

SCHEDULE FOR 2025

JANUARY 24-26, 2025

DIAKONIA: HOW NOT TO SERVE AT A TABLE

DIRECTED RETREAT

Led by Fr. Lucius Amarillas, O. S. B.

Registrations end January 10th, 2025

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2025

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

DIRECTED RETREAT

Led by Deacon Andy Neu

MARCH 21-23, 2025

THE HIDDENNESS OF THE DIACONATE

DIRECTED RETREAT

Led by Deacon Joseph Michalak

ABRIL 25-27, 2025

IDENTIDAD DE LA FAMILIA DIACONAL, SIGNO DE ESPERANZA

DIRECTED RETREAT

Led by Deacon Joseph Michalak

The Church's ministers, especially Deacons, have been formed to bring the selfless service of Christ to the peripheries of the world and Church; yet, how easy is that radical life of service? What happens when we lose sight of the Lord in the ones we serve? We know how our ministry in the Church is defined but do we know how to bring it to fruition?

This weekend retreat will explore our relationship with Jesus Christ, and our place in the Kingdom of God. Our identity as workers in the vineyard of the Lord... formed when Jesus first began to call us and perfected by the Holy Spirit that dwells within us... is a fluid reality. Among other things, you'll explore what gets you out of bed in the morning? How far are you willing to go? And what do you want people to say about you when you are gone?

We will aim to see more truly the hidden (interior) work of conversion in our lives, the hidden manner of the Father's Love, especially through relational prayer, and the particularly hidden character of what is essential to our diaconal participation in Jesus' diakonia. All of these have implications for our marriage and celibacy, too."

En el marco de la celebración del Año Jubilar 2025 "Peregrinos de esperanza", este retiro ofrece la oportunidad para fortalecer la identidad de la familia diaconal, que es signo de esperanza cristiana. Tendremos la oportunidad de reflexionar y orar juntos, para que al encuentro con Jesús y fortalecidos en la consciencia del don recibido, el servicio diaconal se manifieste como signo de esperanza en el pueblo de Dios al que servimos en el ministerio eclesial, según la indicación del apóstol: "El que ha recibido el don de la palabra, que la enseñe como palabra de Dios. El que ejerce un ministerio, que lo haga como quien recibe de Dios ese poder, para que Dios sea glorificado en todas las cosas, por Jesucristo. ¡A él sea la gloria y el poder, por los siglos de los siglos!" Amén. (1Pedro 4,11).

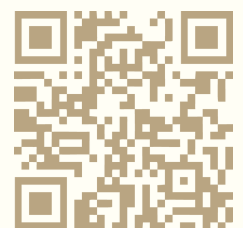
ALL RETREATS ARE HELD AT SAN PEDRO CENTER.

ALL RETREAT COSTS ARE COVERED BY THE DIOCESE OF ORLANDO.

For more information and to register, visit

www.sanpedrocenter.org/deacon-retreats, scan the **QR code** or call

Jazmine Hernandez at (407) 671-6322 ext. 115.



SAN PEDRO CENTER | 95 Bishop Grady Lane, Winter Park, FL, 32792 | (407) 671-6322

Happy Birthday

— TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS! —

DEACON BYRON OTRADOVEC	92
DEACON CHARLES MALLON	87
DEACON GEORGE MATTISON	86
DEACON MICKEY VESSELS	85
DEACON JUAN VARGAS	85
DEACON ESTEBAN CRUZ	84
DEACON ORESTE HERNANDEZ	82
DEACON ESTEBAN ORTIZ	82
DEACON RODOLFO SANTOS	81
DEACON VINCENT BECKLES	81



IN REMEMBRANCE

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Amen.



Memorial Mass

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024

Mary, Mother of God Chapel at
San Pedro Spiritual Development Center



IT IS WITH JOY AND THANKSGIVING THAT HIS EXCELLENCY, MOST REVEREND JOHN NOONAN AND THE CHURCH OF THE DIOCESE OF ORLANDO REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE AT THE SOLEMN MASS OF CONSECRATION TO THE LIFE OF VIRGINITY IN WHICH

Isabella Donna Veronica Vella

WILL BE CONSECRATED AS

Bride of Our Lord Jesus Christ

ON THE FEAST OF SAINT AGNES,
Tuesday, the Twenty-First of January, Two-Thousand
and Twenty-Five at 12 O'Clock in the Afternoon

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

113 Lockwood Boulevard,
Oviedo, Florida

HOW TO BE A HEROIC MAN

FREE EVENT



Join the *Dynamic* Deacon Harold Burke-Silvers for “How to Be a Heroic Man” – a FREE one-hour online event on Wed, Dec 11, at 8:30PM ET. Gain practical tools to strengthen your faith, lead your family, and build an unshakable brotherhood. Discover how you can help bring true heroes to 25,000 men in 2025.

[RSVP NOW](#)

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

[Click to view the
Diocesan Calendar](#)



LITURGICAL CORNER



**DIOCESAN
LITURGICAL
CALENDAR**



**DIOCESAN
BULLETIN**



**CONFIRMATION
SCHEDULE**



**DIOCESAN
BULLETIN
ESPAÑOL**



**MARRIAGE
PREPARATION**



DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS
DECEMBER 2024 | VOL.30

DIOCESE OF ORLANDO