

THE SERVANT



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
Office of the Permanent Diaconate



July 2025

Nine New Permanent Deacons: Ordination Held on June 28



(Pictured above, Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., presided at the ordination of nine new permanent deacons at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on June 28, 2025 (left to right) Deacon Trach Thanh Vo, Deacon Christopher Lindsey, Deacon Eduardo Deausen, Deacon Robert Stanley Nisson, Jr., Bishop Campbell, Deacon Rey Navarro Robles, Deacon Michael Brooks, Deacon Eugene de Ribeaux, Deacon Allan Jason Lising, and Deacon Terence J. Wynn, Sr.; Photo by John Harrington).

A joyous faithful congregation filled the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to pray for, and welcome, nine new permanent deacons at the Mass of Diaconate Ordination held on June 28, 2025. Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., presided at the ordination, which was concelebrated by Bishop Evelio Menjivar, Very Reverend Anthony E. Lickteig, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Secretary for Ministerial Leadership, and many priests. Approximately 50 deacons participated in the Mass. The video replay of this most solemn and meaningful liturgy can be found [by clicking here](#). The *Catholic Standard* article describing the ordination can be found [by clicking here](#).

In his homily, Bishop Campbell explained the role of permanent deacons, “Strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit, they will help the bishop and his priest in the ministries of the word, and the altar, and of charity.” Further, Bishop Campbell offered the following solemn guidance to the new deacons, “Hold fast to the ministry of faith with a clear conscience and express by your actions the word of God which your lips proclaim, so that the Christian people brought to life by the Spirit may become a pure offering accepted by God, and so that you yourselves when you go out to meet the Lord on the last day may be able to hear Him say, ‘Well done good and faithful servant, enter now into the joy of your Lord.’” The video replay of Bishop Campbell's wonderful homily expressing the sanctity and sacred responsibilities of permanent deacons can be found [by clicking here](#).

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy had a long-standing commitment to be in Rome on the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Saint Paul (June 29) to receive the pallium from Pope Leo XIV. The pallium is traditionally blessed on that feast day, and is a special woolen band for Metropolitan Archbishops worn around their shoulders over Mass vestments. The pallium symbolizes Cardinal McElroy's unity with the pope and his authority and responsibility to care for those faithful entrusted to him. Prior to his trip, Cardinal McElroy met with each of the nine permanent deacon ordinandi and their wives to congratulate them, give the ordinandi their parish assignments and present each with a gift of the Book of the Gospels. The *Catholic Standard* article with more information about Cardinal McElroy's receipt of the pallium can be found [by clicking here](#).

The parish and particular Ministries of Charity assignments made by Cardinal McElroy for each of the nine new permanent deacons are set forth below (parish assignments begin on July 9, 2025, conforming with the date of new assignments for priests):

Deacon Michael Derral Brooks. Deacon Michael has been assigned to Saint Hugh of Grenoble Parish, Greenbelt, Maryland, with a ministry of charity to the sick and elderly of the parish and the diaconate community. Deacon Michael was vested in the ordination liturgy by his pastor, Very Reverend Walter J. Tappe, who also teaches in our formation program.

Deacon Eugene de Ribeaux. Deacon Eugene and his wife Mary Beth have three children. He has been assigned to Saint John Neumann Parish, Gaithersburg, Maryland, with a ministry of charity providing care to the imprisoned and to immigrants of the parish. Deacon Eugene, as an immigrant to the United States from Cuba in the early sixties, has a heart for those new to our nation, and to help them navigate their various circumstances. Deacon Eugene was vested by his pastor, Reverend Monsignor Robert Panke.

Deacon Eduardo 'Ed' Macapagal Deausen. Deacon Ed and his wife Marianne have two children. Deacon Ed has been assigned to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Derwood, Maryland, with a ministry of charity providing care to the poor through the St. Vincent de Paul Society at his parish. Deacon Ed was vested by his pastor, Very Reverend John J. Dillon, who also teaches in our formation program.

Deacon Christopher Alexander Lindsey. Deacon Chris and his wife Theresa have three children. Chris has been assigned to Saint John Vianney Parish, Prince Frederick, Maryland, with a ministry of charity providing care to the sick and elderly in nearby hospitals and nursing homes, and to the homebound. Deacon Chris was a parishioner of Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish, Owings, Maryland, and was vested by his former pastor, Reverend Michael J. King.

Deacon Allan 'Jason' Lising. Deacon Jason and his wife Kathleen have five children. Jason has been assigned to Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Potomac, Maryland, with a Ministry of Charity to hospice care and the sick, elderly, and homebound of the parish. Deacon Jason was vested by Deacon Frank Salatto.

Deacon Robert 'Stan' Nisson, Jr. Deacon Stan and his wife Jennifer have five children. Stan has been assigned to Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, under the direction of the incoming pastor, Reverend Samuel I. Plummer. Deacon Stan has been assigned a Ministry of Charity in caring for the poor and marginalized of the parish. Deacon Stan was selected as Deacon of the Word during the ordination Mass, taking over from Deacon James Summers, and was vested by Reverend James M. Stack, his pastor at his former parish, Saint Anthony's Parish, North Beach, Maryland.

Deacon Rey Navarro Robles. Deacon Rey and his wife Carol have one adult son. Deacon Rey has been assigned to Saint Columba Parish, Oxon Hill, Maryland, with a Ministry of Charity caring for immigrants in the parish and surrounding community. Deacon Rey was selected as deacon of the Eucharist at the ordination Mass, taking over from Deacon Wesley Bryant, who served as Deacon of the Call. Deacon Rey was vested by his pastor, Reverend Gary T. Villanueva.

Deacon Trach Thanh Vo. Deacon Trach and his wife Thuy-Linh have two children. Deacon Trach has been assigned to Our Lady of Vietnam Parish, Silver Spring, Maryland, with a Ministry of Charity providing care to those in need in the community such as immigrants and single-parent families, and life-affirming activities. He was vested by his pastor, Reverend Tam X. Tran.

Deacon Terence Jermaine 'T.J.' Wynn, Sr. Deacon T.J. and his wife Sonia have three children. Deacon T.J. has been assigned to Saint Patrick's Parish, Washington, DC, with a Ministry of Charity of evangelization and care to the poor and those in need in the parish and surrounding community. He was vested by the former pastor of Saint Patrick's Parish, Reverend Monsignor Salvatore A. Criscuolo.

The *Catholic Standard* article providing additional biographical information on each of the nine new permanent deacons can be found [by clicking here](#).

Marianne Deausen and Mary Beth de Ribeaux served as readers at the ordination Mass. Wives of deacons also acted as gift bearers and brought forward the vestments to the vesting clergy.

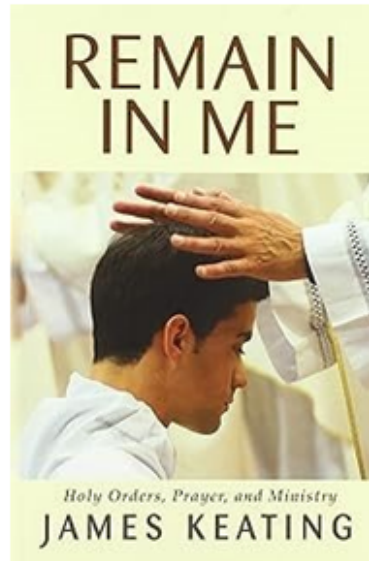
Members of the potential ordination class of 2027 served as Altar Servers. This cohort will be instituted as acolytes in the fall.

Under the guidance of Reverend Ismael N. Ayala, Director of Liturgy for the Basilica, Deacon Yannick Allepot and Deacon Timothy Wolfkill assisted as Masters of Ceremonies at the Mass, along with Reverend Joseph Murphy, C.O., and Mr. Christopher Levesque from the Archdiocesan Office of Worship.

Please note that 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 new permanent deacons, candidates, aspirants, their wives, their formators, and inquirers discerning a vocation to our Order.

Summer Reading and Discussion on July 16: *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. [Click here for the Zoom link](#) for our virtual discussion.

Deacon Keating's text is available for purchase [by clicking here](#). Even if your schedule does not permit you to complete reading this text prior to our virtual discussion, please plan on joining us.

To assist with logistics for the online discussion on July 16, please [register here](#) if you plan to participate.

Deacons and wives are highly encouraged to participate in the July 16 virtual discussion with Deacon Keating. Six continuing formation hours are available for reading this excellent text and participating in the virtual discussion and follow up.

Jubilarian Anniversary Mass and Luncheon: Recap



(Pictured above, Bishop Juan R. Esposito (center), Very Reverend Anthony E. Lickteig (right center), and jubilarian anniversary deacons from the ordination classes of 1994 and 2004 (thirty and twenty years of ordained ministry) accompanied by their wives, following the Anniversary Mass held on June 7, 2025 at Saint Ursula Chapel at the Archdiocese Pastoral Center).

Nearly 50 deacons, wives and family members participated in our annual Jubilarian Mass and celebration on June 7, 2025, at the Pastoral Center.

Bishop Juan R. Esposito presided as the Principal Celebrant and homilist at our Mass. In this popular annual anniversary celebration for jubilarian deacons and their wives, members of the ordination class of 1994 (thirty years of diaconal service) and the ordination class of 2004 (twenty years of diaconal service) were present and recognized for their ministerial service to the People of God of our Archdiocese.

Bishop Esposito provided a very meaningful and inspiring homily, emphasizing, "At the root of every vocation, God is present," affirmed Pope Leo recently, speaking of 'a mysterious interplay of *grace* and *faith*, of God's prevenient love and of our trusting and free acceptance.' Your acceptance of the grace of your calling with such an enduring 'yes' my brother jubilarians, reflects a good heart filled with love for the Lord and the People of God."

As Bishop Esposito continued, "We also recognize in your jubilee anniversaries the power of the Holy Spirit at work in you in *living* your vocation since that day of your ordination, as it was in Stephen, Lawrence, Francis of Assisi, and your other predecessors in the diaconate." He further emphasized, "The call from Jesus, while a call to communion, is not a generalized calling but is always intensely *personal*. He who created you has called you by name (Isaiah 43:1). And you have answered Him with a generous heart. Thank you."

Following the homily, Bishop Esposito led all deacons present in a renewal of promises of ministry, renewing our dedication to Christ and service in his Church. He also led wives of deacons in a renewal of their support and prayer for their husbands.

Members of the ordination class of 1994 present included: Deacon Nathaniel Cordova-Ferrer, Deacon Willis C. Daniels, Deacon Leo C. Flynn, Deacon Robert L. Gignilliat, and Deacon Nicholas E. Scholz. Members of the ordination class of 2004 present included: Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston, Deacon Chang Choi, Deacon James Dominic, Deacon Jorge Gatica-Delgado, Deacon Albert Graham, Deacon William A. Hawkins, Jr., and Deacon Willis R. Wolfe.

After the Mass, deacons, wives and family members enjoyed a celebratory luncheon and time to reminisce and share in the fraternity and sorority of our community. The ordination classes to be recognized at our next jubilarian anniversary Mass and luncheon in Spring, 2026, will be announced in a future newsletter.

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.

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 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. 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 has also been appointed the incoming parish administrator of Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Washington, DC, and Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Washington, DC. [Click here](#) to register for our Fall retreat.

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. 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.

Tilma Replica Available for Parish Visits



The hand-embroidered Tilma replica used every December during The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington "Walk with Mary" celebration is currently available for viewing at parishes within our Archdiocese. The replica Tilma was hand-embroidered by the sisters of the Convent of the Perpetual Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament in the city of Morelia in Michoacan, Mexico. The Archdiocese Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach invites you to host this beautiful tapestry at your parish. It is an excellent opportunity to bring the community together for a prayer service to reflect on the loving message of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas and to Saint Juan Diego. For more information, please contact Claudia Bartolini in the Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach at bartolinic@adw.org or (301) 853-5335. Please click [here](#) to schedule a visit to your parish.

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. Julianne Clara (Coulombe) Asselin, deceased, mother of Deacon Mark L. Asselin, ordination class of 2019.

Mrs. Lolita Ledesma Jardeleza, deceased, widow of deceased Deacon Magdaleno L. 'Jack' Jardeleza, ordination class of 1973.

Mrs. Ann C. McCormack, deceased, mother of Deacon Edward McCormack, ordination class of 2013.

Ms. Sirlena 'Lena' Moore, deceased, sister of Deacon T.J. Wynn, ordination class of 2025.

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.

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