

THE SERVANT

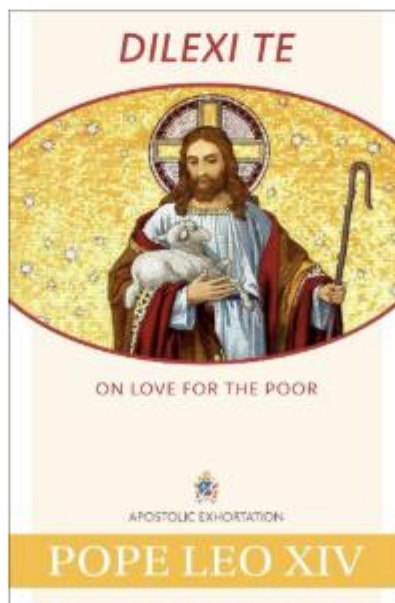


The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
Office of the Permanent Diaconate



May 2026

Workshop on *Dilexi Te* and Our Diaconate Mission to Charity: May 16



A reminder that our deacons and wives Spring ongoing formation workshop will be focused on *Dilexi Te*, Pope Leo's recent Apostolic Exhortation. The workshop discussion will be held on Saturday, May 16 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Pastoral Center. [Click here to register.](#)

Deacons are configured to spread Christ's message of Love and Truth through acts of charity in our parishes and communities, and many deacon wives are active in charitable ministries. Pope Leo in his inspired writing detailing love for the poor discusses many of the particular Ministries of Charity focused on by deacons, and as expressed in scripture in Matthew 25:31-45.

Our Spring workshop will explore our diaconal commitment to charity in practical application, and incorporate our working with Catholic Charities and other Archdiocesan and parish-based organizations. The workshop discussion will also include focus on deacons and wives roles in implementing the six goals for pastoral action in our Archdiocese. A copy of the Consultation and Pastoral Planning for the Archdiocese of Washington: A Report to the People of God by Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, can be found [by clicking here](#).

Monsignor John J. Enzler, former head of Catholic Charities, DC and current Mission Advocate, will join us for our discussion. Deacon Andy Geisz, who serves at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Solomons, Maryland, and who is Chair of the Southern Maryland Community Services organization, and his wife Mary Jo are scheduled to be panelists. Deacon Jim Shanahan, who has worked at Catholic Charities for over a decade in parish partner, financial literacy and other assistance programs and who serves at Little Flower Parish, Bethesda, Maryland, will moderate our panel discussion.

Dilexi Te is the recommended (but not mandatory) pre-read for our workshop discussion. [Click here to read *Dilexi Te* online](#). (Printed copies are available for purchase online.)

Please join us for an engaging discussion of our mission to charity, *Dilexi Te*, our work with Catholic Charities, and the six goals for pastoral action in our Archdiocese. Lunch and informal discussion will follow our workshop. (Up to three continuing formation hours available).

Deacons and Wives Join in Prayers for Peace



(Pictured above, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy presents the homily at the Vigil Mass for Peace held on April 11, 2026, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, DC). (Catholic Standard Photo by Mihoko Owada).

Deacons and wives are joined with all the faithful in praying for a return to peace in our world. In early April, Pope Leo XIV made a plea that in “these hours of great tension for the Middle East and the entire world” Masses for Peace be offered on April 11. In response to Pope Leo's call, Cardinal Robert W. McElroy led a Vigil Mass for Peace on April 11 at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, DC.

In his homily at the Vigil Mass for Peace, Cardinal McElroy emphasized that all the faithful are “...called profoundly to be peacemakers in the world in which we live.”

Cardinal McElroy explained, “We are called in the first place to be builders of peace within our own hearts and souls refusing to give in to urges of anger and judgementalism and selfishness that can so easily warp our lives and dim the light of the Resurrection. We are called to be bridge builders and reconcilers in our family life, overcoming the normal tensions which have been exacerbated by the social isolation and technological suffocation that have proliferated in the age in which we live. We are called to be peacemakers within this nation which we love so deeply, refusing to allow the cancer of polarization to swallow up the noblest dreams of our founders in this very year in which we celebrate our 250th birthday as a country.”

Cardinal McElroy continued, “Finally, we must be builders of peace among nations, rejecting the pathway of war that lures us toward the ending of civilizations and the pursuit of domination rather than true peace.” After describing the war in Iran as an immoral war under Catholic just war principles that “renders both the initiation of this war and any

continuation of it morally illegitimate," Cardinal McElroy emphasized, "Pope Leo has made it totally clear that the only pathway which Catholic teaching allows at this moment is the permanent cessation of hostilities and vigorous steps to build up the conditions for a lasting peace,"

A full copy of Cardinal McElroy's most meaningful homily can be found [by clicking here.](#)

This call to be peacemakers, and to pray for peace, is particularly applicable to deacons and wives, who through their charitable ministries and outreach to the People of God of our parishes and communities are true messengers of Christ's peace to our Neighbor.

Jubilarian Mass & Luncheon - June 27



Several ordination classes of deacons will celebrate their anniversary year of ministry in our Jubilarian Mass and Luncheon, to be held on Saturday, June 27 at the Pastoral Center. Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., will be our Principal Celebrant at the Mass, beginning at 10:00 a.m. This celebratory Mass and luncheon will honor those deacons who have provided many years of charitable service to their parishioners and within their community, and provide a joyous occasion to reconnect with classmates and their wives.

Ordination classes to be honored this year include the following: 1971, 1986, 1990, 1991, 1996, 2000, 2006, 2010 and 2011. Members of those classes have received written invitation by letter to this celebration, and RSVPs are due from these jubilarians by May 21. In addition, the celebratory Mass will include the Rite of Candidacy for the potential ordination class of 2029 (see next article in this newsletter).

Deacons not in this year's jubilarian classes, and their wives, are cordially welcome to join this joyous celebratory Mass and luncheon on a space-available basis. A registration form, if space permits, will be issued in the June Servant Newsletter.

Permanent Diaconate Formation: Update



(Pictured above, inquirers, deacons, and wives at the Come and See meeting held at Saint Martin of Tours Parish in Gaithersburg, Maryland on February 23, 2026).

The following update on the permanent diaconate formation process is provided by Deacon Charles Huber, Assistant Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation:

"In early May the seven aspirants of the 2029 cohort will be interviewed by the Deacon Formation Review Board to be recommended for Candidacy. Those accepted by Cardinal Robert W. McElroy as candidates will have the Rite of Candidacy at the Pastoral Center during the Jubilarian Mass on June 27.

The candidates of the 2027 cohort are taking classes in Moral Theology and Catholic Social Teaching, and will take an introduction to Canon Law afterwards.

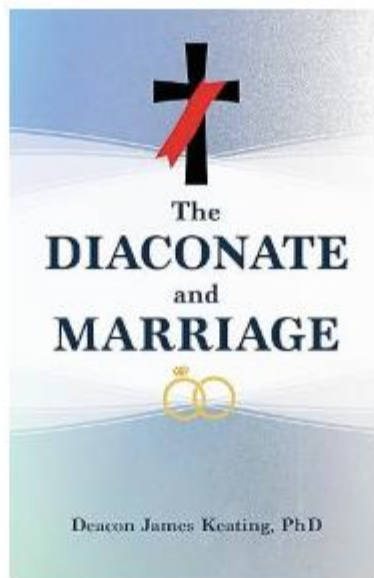
The two cohorts of candidates will be on retreat in late August at the Priest Field Retreat Center in West Virginia.

Inquirers are being asked for spiritual autobiographies, and will start screening interviews in late May. Those offered applications will be considered in either August or September for recommendation by the Review Board for acceptance by Cardinal McElroy into Aspirancy, and begin with a retreat in early October as the 2031 cohort.

The diversity of ethnicities and parish locations for these inquirers is greater than in previous years, and several speak languages other than English, reflecting our outreach to parishes and pastors over the past few years. A few parishes have more than one inquirer.

Sincere thanks to those deacons and wives who either attended, helped facilitate, or promoted our 'Come and See' meetings; which resulted in identifying this faithful group of inquirers. Please continue to pray for our candidates, aspirants and inquirers, and their formators.

2026 Summer Reading for Deacons and Wives



Our annual tradition of a summer reading text and virtual discussion for deacons and wives continues this summer with the new book written by Deacon James Keating, *The Diaconate and Marriage* (Our Sunday Visitor Press, 2026).

In July, Deacon Keating will join us to lead a virtual discussion of this text, which explores the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders as those graces enable and resonate in the profound spirituality of the diaconate.

Deacon Keating is a national thought leader on the spirituality of the permanent diaconate, and is professor of spiritual theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri. A link for purchasing this text can be found [by clicking here](#). (Up to six continuing formation hours available).

The July date of the virtual presentation will be set in the near future, The discussion will be recorded for replay for those deacons and wives who may be on summer vacation or otherwise unable to join us by livestream.

Deacon Keating led our meaningful summer reading virtual discussion last year with his text *Remain in Me -- Holy Orders, Prayer and Ministry*. We look forward to Deacon Keating providing his insights on his new text in our summer reading virtual discussion.

Permanent Diaconate Community

'Save the Dates'



Please 'save the dates' for the diaconate community events scheduled for the remainder of calendar year 2026. These activities are designed to enrich our spiritual lives, enhance our pastoral capabilities and enjoy the fraternity and sorority of our diaconate community.

May 16, 2026 - (10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Pastoral Center): Workshop on the Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te* and our Diaconate Mission to Charity. Deacons are configured to spread Christ's message of Love and Truth through acts of charity in our parishes and communities. Pope Leo in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te* details many of the particular Ministries of Charity focused on by deacons, and as expressed in scripture in Matthew 25:31-45. Our Spring workshop will explore our diaconal commitment to charity in practical application, and incorporate our working with Catholic Charities and other Archdiocesan and parish based organizations. The workshop discussion will also include focus on deacons and wives roles in implementing the six goals for pastoral action in our Archdiocese. Please see further information in the separate article in this newsletter. (Up to three continuing formation hours available). [Click here to register.](#)

June 27, 2026 (10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Pastoral Center): Deacon Jubilee Mass and Luncheon, and Rite of Candidacy. Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., will be Principal Celebrant at our annual Jubilarian Mass and Luncheon celebration. Several classes of jubilee deacons will be honored. In addition, aspirants in the potential ordination class of 2029, as selected by Cardinal Robert W. McElroy, will be admitted as candidates in the Rite of Candidacy. A celebratory luncheon will be held following the Mass. Please see further information in the separate article in this newsletter.

July, 2026 (Summer Reading: virtual discussion, date TBD): Our annual tradition of a summer reading text and virtual discussion for deacons and wives continues this summer with the new book written by Deacon James Keating, *The Diaconate and Marriage* (Our Sunday Visitor Press, 2026). Deacon Keating will join us to lead a virtual discussion of this text, which explores the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders as those graces enable

and resonate in the profound spirituality of the diaconate. Deacon Keating is a national thought leader on the spirituality of the permanent diaconate, and is professor of spiritual theology at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri. A link for purchasing this text can be found [by clicking here](#). For further information, please see the separate article in this newsletter. (Up to six continuing formation hours available).

September 12, 2026 (10:00 a.m. -- Noon at the Pastoral Center): Deacons and Wives Fall Workshop. Our annual series of ongoing formation workshops will continue with a Fall workshop on a topic of importance to diaconal ministry and the diaconate community. Further details on the specific topic to be discussed will be set forth in a future newsletter. Lunch will be served following the workshop discussion. (Two continuing formation hours available).

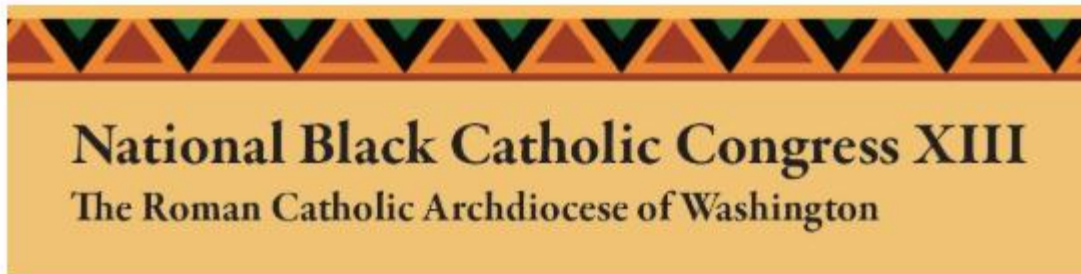
September 25-27, 2026: Fall Retreat for Deacons and Wives at the Loyola Retreat House. Our popular tradition of a Fall weekend retreat continues at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland. Reverend Monsignor Anthony R. Frontiero, S.T.D., will be our retreat master. Monsignor Frontiero, a priest of the Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, has extensive experience in pastoral ministerial service. He currently serves as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. [Click here to register](#).

October 31, 2026: (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Saint Joseph Parish, Largo, Maryland): Convocation for Deacons and Wives. Cardinal Robert W. McElroy will lead us in our annual Convocation for Deacons and Wives, and will be the Principal Celebrant and homilist at our Convocation Mass. We will also have discussions on pertinent topics in diaconal ministry. Please plan to join us for this important and popular annual tradition. Lunch will be served. (Three continuing formation hours available).

December 5, 2026 (10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Pastoral Center): Advent Day of Reflection for Deacons and Wives. In our annual Advent tradition, deacons and wives will have the opportunity to spiritually prepare ourselves for the Advent Season and our pastoral responsibilities by participating in Mass together, reflecting upon an Advent spiritual presentation, taking the opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and receipt of the grace of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, and enjoy the fraternity and sorority of our diaconate community. Lunch will be served. (One continuing formation hour available).

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.

Meeting to Discuss Development of Black Ministry Pastoral Plan: May 7



A reminder that all priests and deacons ministering to Black Catholic communities are invited to a special meeting with Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr. to discuss the ongoing development of the Archdiocese of Washington's Black Ministry Pastoral Plan. Bishop Campbell has sent an invitation to deacons to participate in this important meeting, please see the Flocknote sent to all deacons from Bishop Campbell on April 23 for more information.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the ADW Pastoral Center in the Richard deStwolinski Conference Room. Lunch will be provided. Please click [here](#) to register. For more information, please contact Wendi Williams at williamsw@adw.org.

The Black Ministry Pastoral Plan is being prepared in alignment with the National Black Catholic Congress and the ADW goals for pastoral action. Since June 2025, the planning committee has been prayerfully discerning the needs and hopes of our Black Catholic faithful to shape a meaningful and responsive pastoral plan.

During this session, we will share updates on the planning process, present the draft goal statements that have emerged, listen to your feedback, and reflect together on the next steps. Please join us for this important discussion.



The Archdiocese of Washington invites all deacons and wives to join us for a special Mass and Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, June 7, 2026, in celebration of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, when the Church joyfully proclaims the Lord's abiding presence in the Most Holy Eucharist and His solidarity with His people.

Mass will begin at 12:00 Noon at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart (3211 Sacred Heart Way NW), followed by a solemn Eucharistic procession along 16th Street that will conclude with Benediction at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle (1725 Rhode Island Ave NW). The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Evelio Menjivar, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington.

This year's theme **"We are the Body of Christ, caring for the wounds of the world"** reminds us that, united in Christ, we share responsibility for the suffering around us. It invites us to see the pain present in our communities with compassion, to stand in solidarity with those who are hurting, and to respond with the healing love of Christ. As one Body, we are called to bring mercy, hope, and accompaniment to a world in need of God's tenderness. Download the flier [here](#). For more information, contact Antonio Cube at (301) 853-4416 or cubea@adw.org.

Copies of the event flier, in English and Spanish, are attached below:



26Flier-CorpusChristiEucharisticProfession ENG.pdf



26Flier-CorpusChristiEucharisticProfession SPA.pdf

REMINDER: Virtus Compliance

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.



VIRTUS[®]*Online*

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, including the permanent diaconate community, remains fully committed to maintaining a safe environment in all of our ministries, to ensure the protection of all minors and vulnerable adults entrusted to our care. Our safe environment policies are applicable to all active permanent deacons, whether ministering here within the Archdiocese, or with permission providing diaconal services in other dioceses. A copy of the Archdiocese Safe Environment policies can be found [by clicking here](#).

A key element of our safe environment program is mandatory comprehensive background checks for all clergy, employees and volunteers before they are allowed to serve in positions that involve contact with minors or vulnerable adults.

Another important component of our program is our commitment to provide comprehensive ongoing safe environment training and education, to raise awareness and understanding about abuse prevention and to cover best practices for maintaining a safe environment. In addition to periodic training sessions, one of these education requirements applicable to permanent deacons is the reviewing of monthly training bulletins available through the Virtus online compliance system.

[Click here to access the Virtus website.](#)

Deacons should be receiving monthly bulletins through the Virtus system, and reading them in a timely fashion. Deacons who have need to catch up with these or related compliance requirements or retraining have recently received letters reminding them of compliance obligations. If for any reason you are not receiving the bulletins, if you would like to receive them in Spanish, or if you need assistance with accessing your Virtus account, please contact Mrs. [Karen Sachs](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and your dedication to safeguarding the people entrusted to our care. If you have questions about our Safe Environment policies, please contact Deacon Don Longano at longanod@adw.org, or Mrs. Karen Sachs.

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 Patrick Brown, ordination class of 2013, 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.

Mrs. Michelle Cullens, wife of candidate Gerald Cullens, 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.

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.

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. Tricia Klosky, wife of Deacon Kenneth Angell, ordination class of 2002, for prayers of healing.

Deacon John E. Montgomery, ordination class of 2008, 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 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 Villanueva, ordination class of 2015, 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

Deacon Steve O'Neill, Coordinator of Pastoral Field Formation

ONeills@adw.org

Mrs. Karen Sachs, Administrative Assistant

301-853-5345 | Sachsk@adw.org



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