



Office of the Permanent Diaconate

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

June 2025



Leo P.P. XIV

The permanent diaconate community joins in joy and gratitude with 1.4 billion Catholics and people of good will throughout the world upon the election of Pope Leo XIV on May 8, 2025. Pope Leo, formerly Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, spent many years as a missionary in Peru (and is a naturalized citizen of that country), and is a member of, and former leader of the Augustinian Order.

Moreover, he chose the name Leo in homage to Pope Leo XIII, who is especially known for his seminal 1891 encyclical on Catholic social justice, "Rerum Novarum," or "On the Condition of the Working Classes." Pope Leo also speaks several languages, holds a doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome (the "Angelicum"), and in 2023 was appointed by Pope Francis as prefect of the Holy See's Dicastery for Bishops, which oversees the process for appointments of bishops worldwide. A *Catholic Standard* summary of Pope Leo's background can be found [by clicking here](#).

In his homily during his Inauguration Mass held on May 18, 2025, Pope Leo emphasized, "*Love and unity*; these are the two dimensions of the mission entrusted to Peter by Jesus."

He further set forth his vision for our Church: "Brothers and sisters, I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, *a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world.*" He further explained, "We want to say to the world, with humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles! Listen to his offer of love and become his one family: *in the one Christ, we are one.* ... We are called to offer God's love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people. Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the Gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters." Pope Leo's full homily can be found [by clicking here](#).

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, our Archbishop, and Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, our Archbishop Emeritus, were members of the conclave of Cardinal electors who chose Pope Leo. Cardinal McElroy, reflecting on Pope Leo and the conclave in his homily at the May 14, 2025, Mass of Thanksgiving for the election of Pope Leo held in the Saint Ursula Chapel at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, related, "I've known Cardinal Prevost for several years, he's a very good man. He's bright, he's faith-filled, he's kind, he's patient. He's a very hard worker. ... He will be a splendid shepherd."

With respect to the conclave, Cardinal McElroy reflected, "All the factors that seemed to complicate the choice (of a new pope) dissolved in a moment of real grace," as the Cardinals in the conclave focused on "where is the grace of God calling us to move in the life of the Church, and who is God calling us to choose for this position?" He recounted that the conclave was "a profoundly deep spiritual experience." When the Cardinal electors processed into the Sistine Chapel, the choir canted the Litany of the Saints, "which reminds us that in the very important moment, we are not only praying among ourselves, and the people on earth, (but) the people in the kingdom of heaven, all those who have gone before us, the saints, are joining us in this task. ... We were instruments of God's grace, but it was God's grace that was manifest and palpable in everything that we were doing, and that joy was just overwhelming." The *Catholic Standard* article recounting Cardinal McElroy's homily can be found [by clicking here](#).

We in the permanent diaconate community, rejoicing upon the election of Pope Leo XIV, rededicate ourselves through our three-fold ministries of charity, liturgy, and word to spreading Christ's message of Love and Truth to all persons in our parishes and community.

Called to Orders: Permanent Diaconate Ordination on June 28



(Pictured above, the nine men Called to Orders by Cardinal Robert McElroy, Christopher Lindsey, Terrence Wynn, Sr., Jason Lising, Rey Robles, Stanley Nisson, Jr., Trach Vo, Michael Brooks, Eduardo Deausen, and Eugene de Ribeaux, on their Canonical Retreat held at the Priest Field Pastoral Center, Kearneysville, West Virginia, May 18-23, 2025).

Nine candidates in the ordination class of 2025 have been called to Holy Orders by Cardinal Robert W. McElroy. The ordination is scheduled on Saturday, June 28, 2025, beginning at 10:00 am in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., will preside at the ordination. All deacons and wives are cordially invited to attend. Deacons should arrive by 9:30 a.m. and bring alb and white stole. Please register for the ordination [by clicking here](#).

A summary biography for each of the nine ordinandi is set forth below:

Mr. Michael Brooks. Michael is currently a parishioner of Saint Hugh of Grenoble Parish, Greenbelt, Maryland. He works as a nurse educator at AHC Shady Grove Medical Center in Rockville. Michael's parish involvement includes serving as an Acolyte, participating in the Music Ministry, Lector ministry, Baptismal preparation, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the homebound, altar server training, and as a Sacristan. He was inspired to become a deacon through the urging of others and a

powerful personal spiritual encounter with God. His goal as a deacon is to offer service and support wherever it is needed.

Mr. Eugene de Ribeaux. Eugene and his wife Mary Beth have three children. They are currently parishioners at Saint John Neumann Parish, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Eugene is a small business owner. His parish activities include serving as Acolyte, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for the homebound, and participating in the Men's Ministry. Three factors inspired Eugene to the diaconate: an increasing desire to serve others as he discerned the love of Christ, the witness of deacons he has known, and encouragement from others who see in him a servant's heart. His goals as a deacon will be to serve in whatever way God wants him to serve, to draw fellow Catholics into a deeper spiritual life of service, and to introduce the Love of Christ to persons in his community.

Mr. Eduardo Deausen. Eduardo and his wife Marianne have two children. They are currently parishioners at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Derwood, Maryland. He recently retired as a medical laboratory technologist. His parish involvement includes serving as an Acolyte, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Lector, confirmation retreat coordinator, and supporting adult formation. Eduardo was inspired to pursue the diaconate by a desire to serve God and others through ministries of charity. His goal as a deacon is to be a bridge—Christ's hands and feet to the people—and to proclaim the Gospel with love.

Mr. Christopher Lindsey. Chris and his wife Theresa have three children. They are currently parishioners at Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish, Owings, Maryland. Chris works as an energy manager and engineer. His parish involvement includes participation in the Men's Club, Knights of Columbus, and support of Active Catholic Teens. Chris has always found joy in serving the Church and, through a series of faith-deepening steps, felt called to the Permanent Diaconate. His aspiration is to continue serving Christ and the Church faithfully, in whatever way is needed.

Mr. Allan (Jason) Lising. Jason and his wife Kathleen have five children. They are currently parishioners at Saint Raphael Parish, Rockville, Maryland. He works as a program manager for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Jason's parish service includes Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), Acolyte, and Lector ministries. Jason was first encouraged by someone to look into the diaconate, and after a "Come and See" visit, was drawn in by the deacon's heart for charitable service, aligning with

his own passion for serving others. As a deacon, he hopes to serve God and neighbor with love and compassion.

Mr. Robert (Stan) Nisson, Jr. Stan and his wife Jennifer have five children. They are currently parishioners at Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, North Beach, Maryland. Stan works as a sales engineer for a mechanical contractor. His parish involvement includes participation in the Men's Group, Knights of Columbus, Acolyte, Lector, and service as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Stan felt a divine call to the diaconate, further inspired by the example of other deacons he knows. As a deacon, he hopes to serve as God has called him and to reach those who are searching for the Faith, as he once was when he became Catholic at age 37.

Mr. Rey Navarro Robles. Rey and his wife Carol have one adult son. They are currently parishioners at Saint Columba Parish, Oxon Hill, Maryland. Rey recently served as a business/IT manager for a nonprofit and is currently substitute teaching at a local parish school. His parish ministries include OCIA, the Filipino Ministry, lector coordination, and he is a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus. Rey was drawn to the diaconate by a profound desire to deepen his faith and relationship with God through service and spiritual formation. His goal as a deacon is to live out God's plan through loving service and to witness the transformation that Christ has worked in his life to inspire others.

Mr. Trach Thanh Vo. Trach and his wife Thuy-Linh have two children. They are currently parishioners at Our Lady of Vietnam Parish, Silver Spring, Maryland. He works in software engineering. His parish involvement includes serving at Mass as Acolyte, being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, acting as Sacristan, and teaching as a Catechist. Trach was inspired to become a deacon by the recognition of God's immense love and grace in his life, particularly as an immigrant. His goal as a deacon is to be an instrument of God's love—bringing His grace to others, especially the needy—and making His love known.

Mr. Terence J. Wynn, Sr. (TJ). TJ and his wife Sonia have three children. They are currently parishioners at Saint Patrick's Parish, Washington, D.C. TJ works as a technician for Verizon, Inc. His parish involvement includes serving as an Acolyte, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Usher, Lector, and supporting Adoration during women's prayer nights. TJ was inspired to pursue the diaconate by the influence of the late Deacon John McGinness, who ministered to his family, and Monsignor Raymond East, with whom he worked in the Kairos Prison Ministry. His goal as a

deacon is to serve God's people with love and grow closer to God through service, trusting that any other goals God or the Church has for him will be met with his best effort.

The ordinandi in the class of 2025 will receive parish appointments and assignments to a particular ministry of charity from Cardinal McElroy upon ordination.

Two additional cohorts continue the formation process. The candidates in the potential ordination class of 2027 are concluding study of Patristics with Very Reverend John Dillon, Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Derwood, Maryland. They will begin summer charitable outreach activities soon.

Further, the eight members of the 2029 aspirancy cohort will conclude first year studies soon and are beginning summer ministry in various Catholic Charities 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.

Jubilee Anniversary Mass and Luncheon: June 7



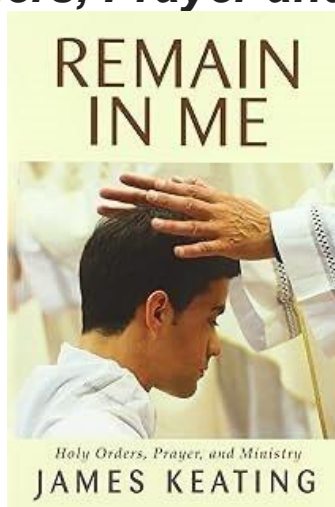
(Pictured above, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory presided at the Jubilarian Anniversary Mass held on April 20, 2024, at St. Ursula Chapel in the Pastoral Center, pictured along with the jubilarian deacons honored at the Mass and luncheon. This year's Jubilarian Mass and luncheon will be held on June 7, 2025,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

All deacons and wives are cordially welcome and encouraged to join in this joyous Mass and luncheon celebration. Registration for the event can be found [by clicking here](#).

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 the near future.

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 participate in the the July 16 virtual discussion with Deacon Keating. Please note that up to six continuing formation hours are available for reading this excellent text and participating in the virtual discussion and follow up.

The Josephite Charism to Charity: Workshop Recap



(Pictured above, panelists during the workshop on the Josephite charism to charity held at St. Joseph Seminary, Washington DC, (left to right) Deacon Timothy Tilghman, moderator, Mr. Ronald Jackson, Sr., Reverend Donald M. Fest, SSJ, Mr. Tony Neal, and Deacon Joseph Bell).

Our Spring continuing formation workshop for deacons and wives focused on the charitable charism and the mission of the Josephite Order, and its impact on the Permanent Diaconate. Approximately 30 deacons and wives joined in the discussion held on May 17, 2025, at the St. Joseph Seminary, 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 and mission to racial equality continues ingrained in our charism and focus as members of the diaconate community.

Our panel discussion was led by several individuals who were directly or indirectly involved in the Josephite formation process, or who have long relationships with the Josephite Order and the permanent diaconate. The panel discussion was moderated by Deacon Timothy Tilghman, ordination class of 2010, who is assigned to Saint Teresa of Avila Parish, Washington, DC. The panelists' presentations and ensuing discussion with workshop participants were very meaningful, engaging and frank, as most important and pertinent issues of racism in our society and Church, and the Josephite response in service and charity were explored.

Deacon Joseph Bell, ordination class of 2000, who serves at Incarnation Parish, Washington, DC, was the first presenter during the panel discussion. His faith was fostered by the Josephites in his youth at Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish, Mobile, Alabama. Deacon Bell gave a heartfelt, personal witness of the racism he confronted in his life and career, and continuing during his diaconal ministry providing pastoral care for many years to students at Howard University.

Father Fest, SSJ, is pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, Alexandria, Virginia. He emphasized the Josephite charitable commitment to serve "the least, the last and the lost." He related that the goal of the Josephite Order in volunteering to lead the formation of the first ordination classes of permanent deacons, in our Archdiocese and other locations around the country, was to increase ministry outreach to the Black community. Father Fest also shared reminiscences of the first Archdiocese permanent diaconate classes, who would be invited to share dinner prior to classes at the Seminary and engage in informal discussions on their formation.

Mr. Ronald Jackson, Sr., grew up in a Josephite parish in Mississippi, and is currently Senior Director, Government Relations for Catholic Charities, U.S.A., with primary responsibility for legislative advocacy on issues related to the elimination of poverty. He emphasized the social justice focus of the Josephites. He noted the importance of these issues to our new Pope Leo XIV, and his homage to Pope Leo XIII and the seminal 1891 encyclical on social justice, "Rerum Novarum."

Mr. Tony Neal is a parishioner and very active at Saint Luke's Parish, Washington, DC. He related how the Josephites "saved my life" as he experienced and overcame grave personal challenges; and how that Josephite charitable charism gave him spiritual strength and growth, as he now assists others who are experiencing similar challenges in their lives.

Regrettably, due to technical difficulties with recording equipment, the audio replay of this most meaningful discussion is not available. Our moderator, Deacon Tilghman, and the panelists plan to re-record portions of this discussion in order to share these insights with deacons and wives who could not be present for the workshop, in order to continue this important dialogue on our commitment as the diaconate community to charity, social justice, and racial equality.

Following our panel discussion, participants had a tour of the seminary Chapel and recited Daytime Prayer, and enjoyed a lunch and fellowship in the seminary refectory. Special thanks to Deacon Tilghman and the panelists for a most heartfelt discussion; and to Reverend Leo Udeagu, SSJ, and the Josephites for their hospitality in hosting us at the wonderful and historic St. Joseph Seminary.

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.

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

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 focused on marriage pastoral ministries, including marriage preparation, marriage issues involved in OCIA ministry, and marriage pastoral counseling in general. (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).

November 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.: Memorial Mass and Luncheon for Deceased Deacons and Wives. Our Memorial Mass for recently deceased deacons and wives will be held in the Saint Ursula Chapel at the Pastoral Center. All deacons and wives are invited to join the families of recently deceased deacons and wives in this most solemn and meaningful Mass, followed by luncheon.

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. The event will be held at 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 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 E. 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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