



# BISHOP'S LETTER

## Fishers of Men

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We are pilgrims of hope as our Holy Father names us this Jubilee Year. This Jubilee Year, we are reminded of our Baptism, crossing the threshold between heaven and earth as we begin our journey of conversion, sealed by the encounter with Christ. Christ is the “door” into which we cross, uniting us with the Father in union with the Holy Spirit. Christ is the heart of our journey, for it is through Him that we come to know, love, and serve God.

[Click here to read letter](#)

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# DEACON RETREATS

## 2025 SCHEDULE

**FEBRUARY 21-23, 2025**

### **FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE**

DIRECTED RETREAT

Led by Deacon Andy Neu

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?

**MARCH 21-23, 2025**

### **THE HIDDENNESS OF THE DIACONATE**

DIRECTED RETREAT

Led by Deacon Joseph Michalak

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.

**ABRIL 25-27, 2025**

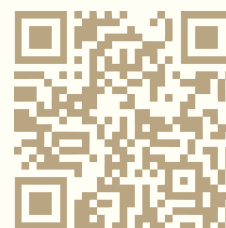
### **IDENTIDAD DE LA FAMILIA DIACONAL, SIGNO DE ESPERANZA**

RETIRO DIRIGIDO POR EL PADRE  
DUBERNEY RODAS GRAJALES

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. (1 Pedro 4,11).

**ALL RETREATS ARE HELD AT SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER.  
RETREAT COSTS ARE COVERED BY THE DIOCESE OF ORLANDO.**

For more information and to register, visit  
[www.sanpedrocenter.org/deacon-retreats](http://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



# NEW ANNUAL FORM

## DUE JUNE 1ST

Schedule your pastor meetings NOW! Remember you MUST use the new form.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE NEW FORM](#)

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# DEACON RETREAT

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Deacon Retreat Cancellation Policy: When a deacon needs to cancel attending a retreat within a week of the retreat date, there are still costs incurred by the retreat center and charged to our office. To be prudent stewards of Church funds, some or all of your assessment will not be available to be applied to a different retreat in the same year.

- If you cancel during the last week before the retreat but no later than 4 p.m. on the day before it begins (Thursday), we will be charged \$105/person. If you and your wife were registered, you will reduce your available funds for a replacement retreat that year by \$210, leaving only \$140 left.
- If you cancel the day the retreat starts, we will be charged the full \$350 and have no further diocesan funds to apply to your mandatory annual retreat.

While unexpected illness or accidents may legitimately cause a last-minute cancellation, scheduling conflicts, even with your parish, should have been anticipated. Please ensure your availability to attend before scheduling a retreat so as not to incur any financial penalty.

# PILGRIMS ON THE WAY OF HOPE: A RESOURCE FOR THE JUBILEE OF DEACONS



## JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Jubilee of Deacons: Resource Packet

**FEBRUARY 21-23, 2025**

## INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Jubilee 2025 invites you to be a pilgrim of hope. For Christians, hope is anchored in the encounter with Jesus whose life, death, and resurrection reveals God’s transforming love. Our hope in God is renewed constantly in the gift of the Holy Spirit, the love of the Father and the Son, who is given, even now, to the community of believers.

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Church. The Jubilee of Deacons will be held from Friday, February 21, to Sunday, February 23, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating deacons at any time throughout the Jubilee Year. In the Catholic Church, the diaconate is one of three degrees in ordained ministry - bishops, priests, and deacons.

Since the Second Vatican Council, the Latin-rite Church has restored the diaconate “as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy”. Deacons preparing for the priesthood are transitional deacons, while those not planning to be ordained priests are permanent deacons. Permanent diaconate can be conferred on a single or married man. If he is married, he must be so before receiving the diaconate.

*Lumen Gentium*, after describing the function of presbyters as a participation in the priestly function of Christ, illustrates the ministry of deacons, “upon whom”, it says, “hands are imposed not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service.” The Sacred Order of Deacons is to be a “driving force for the Church’s service or diakonia toward the local Christian communities and as a sign or sacrament of the Lord Christ himself, who ‘came not to be served but to serve.’” This is at the very heart of the diaconate to which you have been called: to be a servant of the mysteries of Christ and, at one and the same time, to be a servant of your brothers and sisters. That these two dimensions are inseparably joined together in one reality shows the important nature of the ministry which is yours by ordination.

[READ MORE](#)



## ARE YOU A DEACON OF HOPE?

Many deacons are excited about attending events that celebrate this Jubilee Year of Hope. Some will take advantage of the local pilgrimage sites, while others plan to travel to Rome. But this Jubilee Year calls us to do more than attend events and take pilgrimages. To truly celebrate this year as God and the Church intends is for all of us to be Living Icons of Hope. People are looking for signs of hope these days, and in desperation can look for hope among human institutions. But that is not where hope lies. Hoping that any particular person or institution is the answer to address our fear or despair is a false hope. As deacons we must always direct our focus and that of those to whom we minister to our one true Hope in God, who created us and maintain us with His Love. We are called to relate to all God's children with the Mercy and Love of God with which Jesus entrusted us. If we find ourselves engaging others with whom we disagree with anger or judgment we are being false prophets, counter to Jesus's Gospel. Let us all rededicate ourselves this year to being true servants of God's Kingdom as Icons of Hope!



## FORMATION DISCERNMENT NIGHTS

**SEPTEMBER 16**

**ST. JOSEPH**

Lakeland

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**SEPTEMBER 17**

**ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO**

Orlando

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**SEPTEMBER 18**

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

Viera

**SEPTEMBER 23**

**CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY**

Port Orange

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**SEPTEMBER 24**

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY**

Orlando

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**SEPTEMBER 25**

**ST. TIMOTHY**

Lady Lake

*If you know someone who believes they are being called to the diaconate, please encourage them to attend one of these nights. Also remind them only a man's pastor can request an application on their behalf. Speaking to their pastor about their perceived vocation is mandatory early in this process.*



## GOOD NEWS SECTION

We want to add a good news section to our monthly newsletter. If you or your spouse have accomplished something great or experienced a recent blessing, we want to know about it. Please send your stories to Jennifer at [jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:jkuhn@orlandodiocese.org). We will highlight one story each month.

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## SURVEY

The 5-year deacon survey was sent out to all deacons in the first half of January. If you haven't received it, please let Jennifer know and she will resend you a copy. You have until **February 14, 2025**, to participate. **REMEMBER**, it is completely anonymous. After the survey closes, we will prepare the results and share them in the March newsletter.

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## WEBSITE

We encourage you to visit our website, where you will find a significant amount of valuable information. On our office webpage, you can access various forms, detailed instructions for ordering a letter of good standing, copies of our monthly newsletter, our calendar, guidelines for ordering polo shirts, and much more.

<https://www.orlandodiocese.org/office/about-us-diaconate/>

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## MINISTRIES

Catholic Charities of Central Florida, Pathways to Care. Learn how to volunteer.

<https://pathwaystocare.org/volunteer/>

*The Marriage Tribunal is looking for an individual to serve/assist as an Annulment Advocate for the parishes of Brevard, Orange and Polk counties.*

# TRIBUNAL ADVOCATE NEEDED

## RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Explaining the annulment process to petitioners
- Assisting and representing parishioners before the Marriage Tribunal by introducing petitions for Declarations of Nullity on their behalf
- Recording petitioner testimonies and acting as the liaison between petitioners and the Marriage Tribunal
- Updating pastors regarding cases from their parishes
- Assisting OCIA directors in determining marital status of candidates and catechumens
- Maintaining a close working relationship with the Marriage Tribunal Staff



*The Advocate should possess an understanding and training in the annulment process in the Catholic Church as well as an understanding of the theology of the Sacrament of Marriage.*

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT DIANA ANDERSON AT:  
**407.246.4851 OR [DANDERSON@ORLANDODIOCESE.ORG](mailto:DANDERSON@ORLANDODIOCESE.ORG)**



# CONTINUING FORMATION

## FDLC WEBINAR SERIES ON ARS CELEBRANDI

*“But in order that the liturgy may be able to produce its full effects, it is necessary that the faithful come to it with proper dispositions, that their minds should be attuned to their voices, and that they should cooperate with divine grace lest they receive it in vain. Pastors of souls must therefore realize that, when the liturgy is celebrated, something more is required than the mere observation of the laws governing valid and licit celebration; it is their duty also to ensure that the faithful take part fully aware of what they are doing, actively engaged in the rite, and enriched by its effects” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 11).*

Please mark your calendars for our next FREE webinar series – **“The Art of Celebrating: Something More is Required.”** The series is scheduled for **five Wednesdays May 7 to June 4**, 1 p.m. Eastern. The sessions will last 75 minutes. If you have a conflict, remember each registered person receives a link to the recorded session.

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**MAY 7**  
**UNDERSTANDING ARS CELEBRANDI**

**MAY 14**  
**THE ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY**

**MAY 21**  
**ARTFUL PRESIDING**

**MAY 28**  
**LAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

**JUNE 4**  
**THE ART OF LITURGICAL MUSIC**

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*Speakers will include **Bishop Mark Seitz, Father Paul Turner, Father Bruce Cinquegrani, Sister Joyce Ann Zimmerman, Monsignor Michael Begolly, and more!** Registration opens soon.*





# 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, FEBRUARY 28

Mary, Mother of God Chapel  
San Pedro Spiritual Development Center



PILGRIMAGE TO BEAUTIFUL AND HOLY

# *Italy*

**JOIN FATHER ANTHONY AARONS, FATHER MARTIN NGUYEN  
AND DEMARRE TOURS FOR A PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY.**

We will visit some wonderful places including Saint Mark's Square in Venice,  
the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, Lanciano, Monte Sant'Angelo,  
St. Peter's Square, and more.

SEPTEMBER 8-19, 2025

# *Happy Birthday*

— TO OUR SENIOR DEACONS! —

DEACON RAFAEL                      92  
HERNANDEZ

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DEACON RICHARD                  83  
STEVENS

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DEACON JUDE                        81  
ARCENEUX

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DEACON TOM                         81  
STAUFFACHER



# DIOCESAN CALENDAR



Click to view  
Diocesan Calendar

## LITURGICAL CORNER



**DIOCESAN  
LITURGICAL  
CALENDAR**



**DIOCESAN  
BULLETIN  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**CONFIRMATION  
SCHEDULE**



**ANUNCIO DEL  
BOLETÍN  
DIOCESANO**



**MARRIAGE  
PREPARATION**



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