

THE SERVANT



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
Office of the Permanent Diaconate



August 2025

Matrimony Pastoral Ministry: Workshop on September 13



Our Fall ongoing formation workshop for deacons and wives will focus on pastoral ministry related to the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Our workshop will be held on Saturday, September 13 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Pastoral Center. Lunch and informal discussion will follow. Please register for the workshop [by clicking here.](#)

Many deacons and wives are active in various aspects of this most important ministry, including Pre-Cana preparation for couples; marriage catechesis and practical issues arising in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA); and general pastoral marriage counseling. Those deacons (and wives) who are married are infused with that sacramental grace in our ministries and witness to the solemn joy of the marital commitment.

Our discussion will emphasize the accompaniment aspects of this ministry, and the particular role of married deacons and wives in assisting couples in their spiritual enrichment in preparing or sustaining their marriage. We will also have a brief 'refresher' on important aspects of the Pre-Cana process and the OCIA issues related to marriage.

Our panel will include Very Reverend George E. Stuart, J.C.D., ADW Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Services & Vice Chancellor; Deacon Oscar Mendez, ordination class of 2021, and his wife Cindy;

Deacon Kyle Simon, ordination class of 2021, and his wife Pat; and a representative from the ADW Office of Family Life.

Please plan to join us for a discussion of a ministry most appropriate to deacons and wives as we spread Christ's message of love experienced through the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Fall Deacons and Wives Retreat: September 26-28



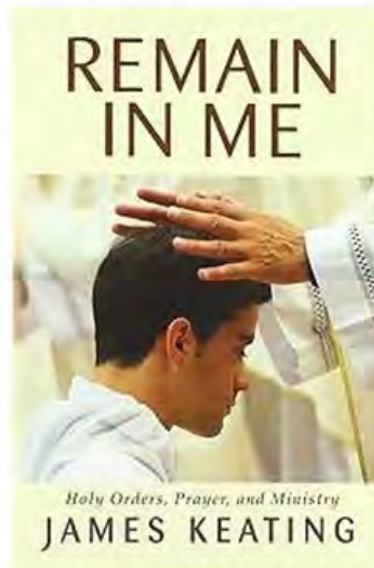
(Pictured above, Reverend Ebuka Mbanude, Parish Administrator of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Washington, DC, and Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Washington, DC, and ADW Director of Evangelization, will be our Retreat Leader at the Deacons and Wives Fall retreat, September 26-28 at the Loyola Retreat House, Faulkner, Maryland).

Our popular tradition of a Fall weekend retreat continues at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland, during the weekend of September 26-28. Reverend Ebuka Mbanude will be our Retreat Leader. Please [click here](#) to register for our retreat.

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 also serves as Parish Administrator of Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Washington, DC, and Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Washington, DC.

Please plan on joining us for our Fall retreat as we share in spirituality and reflection with our brother deacons and sister wives, and enjoy the beautiful grounds of the Loyola Retreat House, and the typically wonderful Fall weather. Please note that the retreat house has an approximate 70 person limit, so registrations will be accepted as made.

Summer Reading and Discussion: Recap



Our tradition of a summer reading selection for deacons and wives, accompanied by discussion, continued in Summer 2025. Our text was *Remain in Me: Holy Orders, Prayer and Ministry* by Deacon James Keating (Paulist Press, 2019). Over 50 deacons and wives joined in this very meaningful virtual discussion held on July 16.

Deacon Keating led us in the discussion of his text. He 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.

During our virtual discussion, Deacon Keating emphasized the prime importance of spiritual enrichment through deeper prayer, in foundation with effective spiritual direction, in order to develop a competency to guide parishioners in their own interior lives. As he writes, "As we slowly become clerics who *are prayer* and not simply ones who *say prayers*, the Spirit can more easily speak through us to the infinite variety of needs and wounds our people bring to us for healing." (*Remain in Me*, p. 19). In our virtual discussion, he emphasized that we need to protect against the busyness of our daily ministries distracting us from the all important unity we are deepening with our Lord. And we find this unity primarily through our prayer, to grow spiritually in "the healing gaze of love" of God.

Deacon Keating's text also provides spiritual insights for wives of deacons, and the deep interrelationship of the Sacrament of Marriage and the Sacrament of Holy Orders: "Both the [deacon's] wife and the Church have a right to be loved in a total and exclusive manner, hence all cleric-spouses are configured to Christ's ultimate priestly spousal act of self-donation on Calvary, now known to the Church in the Eucharist, where sacrifice (priesthood) is founded on the service (diaconal) of Christ himself." (*Remain in Me*, p. 79).

In case your Summer schedule did not permit you to read this excellent text or join the virtual discussion, the replay can be found [by clicking here](#). Deacon Keating's text is available for purchase [by clicking here](#). Six continuing formation hours are available for reading the text and participating in or viewing the replay of the virtual discussion.

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.

September 13, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon: Fall Deacons and Wives Ongoing Formation

Workshop. Our ongoing formation series will continue with a Fall workshop at the Pastoral Center focused on matrimony pastoral ministries, including Pre-Cana preparation, marriage issues involved in OCIA ministry, and marriage pastoral counseling in general. Please see separate article in this newsletter for further details and a registration form. (Two continuing formation hours).

September 26-28: 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. 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 serves as Parish Administrator of Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Washington, DC, and Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Washington, DC. Please see separate article in this newsletter for further information and a registration form.

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. Please register for our convocation [by clicking here](#). (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. Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory will be our Principal Celebrant and homilist at 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.

National Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15 - October 15



National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15. The ADW Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach has planned celebrations and curated resources to support our parishes with celebrating Hispanic heritage. The *2025 Hispanic Heritage Month – Share, Learn and Celebrate Resource Documents* will be available on the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach website, which can be found [by clicking here](#). This initiative aims to promote multicultural awareness and understanding in our diverse communities by providing information and resources to engage the faithful in activities to increase knowledge and appreciation for diverse cultures.

It is also a sacred time to honor the deep faith and enduring legacy that Hispanic Catholics have carried with devotion and deep spiritual strength for generations. With over 31 million Hispanic Catholics in our nation, this community is vital to the Church's present and future. This year's theme, *Roots of Faith: Celebrating the Living Legacy of Hispanic Catholics*, invites us to reflect on the resilience, joy, and devotion that define Hispanic Catholic identity. From Our Lady of Guadalupe to saints like Saint Óscar Romero and Saint Rose of Lima, Hispanic spirituality has deeply enriched our Church.

Please join us in celebrating our Hispanic communities' achievements, identity, beauty, and richness during Hispanic Heritage Month and throughout the year. For assistance and additional information, please contact Mrs. Alma Maltez at the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach (malteza@adw.org).

Also, please plan on participating in the annual Mass commemorating National Hispanic Heritage Month on Saturday September 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, 5700 Saint Bernard Drive Riverdale Park, Maryland. Most Reverend Evelio Menjivar, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, will be the Principal Celebrant. An informational flyer for the Mass can be found [by clicking here](#).

New Website Resources and Annual Ongoing Formation Process



A new section in the Clergy Only portion of the Archdiocese website has been initiated to provide additional resources for deacons, and to assist in the completion of the annual ongoing formation requirements. This new section includes, for example, a copy of the *Archdiocesan Policies and Guidelines for the Ministry of Permanent Deacons* (February, 2020), copies of prior editions of this newsletter, and available replays of prior workshops and lectures.

As set forth in the Policies and Guidelines, continuing formation is an ongoing, lifetime process and responsibility of every deacon, involving the development of the whole person -- spiritual, intellectual and emotional. The Policies and Guidelines provide that every permanent deacon incardinated in the Archdiocese, or in active ministry here, who has not attained the age of 75 years, engage in twelve hours of qualifying continuing formation activities each year.

This is the second calendar year since the pandemic that our ongoing formation requirements have been in place. The majority of active deacons readily attain the twelve hour annual continuing formation requirement. For example, this year the Office of the Permanent Diaconate will have sponsored workshops, conferences and activities that would result in 17 continuing formation hours. When available, viewing replays of these activities count towards the requirements. The new deacon section in the ADW website contains links to replays of available workshops and activities held in both 2025 and 2024.

Also, other workshops and lectures sponsored by the ADW, such as workshops offered by the ADW Office of Catechesis and lectures sponsored by the ADW Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach, will count towards this annual requirement. Appropriate non-ADW sponsored workshops and lectures can qualify if pertinent to our diaconal ministries.

In order to ease this process, beginning in 2025 the annual compliance worksheet has been made web-enabled, and is available in the deacon section of the ADW website. The annual worksheet also requests listing of the spiritual retreat taken by the deacon during the year. For calendar year 2025, this annual compliance worksheet form should be completed by February 15, 2026. The online annual compliance worksheet can be found [by clicking here](#).

Additional information on these ongoing formation requirements is included in the deacon section of the ADW website. For further information, or if you have any questions concerning this process, please contact Deacon Don Longano (longanod@adw.org) or by telephone at 301-853-4583.

Special thanks to Mrs. Karen Sachs for designing and implementing our [new deacon section in the ADW website](#). Please contact her (Sachsk@adw.org) if you need the passcode for the Clergy Only section of the ADW website.

Permanent Diaconate Formation: In Gratitude to Dr. John Grabowski



(Pictured above, Dr. John Grabowski, Ph.D, who taught with tremendous insights and dedication in our permanent diaconate formation program for over 20 years).

As the candidates preparing for possible ordination in 2027 look forward to continuing their coursework in September, and our aspirants begin their second year of study and discernment, we take a moment to express the deep gratitude of our diaconate community to Dr. John Grabowski, Ph.D., who has concluded over 20 years of teaching in the permanent diaconate formation program.

A renowned professor of Moral Theology and Ethics at The Catholic University of America, Dr. Grabowski brought a deep intellect, abiding faith and many years of experience to our formation program, skillfully adapting complex theological material for candidates of diverse educational backgrounds. His wisdom, humor, and patient presence—especially in evening classes following his full day of teaching at CUA—was very meaningful and left a lasting impression on the many deacons and wives who learned from him.

Dr. Grabowski's contributions extend beyond the classroom; he served the global Church as an expert for the Synod on the Family under Pope Francis; and, with his wife Claire, as a theological advisor to Pope Benedict XVI. We are profoundly grateful for the formation he offered to our deacons, candidates and wives, and the example he and Claire continue to provide in witnessing to our great Faith.

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.



Mrs. Luisa Acevedo, deceased, mother-in-law of Deacon Paul Fagan, ordination class of 2017.

Mrs. Barbara Koerner, deceased, sister-in-law of Deacon John Class, ordination class of 2017.

Mr. Michael Rawlinitis, deceased, brother-in-law of Deacon Timothy Wolfkill, ordination class of 2017.

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 Trinidad Soc, ordination class of 2005, 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

Very Reverend Anthony E. Lickteig,

Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Secretary for Ministerial Leadership

301-853-4550

Deacon Don Longano, Director, Office of the Permanent Diaconate

301-853-4583 | longanod@adw.org

Deacon Charles Huber, Assistant Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation

301-853-4582 | huberc@adw.org

Mrs. Karen Sachs, Administrative Assistant

301-853-5345 | Sachsk@adw.org



The Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Washington

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Youtube](#)