

THE SERVANT



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
Office of the Permanent Diaconate



September 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.

The 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-Caná 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.

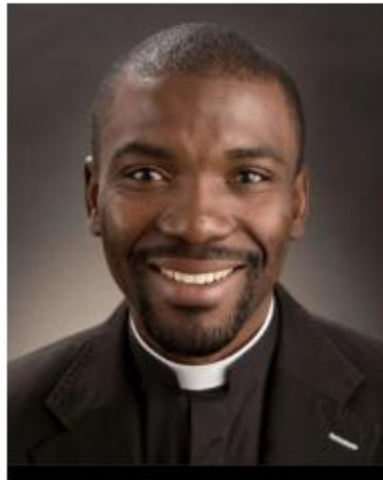
Our discussion will emphasize the accompaniment aspects of this ministry, and the particular role of married deacons and wives in assisting couples in their spiritual

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; Sara Blauvelt, ADW Secretary for Catechesis; Sally Daniel from the ADW Office of Family Life; Deacon Will Garcia, ordination class of 2019, and his wife Lourdes; Deacon Kyle Simon, ordination class of 2021, and his wife Pat.

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. We have nearly 50 deacons and wives already registered! Please [click here](#) to register for our retreat, as the limit for Loyola is approximately 70.

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.

Convocation for Deacons and Wives: October 25



(Pictured above, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, Archbishop of Washington, will lead the Convocation Mass for Deacons and Wives scheduled for Saturday, October 25 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Joseph Parish, Largo, Maryland.)

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, Archbishop of Washington, will preside at Mass at our annual Convocation for Deacons and Wives, to be held on Saturday, October 25 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Joseph Parish, Largo, Maryland.

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

During this popular annual gathering of deacons and wives, we will worship at Mass together, and have the opportunity through plenary dialogue and group discussions to focus on topical issues to our Order and our ministries. Lunch will be served. (Three continuing formation hours).

Please make every effort to join us as Cardinal McElroy leads us in Convocation.

Permanent Diaconate Formation: Update



(Pictured above, candidates, aspirants, and wives on our annual retreat at the Priest Field Retreat Center in late August, joined by several deacons and wives, and led by (right) Reverend Paul Lininger, OFM Conv.)

Candidates, aspirants, and assisting deacons held their annual retreat at the Priest Field Retreat Center, West Virginia, in late August. Reverend Paul Lininger, OFM Conv., was our Retreat Leader. The group prayerfully reflected on the theme of the Merciful Samaritan, which was the Gospel read at the ordination Mass for the ordination class of 2025 in June.

The aspirants in the potential ordination class of 2029 begin their second year of formation, and will start taking classes twice weekly, studying Revelation under the direction of Dr. Joshua Benson, professor at the Catholic University of America, and Church History by Reverend Rory T. Conley, pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Bryantown, Maryland.

The candidates entering their fourth year of formation and constituting the potential ordination class of 2027 will receive the Ministry of Acolyte, conferred by Most Reverend Juan Esposito, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington and Moderator of the Curia, on Saturday, October 4 at the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass at Saint Martin of Tours Parish in Gaithersburg, Maryland. All deacons and wives are cordially invited to participate in this Mass and show support for our candidates. [Please RSVP at this link](#). Deacons will vest in alb and green stoles.

The candidates in the potential ordination class of 2027 will also be studying Ecclesiology with Deacon Bill Ditewig and Christian Anthropology with Reverend Jaime Robledo, P.S.S., from Theological College.

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.

"Migrants, Missionaries of Hope" - Procession and Mass: September 28



All deacons and wives are cordially invited to a Reflective Procession and Solemn Mass on Sunday, September 28, 2025, in honor of the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The procession will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish, 3211 Sacred Heart Way, N.W. and ends at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1725 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.

Organized by the ADW Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach with the Jesuit Refugee Service, this pilgrimage will walk in solidarity praying for those seeking safety, dignity and hope, fostering compassion and unity. The Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathedral, led by Cardinal Robert McElroy. This year's theme, chosen by the Holy Father, "Migrants, Missionaries of Hope," calls us to recognize the courage and faith of those who leave everything behind in search of a better future and to show Christian stewardship to their families.

The flier providing further information can be downloaded by clicking [here](#). The prayer card with the above image is attached below.

Please note that the schedule for the deacons and wives Fall retreat during the weekend of September 26-28 will allow for participation in this most important procession and Mass.

[25PrayerCard-Dios Camina-online](#)

Marriage and Christian Initiation- Canonical Care: September 16 and 18



The ADW Secretariat for Catechesis and the ADW Secretariat for Canonical Services are jointly hosting their annual workshop designed to train clergy and Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) team leaders on pertinent Canonical Issues with respect to marriage and Christian Initiation. These workshops will be held at the Pastoral Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on September 16 (English) and September 18 (Spanish).

This detailed workshop on Canonical issues would be an excellent follow up to the Deacons and Wives workshop on Matrimony pastoral ministry scheduled for September 13.

Please see the attached flyer for more information, and let Lourdes Baeza know if you would like to attend one of the sessions (301-853-5349 / Baezal@adw.org).

[RCIA Canon Law_Bilingual](#)

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 4, at 5:00 p.m.: Institution of the Ministry of Acolyte. Candidates in the potential ordination class of 2027 will receive the Ministry of Acolyte, conferred by Most Reverend Juan Esposito, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington and Moderator of the Curia, on Saturday, October 4 at the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Gaithersburg, Maryland. All deacons and wives are cordially invited to participate in this Mass and show

support for our candidates. 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 see separate article in this newsletter for further information and a registration form. (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.

New Website Resources and Annual Ongoing Formation Process



A reminder that 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.

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, or if someone has recovered and should be removed from the prayer list.



Deacon Paul Eugene Ruffo, deceased, ordination class of 2000.

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.

Mrs. Marcia Mattocks, wife of the late Deacon Richard Mattocks, ordination class of 1993, 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.

Mrs. Kathleen Scholz, wife of Deacon Nicholas Scholz, ordination class of 1994, 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

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