



Office of the Permanent Diaconate

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

May 2025

Pope Francis: May He Rest in the Eternal Peace of Christ



His Holiness Pope Francis passed to eternal rest on April 21, 2025. He was eighty-eight years old, and was elected pope in March, 2013. Pope Francis was beloved by persons of good will in every part of the world. He led the world's 1.4 billion Catholics with sincere humility, pastoral care and mercy. Pope Francis focused on loving care for the poor, the outcast, and the marginalized in society. One of many articles relating to the death of Pope Francis in the *Catholic Standard* can be found [by clicking here.](#)

As Cardinal Robert W. McElroy emphasized in his statement issued upon the death of Pope Francis, "... Pope Francis enshrined the mercy of God at the heart of his proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In doing so, he illuminated with new depth the pastoral dimension of the Church's mission, which is rooted first in embracing love rather than in judgement. It is this embracing love which led Pope Francis to be a prophetic advocate for the poor and the dispossessed, the unborn and the immigrant, the victims of war and the

earth which is our common home. It was this love also that animated his tender personal care for all those whom he encountered personally in their suffering..."

Cardinal McElroy further affirmed, "Pope Francis' vision of a synodal Church -- the people of God journeying together, nourished by Word and Sacrament, missionary in its outreach, including all and animated by the participation of all, constantly renewing itself in the light of the Gospel -- stands as an enduring legacy of Pope Francis ... It provides a clear foundation for the journey of God's people in the years which are to come." The full statement of Cardinal McElroy can be found [by clicking here](#).

Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, made the following statement upon the death of Pope Francis, "We commend his great soul to the Merciful Father of us all. His devoted service to Christ's Church and to our entire world is a legacy that will endure for ages to come. He presented the compassionate face of a pastor as he exercised the Petrine Office. People felt close to him and therefore closer to our Church. May the Lord reward him for his ministry as Shepherd in the likeness of Jesus."

Pope Francis was beloved by the diaconate community throughout the world. In February of this Jubilee Year, during the celebration for deacons in Rome, Pope Francis provided a homily for the Holy Mass and Ordinations to the Diaconate held on Sunday, February 23. Pope Francis in his homily stressed three fundamental dimensions of the Christian life and our ministries specifically: "*forgiveness, selfless service and communion*."

Pope Francis explained, "Forgiveness means preparing a welcoming and safe future for us and our communities. Deacons, personally charged with a ministry that carries them to the peripheries of our world, are committed to seeing -- and teaching others to see -- in everyone, even in those who do us wrong and cause us suffering, a hurting sister or brother, and hence one in greater need than anyone of reconciliation, guidance and help."

With respect to selfless service, Pope Francis reflected, "For you as deacons, selfless service is not a secondary aspect of your activity, but an essential dimension of your very being."

And with respect to being a source of communion, Pope Francis exhorted, "Those of you who are permanent deacons do so as husbands, fathers and grandparents who, by your service, choose to extend your families to include the needy in all the places where you live. Dear deacons, your mission sets you apart from society only to be re-immersed in it in order to enable it to be an ever more open and welcoming place for everyone. It is one of

the finest expressions of a synodal Church, one that 'goes forth.'" The full homily of Pope Francis can be found [by clicking here](#).

We in the permanent diaconate community mourn the passing of Pope Francis. We rededicate ourselves to loving, pastoral, and humble care in the 'field hospital' as he termed, serving the People of God of our beloved parishes, Archdiocese, and community.

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 as members of the 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 process, and who have long relationships with the Josephite Order and the permanent diaconate. Panelists will include 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.)

Jubilee Anniversary Mass and Luncheon: June 7



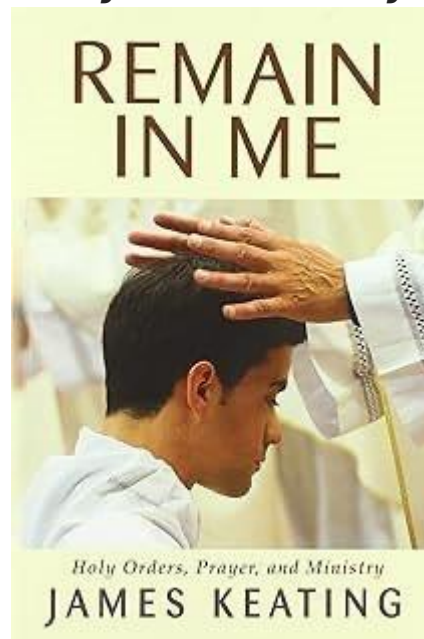
(Pictured above, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory presided at the Jubilarian Anniversary Mass held on April 20, 2024, at St. Ursula Chapel in the Pastoral Center, pictured along with the jubilarian deacons honored at the Mass and luncheon. This year's Jubilarian Mass and luncheon will be held on June 7, 2025, at the Pastoral Center.) (Photo by Jaclyn Lippelmann).

Our annual Jubilarian Anniversary Mass and Luncheon for deacons and wives will be held on June 7, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Pastoral Center.

Bishop Juan R. Esposito will be the Principal Celebrant and homilist at our Mass. In this popular annual anniversary celebration for jubilarian deacons and their wives, the following ordination classes will be honored: class of 1975, class of 1985, class of 1989, class of 1990, class of 1994, class of 1995, and class of 2004.

Personal invitations have been issued to the jubilarians, and all deacons and wives are invited and highly encouraged to join in this Mass and celebration. Registration for non-jubilarian deacons and wives will be available in mid-May.

Summer Reading and Discussion: *Remain in Me -- Holy Orders, Prayer and Ministry*



Our tradition of a summer reading selection for deacons and wives, accompanied by discussion, 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 is a nationally-known author and speaker on the permanent diaconate. His text provides deep spiritual insights on several aspects of the diaconate, including: (1) spiritual direction; (2) suffering temptations; (3) prayer renewed; (4) ministry; and (5) united with priests in Holy Orders.

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. Registration and the Zoom link for our discussion will be available in June.

Deacon Keating's text is available for purchase [by clicking here](#).

Deacons and wives are highly encouraged to obtain and read this text as our summer reading project, and plan on joining the July 16 virtual discussion with Deacon Keating. (Up to six continuing formation hours.)

Permanent Diaconate Formation Update: June 28 Ordination



The candidates in the potential ordination class of 2025 have had their interviews with the Deacon Formation Review Board. Those called to Holy Orders by Cardinal Robert W. McElroy will be on their canonical retreat in mid-May, and would be ordained on Saturday, June 28, 2025, at 10:00 am in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

This class is also completing coursework in Pastoral Counseling with Dr. David Missar, and continue discussions 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 candidates in the potential ordination class of 2027 continue studies of Sacramental Theology with Very Reverend George Stuart, Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Services & Vice Chancellor for our Archdiocese. Next month they will study Patristics with Very Reverend John Dillon, Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Derwood, Maryland.

The eight members of the 2029 aspirancy cohort are beginning introductory studies of 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. This cohort is completing the first year of the two-year discernment process in aspirancy.

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, a Memorial Mass for recently deceased deacons and wives is tentatively planned for November 15, 2025; further information on this event will be provided in a future newsletter.

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. Please see separate article in this newsletter for further information.

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. Please see separate article in this newsletter for further information. (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.

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 Clark Lee Glenn, Sr., deceased, ordination class of 2002.

Deacon Emmett Chad Martin, deceased, ordination class of 1992.

Mrs. Josefina Hernandez, deceased, wife of Deacon Carlos Hernandez, ordination class of 2013.

Mrs. Maryanne Halverson, deceased, sister of Deacon Nicholas Scholz, ordination class of 1994.

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.

Mr. Matthew Datovech, son of Deacon James Datovech, ordination class of 2008, 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.

Mrs. Doris Glenn, widow of deceased deacon Clark L. Glenn, Sr., ordination class of 2002, 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 Al Turner, ordination class of 2000, 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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