

# THE SERVANT



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington  
Office of the Permanent Diaconate



October 2025

## 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, candidates, 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.

One of our panel discussions at the convocation will focus on the Human Dignity of all persons, including the immigrant, the homeless and the imprisoned. At the Mass

commemorating the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, held in the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle on September 28, 2025, Cardinal McElroy emphasized in his homily that as a nation and as a Church we are confronting "an unprecedented assault upon millions of immigrant men and women and families in our midst."

"Our first obligation as a Church," Cardinal McElroy further emphasized, "is to embrace in a sustained, unwavering, prophetic and compassionate way the immigrants who are suffering so deeply because of the oppression they are facing. Our Catholic community here in Washington has witnessed many people of deep faith, integrity and compassion who have been swept up and deported in the crackdown which has been unleashed in our nation. A profound ministry of consolation, justice and support must be the hallmark of our spiritual and pastoral care at this moment ..."

In his homily, Cardinal McElroy explained, "Catholic social teaching states that every nation has the right to effectively control its own borders and provide security. Thus, efforts to secure our borders and deport those undocumented immigrants convicted of serious crimes constitute legitimate national goals. At times, our government asserts that these goals constitute the essence and scope of its immigration enforcement efforts, and if that were true Catholic teaching would raise no objection. But the reality we are facing here in the Archdiocese of Washington and across our country is far different."

Referring to the Gospel passage of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Cardinal McElroy emphasized, "The piercing insight and glory of the Samaritan was that he rejected the narrowness and myopia of the law to understand that the victim he was passing was truly his neighbor and that the moral law obligated him to him as neighbor."

Cardinal McElroy continued, "In the very same way, for us as believers and citizens, our obligation regarding undocumented women and men is to ask ourselves: Are they truly our neighbor? Is the mother who sacrifices in every dimension of her life to nurture children who will live rightly, productively and caringly our neighbor? Is the man being deported despite the fact that he has three sons who serve in the Marines because of the values he taught them our neighbor? Is the woman who works to provide home care for our sick and elderly parents our neighbor? Is the young adult who came here as a child and loves this nation as the only country he has ever known our neighbor? Is the undocumented woman who contributes tirelessly to our parish, caring for the church, leading the daily rosary, our neighbor?"

Cardinal McElroy further teaches, "It is this perspective that must form our stance and action as people of faith. As a Church we must console and peacefully stand in solidarity with the undocumented men and women whose lives are being upended by the government's campaign of fear and terror. Courage and sacrifice must be the hallmark of our actions at this moment of historic and deliberate suffering being visited upon people living truly good lives that are a credit to our nation."

A copy of Cardinal McElroy's full homily can be found [by clicking here](#). The Catholic Standard article on the Mass and the procession of hundreds of supporters of immigrants that preceded the Mass can be found [by clicking here](#). The video replay of the Mass can be found [by clicking here](#).

Please make every effort to join us as Cardinal McElroy leads us in Convocation on October 25, and we discuss these issues and related most pertinent topics in our Church and our ministries. (Three continuing formation hours are available for participation).

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# Permanent Diaconate Formation: Institution of Ministry of Acolyte on October 4



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 R. 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 stole.

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

The aspirants in the potential ordination class of 2029 have begun their second year of formation, and are 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.

Please note that our recruiting process for faithful men interested in learning more about our sacred Order continues throughout the year. Our Come and See meetings for faithful men interested in discerning more about the permanent diaconate will begin after this Christmas season. 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](mailto:Huberc@adw.org)) for further information about the recruiting process for inquirers.

In addition, our men in formation will be invited to the annual Convocation for Deacons and Wives on October 25 and the Advent Day of Reflection for Deacons and Wives on December 6. Please introduce yourselves to them at these important diaconal community gatherings, to encourage them and share your insights on ministry, marriage, and vocation.

Please continue to pray for our new permanent deacons, candidates, aspirants, their wives, their formators, and inquirers discerning a vocation to our Order.

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# **Memorial Mass for Families of Deceased Deacons and Wives: November 15**



All deacons and wives are cordially invited to join families of recently deceased deacons and wives in a Memorial Mass followed by luncheon on Saturday, November 15 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Archdiocese Pastoral Center.

Most Reverend Juan R. Esposito, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington and Moderator of the Curia, will be the Principal Celebrant and homilist at our Memorial Mass. A number of deceased deacons and wives (who passed to the Lord beginning in the pandemic years) will be remembered and prayed for. A memorial luncheon will be served following the commemoration Mass.

Deacons and wives will be invited to participate and, in honor of our deceased brothers and sisters in the diaconate community, to assist in welcoming, accompanying, and serving the luncheon for the families of the deceased.

Family members of the deceased have received invitations by letter to this commemorative Mass, and general registration for deacons and wives will be available soon.



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# Fall Deacons and Wives Retreat: Recap



*(Pictured above, our Retreat Leader Reverend Ebuka Mbanude (center) at the Deacons and Wives Fall retreat, September 26-28 at the Loyola Retreat House, Faulkner, Maryland. Photo by Deacon Clayton Nickel).*

Sixty-three deacons and wives participated in our Fall weekend retreat at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland, during the weekend of September 26-28. Reverend Ebuka Mbanude was 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 also serves as Parish Administrator of Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Washington, DC, and Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Washington, DC.

At our retreat, Father Ebuka provided very meaningful and prayerful insights on the Cross. Through a series of four presentations throughout the weekend meditating upon Old and New Testament scripture passages referring to the Cross, Father Ebuka expressed the love, forgiveness and unity of Christ shown by His suffering and death on the Cross: Christ's love, peace, and reconciliation, and Resurrection that shatters all divisions, conquers all evils and unifies us in Him.

In addition to Father Ebuka's most insightful presentations, participants had the opportunity to worship together in daily Mass, spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, receive the spiritual graces of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, and enjoy the beautiful grounds of the Loyola Retreat house. We thank Father Ebuka for leading us in this most meaningful retreat. We are also thankful for the time and efforts of our confessors who

assisted Father Ebuka: Reverend Chip Lockett, Pastor, Our Lady of the Wayside Parish, Chaptico, Maryland; Reverend Ambrose Ekeroku, O.C.D, Reverend James Conroy, S.J.; and Reverend Frank Kaminski, S.J..

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## Matrimony Pastoral Ministry Workshop: Recap



Over 55 deacons, candidates and wives participated in-person or by live stream in our Fall ongoing formation workshop focusing on pastoral ministry related to the Sacrament of Matrimony.

For those who missed the workshop due to schedule conflicts, a replay of the discussion can be found [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 panel included 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; and Deacon Kyle Simon, ordination class of 2021, and his wife Pat.

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

Thanks to all panelists and workshop participants, as we explored pertinent aspects of a ministry most appropriate to deacons and wives, spreading Christ's message of love experienced through the Sacrament of Matrimony. (Two continuing formation hours are available through participation in the workshop or viewing the replay of the discussion).

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# 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.

**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 R. 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.

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## 36th Annual East of the River Revival: October 6-8

Southeast Deanery and Partnering Churches Present  
**The 36th ANNUAL EAST OF THE RIVER REVIVAL**  
**Reviving the Flame of Hope!**  
October 6, 7, and 8, 2025 at 7 PM  
Reconciliation Available Nightly Healing Service on Tuesday Mass on Wednesday

**REVIVALISTS**

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| <b>Monday</b><br><br><b>Deacon Kyle Simon</b><br>Deacon, St. Joseph<br>Catholic Church,<br>Largo, Md | <b>Tuesday</b><br><br><b>Sister Dr. Oralisa Martin</b><br>Serves in ministry through<br>ORACLE Religious Assn.,<br>based in Wash., DC. | <b>Wednesday</b><br><br><b>Deacon Keith Somerville</b><br>Deacon, Mount Calvary<br>Catholic Church,<br>Forestville, MD |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Mount Calvary Catholic Church**  
**6700 Marlboro Pike**  
**Forestville, MD 20747**

All deacons and wives are cordially invited to participate in the 36th Annual East of the River Revival evenings, “*Reviving the Flame of Hope!*” to celebrate our faith and community from Monday, October 6 through Wednesday, October 8 at Mount Calvary Parish, located at 6700 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, Maryland. Revivalist presenters will include Deacon Kyle Simon, serving at Saint Joseph Parish, Largo, Maryland (Monday); Deacon Keith Somerville, serving at Mount Calvary Parish (Wednesday); and Sister Dr. Oralisa Martin (Tuesday).

Praise and worship begin at 7:00 p.m. each evening followed by the revival at 7:30 p.m. Confessions will be available each night. Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday. Please join as we come together to praise, worship, and renew our spiritual lives. Further information on the revival can be found [by clicking here.](#)



# New Website Resources and Annual Ongoing Formation Process: Reminder



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.

Workshops and related events sponsored by the Office of the Permanent Diaconate qualify for this ongoing formation requirement. 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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:Sachsk@adw.org)) if you need the passcode for the Clergy Only section of the ADW website.

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## **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 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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