



Office of the Permanent Diaconate
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

April 2025

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy Installed as Eighth Archbishop of Washington



(Pictured above, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy receives the crozier as Archbishop during his Installation Mass as the eighth Archbishop of Washington on March 11, 2025, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Cardinal McElroy is pictured with (left to right) Deacon Oscar Mendez; Deacon Yannick Allepot; Deacon Daniel Morrison; Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington; Reverend Kevin Regan; and Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. Catholic Standard photo by Mihoko Owada).

Cardinal McElroy was installed as the eighth Archbishop of Washington on March 11 at a solemn Installation Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In a joyous liturgy that celebrated both the unity of faith and the wonderful cultural diversity of our Archdiocese, eight cardinals, about 70 bishops, over 280 priests, a good number of deacons and about 1,500 faithful joined in prayer and celebration at the Installation Mass.

Cardinal McElroy emphasized hope in his homily, urging that we embrace "...the hope that comes from seeing the world as God sees it...Everything that we know on this earth, every blessing that we receive and every hope that we have is rooted in God's beneficent desire

for the whole of humanity...God is the Father of us all. And God sees us as equal in dignity and moral worth."

Cardinal McElroy further emphasized, "The search for genuine encounter and unity lie at the heart of God's vision for our world, alongside special care for those who are most vulnerable among us. What hope we could bring to our world as the Church of Washington if we could truly help our society to see others more as God sees them, beloved children, brothers and sisters. We are called in this Jubilee Year to be pilgrims of hope in a wounded world. We find the foundation for that hope in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which alters every understanding that we have about ourselves, our lives and our destinies." A copy of Cardinal McElroy's full homily can be found [by clicking here](#).

Cardinal McElroy has been a longstanding, strong proponent of the dignity of all persons, including immigrants. In a recent interview in the *Catholic Standard*, when asked what his message would be to the immigrant community at this time, Cardinal McElroy responded, "Sorrow, love, embrace, compassion, advocacy and solidarity. And all done in God's name." Two *Catholic Standard* articles with excerpts of Cardinal McElroy's interview can be found [by clicking here](#) and [by clicking here](#).

During a March 24 conference on migrants and refugees, Cardinal McElroy referred to the letter sent by Pope Francis to the U.S. Bishops on immigration dated February 11, 2025, stating, "Pope Francis brought to the fore the Parable of the Good Samaritan. He said that herein lies the heart of Catholic moral teaching and Catholic social teaching and understanding what are our obligations toward the stranger, the other, who are actually our brother and sister..." The *Catholic Standard* article containing Cardinal McElroy's remarks can be found [by clicking here](#). Pope Francis' letter to the U.S. Bishops on immigration dated February 11, 2025, can be found [by clicking here](#).

We in the permanent diaconate community warmly welcome Cardinal McElroy as our Archbishop, and we look forward to his pastoral care and leadership of our Order, as we rededicate our ministries to serve the People of God of our beloved parishes and Archdiocese.

Our Josephite Charism: Workshop for Deacons and Wives on May 17



(Pictured above, the sixteen members of the first ordained permanent deacon class in The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington with Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle (center), and formators Reverend Paul Downey, SSJ, Rector, and Very Reverend Eugene Marino, SSJ, Spiritual Director, at the ordination held on September 11, 1971, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, DC.)

Our Spring continuing formation workshop for deacons and wives will focus on the charitable charism of the Josephite Order and the Permanent Diaconate. Our discussion will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. We will meet at St. Joseph's Seminary, 1200 Varnum Street, NE, Washington, DC where the first several classes of permanent deacons for our Archdiocese were formed.

Following the reinstatement of the permanent diaconate after Vatican Council II, the Josephite Order led the formation program in our Archdiocese and other U.S. dioceses, and that Josephite commitment to charity continues ingrained in our charism and mission in the permanent diaconate community.

Please register for our workshop by [clicking here](#).

Our panel discussion will be led by several individuals who were directly or indirectly involved in the Josephite formation, and who have long relationships with the Josephite Order and the permanent diaconate, including Deacon Joseph Curtis, Jr., whose father was a member of the first ordination class and who grew up in the Josephite parish of Saint Cyprian, Washington, DC; Deacon Joseph Bell; Father Donald M. Fest, SSJ; Father Paul

Oberg, SSJ; and Mr. Ronald Jackson, Jr., who is Senior Director, Government Relations, for Catholic Charities, USA. Our panel will be moderated by Deacon Timothy Tilghman.

Following our panel discussion, we will have a tour of the seminary Chapel and share a lunch and fellowship in the seminary refectory. Please plan to join us as we explore our diaconate charism of commitment to charity as exemplified by the Josephite Order, who formed our first permanent deacon classes. (Two continuing formation credit hours.)

Lenten Day of Reflection for Deacons and Wives: Recap



(Pictured above, Bishop Evelio Menjivar, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, presiding at Mass at our annual Lenten Day of Reflection for Deacons and Wives on Saturday, March 8, 2025, in Saint Ursula's Chapel at the Pastoral Center. Bishop Menjivar was assisted by (left) Deacon Carlo Caraballo and (right) Deacon JP Flagg II).

Nearly 100 deacons, candidates and wives joined in our Lenten Day of Reflection on March 8, 2025, at the Pastoral Center. Bishop Evelio Menjivar, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, was our Principal Celebrant and homilist at our Mass.

During our Lenten Day of Reflection, we had the opportunity to prayerfully prepare ourselves as individuals, and for our pastoral responsibilities during the Lenten season by worshipping at Mass together, reflecting upon a spiritual presentation, and taking time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and receipt of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

In his Mass homily, Bishop Menjivar emphasized that in this Lenten Season, we in the diaconate community are called to deeper renewal and conversion; and not just with respect to our personal spirituality, but also to reach out and repair, restore and heal those in our community in need of help. He added that this healing is particularly relevant to deacons and wives who can build bridges in our community, and be initiators of God's mercy in love and service; and bring hope, unity and healing, especially within families.

Ms. Anne-Elisabeth Giuliani, the Delegate for Consecrated Life for our Archdiocese, presented our spiritual reflection. Ms. Giuliani is a professed member in the Secular Institute of Notre-Dame de Vie, founded in 1932 by a Carmelite priest, Blessed Marie-Eugène of the Child-Jesus. In her reflection, based on the teachings of Saint John of the Cross, Ms. Giuliani stressed the presence of God living in the center of our soul; and that our capacity for God is our great hope, as we strive to accept the unconditional love of God and the flow of grace from Christ. She further noted that Jesus became Incarnate to unite ourselves with Him. Using the analogy of burning wood turning to incandescent fire, she urged us to collaborate with the transforming and purifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to become like a living flame of love, to be one in love with the Lord; in complete trust and humility.

Special thanks to Bishop Menjivar for leading us at Mass and his wonderful homily; to Ms. Anne-Elisabeth Giuliani for her meaningful spiritual reflection; and to Deacon Carlo Caraballo and Deacon JP Flagg II (deacons at Mass); Deacon Curtis Turner (Master of Ceremonies at Mass), Mrs. Yolanda Caraballo (lector at Mass), Deacon Walter Sanchez (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction), and Deacon Robert Vince (recitation of the Holy Rosary). Our next deacons and wives Day of Reflection will be held during Advent, on December 6, 2025.

Spring Retreat for Deacons and Wives: Recap



(Pictured above, Reverend Nicholas Dustin Blackwell, O. Carm., presiding at Mass at the Spring Retreat for Deacons and Wives, March 21-23, 2025, at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland. Father Blackwell is assisted by (left) Deacon Clayton Nickel and (right) Deacon Richard Meyer).

Nearly forty participants enjoyed the spiritual reflection, fraternity and sorority, and the mild weather at the Spring deacons and wives retreat held during the weekend of March 21-23, at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland. Reverend Nicholas Dustin Blackwell, O. Carm., was our Retreat Leader.

Father Blackwell devoted the four conferences during the weekend to a deep exploration of sanctity and holiness; and related those spiritual states to our vocations as deacons, as deacon wives, and as married couples in families. He stressed that seeking perfection of heart means striving for whole-ness, but will not be mistake-less.

He cited, among other scripture texts, St. Paul's letter to the Colossians 3:12-14, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection."

Father Blackwell emphasized that we are called to live in the Lord, to be the seed that grows and blossoms, to loving and charitable care for souls; to be present to others in need, to be humble in all of our activities. He stressed four attributes: (1) Essential-ness in our day to day duties as deacon, husband and father (or deacons wives); (2) Fulfillment of our responsibilities and duties (including, for the deacon, our recitation of Morning and Evening Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours; (3) Diligence, including prudence and practicality: remaining on-task with the time available; and (4) Persistence and Perseverance in family life and ministry.

He urged us to be holy, and cited St. Paul's letter to the Colossians 1:4-5, "... for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the holy ones because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. Of this you have already heard through the word of truth, the gospel..."

Sincere thanks to Father Blackwell for his deep spirituality he conveyed to the deacons and wives on this weekend retreat, and for all participants as we worshipped, prayed and discerned together in fraternity and sorority, and enjoyed the beautiful and contemplative grounds of the Loyola Retreat House.

In case you missed our weekend retreat, Father Blackwell has referred us to an eight-minute Lenten spiritual reflection, inspired by his reverence for Saint Teresa of Avila, on silence and prayer, which can be found [by clicking here](#).

Our next weekend retreat for deacons and wives will be held on September 27-29, and our Retreat Leader will be Reverend Ebuka Mbanude, Director of Evangelization for our Archdiocese.

Permanent Diaconate Formation: Update



The ten candidates in the potential ordination class of 2025 have begun Pastoral Counseling with Dr. David Missar, and continue studying in Deacon William Ditewig's Integrative Seminar. The Integrative Seminar consists of the candidates working through various pastoral scenarios with Deacon Ditewig, focusing on not only how to respond, but also persons and resources they would consult with in forming pastoral responses.

The seven candidates in the potential ordination class of 2027 continue in New Testament studies with Deacon Kenneth Scheiber, and in Sacramental Theology with Very Reverend George Stuart, Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Services & Vice Chancellor for our Archdiocese. Next month they will study Patristics with Father John Dillon, Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Derwood, Maryland.

The eight members of the 2029 aspirancy cohort have spent a month studying an introduction to Sacred Scripture with Father Walter Tappe, Pastor of Saint Hugh of Grenoble Parish, Greenbelt, Maryland. After Easter they will begin studies on an introduction to Catholic Social Teaching, taught by Mr. Ian Mitchell from the Archdiocese's Department of Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns, who recently helped lead a workshop at the Pastoral Center on Immigration for clergy, religious, and laity involved in parish ministry. The aspirants are also in the process of signing up with Catholic Charities, DC, for summer ministry in various charitable outreach activities.

Many aspirants and candidates were present at the Lenten Day of Reflection for Deacons and Wives on March 8, and were introduced to the deacons and wives with an opportunity to get to know them better.

Our recruiting process for faithful men interested in learning more about our sacred Order continues throughout the year. Deacons are encouraged to work within their deaneries in

this outreach, and coordinate with their representative on the Deacon Council. Please contact Deacon Charles Huber (Huberc@adw.org) for further information about the recruiting process for inquirers.

Please continue to pray for our candidates, aspirants, their wives, their formators, and inquirers discerning a vocation to our Order.

Permanent Diaconate Community 'Save the Dates'



Please 'save the dates' for the remaining diaconate community events scheduled for calendar year 2025. These activities are designed to enrich our spiritual lives, enhance our pastoral capabilities and enjoy the fraternity and sorority of our diaconate community. In addition to the events listed below, we will also be scheduling a Memorial Mass for Deceased Deacons and Wives in the Fall.

April 14 at 2:00 p.m.: Annual Chrism Mass. Deacons and wives are cordially invited to the annual Mass of the Chrism, held at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, DC. Cardinal Robert W. McElroy will bless the holy oils for use by all parishes in the upcoming year in this solemn liturgy. Deacons are asked to vest in alb and white stole. Please register for the Chrism Mass [by clicking here](#).

May 17, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon: Workshop on the Charitable Charism of the Josephite Order and the Permanent Diaconate. Our Spring continuing formation workshop for deacons and wives will focus on the charitable charism of the Josephite Order and the Permanent Diaconate. Following the reinstatement of the permanent diaconate after Vatican Council II, the Josephite Order led the formation program in our Archdiocese and other U.S. dioceses, and that Josephite commitment to charity continues ingrained in our permanent diaconate community. We will meet at St. Joseph's Seminary,

1200 Varnum Street, NE, Washington DC. Please see the separate article and registration link in this newsletter. (Two continuing formation credit hours.)

June 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Anniversary Jubilarian Mass and Celebration Luncheon. Bishop Juan R. Esposito will be the Principal Celebrant and homilist at our Mass for the anniversary celebration of jubilarian deacons and their wives, to be held in Saint Ursula Chapel at the Pastoral Center. Several ordination classes will be honored, and a celebratory luncheon will be served. A personal invitation will be issued to all jubilarians, and all deacons and wives are invited and highly encouraged to join in this Mass and celebration.

June 28, at 10:00 a.m.: Permanent Diaconate Ordination for the Class of 2025. Please plan on attending the ordination of our newest class of deacons at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Deacons should bring an alb, cincture, and white stole, and plan to arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. to vest. Wives of deacons will have reserved seating.

July 16, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.: Summer Reading and Virtual Discussion for Deacons and Wives. Our tradition of a summer reading selection for deacons and wives continues in Summer 2025. Our text will be *Remain in Me: Holy Orders, Prayer and Ministry* by Deacon James Keating (Paulist Press, 2019). Deacon Keating will lead us in a virtual discussion of this spiritual text by Zoom on Wednesday, July 16, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Deacon Keating is a nationally-known author, speaker and thought leader on the permanent diaconate. (Up to six continuing formation credit hours.)

September 13, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon: Fall Deacons and Wives Ongoing Formation Workshop. Our continuing formation series will continue with a Fall workshop at the Pastoral Center on a topic of emerging significance to our ministries. The specific topic will be announced in a future newsletter. (Two continuing formation hours).

September 27-29: Deacons and Wives Fall Retreat. Our popular tradition of a Fall weekend retreat continues at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland. Reverend Ebuka Mbanude will be our Retreat Leader. Father Ebuka is the Director of the Office of Evangelization for our Archdiocese. He has been leading all Archdiocese efforts related to the Jubilee Year of Hope. Father Ebuka was born and raised in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria. In 2007, Fr. Ebuka immigrated to the United States and settled in Washington, DC. He entered seminary in 2013, and was ordained a Priest of the Archdiocese by

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory in June, 2019. Father Ebuka is in residence at Sacred Heart Parish, Bowie, Maryland.

October 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Convocation for Deacons and

Wives. Cardinal Robert W. McElroy will preside at Mass at our annual Convocation for Deacons and Wives, to be held at Saint Joseph Parish, Largo, Maryland. At this popular annual gathering, we will worship at Mass together, and have the opportunity through a plenary keynote presentation and group discussions to focus on topical issues to our Order and our ministries. Lunch will be served. (Three continuing formation hours).

December 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.: Advent Day of Reflection for Deacons and

Wives. In our popular annual Advent Day of Reflection for Deacons and Wives, we will have the opportunity to worship together at Mass, listen to a spiritual reflection, and have time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions. Tentative location is the Pastoral Center. Lunch will be served. (One continuing formation credit hour).

Special thanks to the members of the Continuing Formation Committee who have worked diligently to plan these activities. We know how quickly our ministerial, work and family calendars can fill up, so please 'Save the Dates' for these events aimed at enriching our spirituality, increasing our pastoral and liturgical skills, and deepening the fraternity and sorority of our ministry.



SAINT LUKE INSTITUTE

The Saint Luke Institute is a preeminent Catholic organization fostering healthy ministries for a vibrant Catholic Church. A reminder that permanent deacons have access to a wealth of continuing formation on-demand offerings from the Saint Luke Institute that can enrich our ministries and our personal lives. Workshop topics include several offerings in the following categories: safe environment, behavior and psychology, pastoral leadership, spirituality, training and intercultural skills. These on-demand virtual workshops generally qualify as part of the 12 hour ongoing formation annual requirements for active ADW deacons.

Deacons can register for these workshops at sliconnect.org/register. Please send a message to Deacon Don Longano (Longanod@adw.org) or Mrs. Karen Sachs

(Sachsk@adw.org) for the access code to the clergy group account. All deacons are highly encouraged to review and participate in these very useful workshop offerings.

As one still-topical example, in September, 2023 the Office of the Permanent Diaconate sponsored a virtual workshop discussion on Mental Wellness for deacons and wives led by Dr. Nancy A. Kluge, Chair of the Saint Luke Institute's Clinical Continuing Education Committee. She was accompanied by Stephanie Lerner, a professional therapist at the Institute.

Discussion topics during the workshop included suggestions for developing and sustaining skills to retain a healthy ministry-life balance, and warning signs to watch out for that can potentially lead to ministerial 'burn-out', anxiety or depression. Deacon Ted Dmuchowski moderated our discussion, and Dr. Rhonda Scott, wife of Deacon Bill Scott was our technology leader for the virtual discussion.

If you were not able to participate in this workshop, the video replay of this meaningful presentation can be found [by clicking here](#). (Two continuing formation hours).

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember the following members of the Permanent Deacon community in your prayers this month.

Please inform Mrs. Karen Sachs if you would like to add someone to this prayer list in our next newsletter.



Deacon Alfredo Soto Maldonado, deceased, ordination class of 2000.

Mrs. Deniese Sewell Bond, deceased, wife of Deacon Michael S. Bond, ordination class of 2006.

Mrs. Eleanor Marie Fenwick Ripple, deceased, wife of Deacon Ammon Syril Ripple, ordination class of 2010.

Mr. Michael W. Lloyd, deceased, brother of Deacon Joseph W. Lloyd, Jr., ordination class of 2008.

Deacon John R. Barnes, ordination class of 1995, for prayers of healing.

Deacon James L. Caldwell, Jr., ordination class of 2013, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Francisco Cartagena, ordination class of 2011, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Joseph Curtis, Jr., ordination class of 2002, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Willis C. Daniels, ordination class of 1995, for prayers of healing

Deacon Ronald Ealey, ordination class of 1975, and his wife Catherine, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Frank Enderle, ordination class of 1991, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Clark L. Glenn, ordination class of 2002, and his wife Doris, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Carlos Hernandez, ordination class of 2013, for prayers of healing.

Mrs. Megan Jackson, daughter of Deacon Alan Jeeves, ordination class of 2013, for prayers of healing.

Deacon James C. McCann, Jr., ordination class of 1991, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Lawrence Miles, ordination class of 1993, for prayers of healing.

Deacon John Montgomery, ordination class of 2008, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Andrew J. Nosacek, ordination class of 1993 and his wife Lorraine Ann, for prayers of healing.

Mrs. Maureen (Mo) Pagan, wife of Deacon Rafael Pagan, ordination class of 2013, for prayers of healing.

Deacon John E. Robinson, Jr., ordination class of 2008, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Walter Rourke, ordination class of 1988, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Paul Ruffo, ordination class of 2000, for prayers of healing.

Deacon McBurnett (Mack) Smith, ordination class of 2004, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Robert (Bobby) White, ordination class of 1997, for prayers of healing.

Anjanette Young, daughter of Deacon Willis C. Daniels, ordination class of 1995, for prayers of healing.

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

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