

THE SERVANT



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
Office of the Permanent Diaconate



June 2026

Warm Welcome For Two New Bishops-elect of Washington



(Pictured above, Bishop-elect Robert P. Boxie, III and Bishop-elect Gary R. Studniewski, who were appointed by Pope Leo XIV as Auxiliary Bishops of Washington on May 1, 2026).

Pope Leo XIV has blessed the People of God of our Archdiocese with the appointment of two new Auxiliary Bishops on May 1, 2026: Bishop-elect Robert P. Boxie, III and Bishop-elect Gary R. Studniewski. The diaconate community warmly welcomes our two Bishops-elect, and very much looks forward to working with them in ministry. The Episcopal Ordinations of Bishop-elect Robert Boxie and Bishop-elect Gary Studniewski will take place on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. All deacons and wives have been cordially invited by Cardinal Robert W. McElroy to join in this most solemn and celebratory Episcopal Ordination Mass.

Cardinal McElroy welcomed the appointment of the two new Auxiliary Bishops, stating, "Both are exemplary leaders in our local church, and they will provide great wisdom, counsel and collaboration to me and selfless priestly service to the entire People of God in the District and the five Maryland counties."

Biographical information related to the two Bishops-elect is set forth in a media advisory on the ADW website, which can be found [by clicking here](#). In summary, Bishop-elect Robert P. Boxie, III, was born and raised in Lake Charles, Louisiana. After graduating from Vanderbilt and Harvard Law School, he came to Washington to clerk for a federal judge and then work in a law firm, and during those years felt an ever-deepening confirmation of the call to the priesthood that had come to him earlier in life. He was ordained for the Archdiocese in 2016 and received his first assignment as parochial vicar at Saint Joseph Parish, Largo, Maryland. Currently, Bishop-elect Boxie is the Catholic chaplain for Howard University, where he has deeply enhanced the ministry and community there, while building a chapel and dramatically renewing the Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Student Center. He has a priestly heart and keen intelligence, as well as the prayerful compassion and evangelizing core that will be a great gift to our local church. Bishop-elect Boxie has also been an abiding supporter of the permanent diaconate community, and for many years taught in our diaconate formation program.

Cardinal McElroy has announced that Bishop-elect Boxie will serve as ADW Vicar for Cultural Communications and Synodality. In this role, Cardinal McElroy emphasized, "[Bishop-elect Boxie] will bring to both of these commitments a reverence for the diversity of the Church and the importance of integrating the pastoral goals we forged at the last [Priest] convocation into the heart of parish and Archdiocesan life."

Bishop-elect Gary R. Studniewski brings an immensely rich and varied life of ministry and accomplishment to his new role in the Church. A native of Toledo, Ohio, the Bishop-elect was ordained for the Archdiocese in 1995 and has served as a parochial vicar; a distinguished chaplain in the United States Army rising to the rank of Colonel; and pastor of both Saint Peter's Parish on Capitol Hill and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Washington, DC. As a dean, member of the presbyteral council and mentor to our newly ordained, he has shown the Christ-like love and priestliness that are emblematic of our presbyterate. In each of these roles, he has demonstrated profound faith, collaborative leadership, pastoral sensitivity, initiative and zeal.

Cardinal McElroy has announced that Bishop-elect Studniewski will serve as ADW Vicar for Clergy, effective July 8, 2026. Cardinal McElroy commented, "Given [Bishop-elect Studniewski's] many years as a pastor and his knowledge of our priests and the pastoral, spiritual and evangelical challenges of priestly life, I believe that he will bring wisdom, understanding, compassion and zeal to this critical position in our local church. He will also be a splendid coordinator for our diaconate community within the Archdiocese."

Pope Leo XIV also has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala to be the new Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia; and the Pope has accepted the resignation due to age of Auxiliary Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr. Various statements in relation to these appointments can be found [by clicking here](#).

The permanent diaconate community rejoices in the Pope's appointments of the Bishops-elect, and very much looks forward to the leadership and pastoral care of Bishop-elect Boxie and Bishop-elect Studniewski. In addition, the permanent diaconate community expresses its sincere gratitude for the pastoral efforts of Bishop Menjivar and Bishop Campbell, and their abiding interest and support of deacons and wives.

Further, the permanent diaconate community is deeply thankful for the wisdom, understanding, competence and many years of pastoral care that Very Reverend Anthony E. Lickteig has shown for the priests, deacons and deacons' wives as Vicar for Clergy and Secretary for Ministerial Leadership.

Jubilarian Anniversary Mass & Luncheon: June 27



(Pictured above, Bishop Juan R. Esposito (center), Very Reverend Anthony E. Lickteig (right center), and jubilarian anniversary deacons from the ordination classes of 1994 accompanied by their wives, following the Anniversary Mass held in June, 2025, at Saint Ursula Chapel at the Archdiocese Pastoral Center. This year's jubilarian anniversary Mass will be held on 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 requested immediately in order to plan our event. 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. Please [sign up here](#) if you are interested in attending. Please note that you will be notified if space is available for you to attend by June 21st.

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:

"His Eminence, Robert Cardinal McElroy, has accepted six aspirants to become candidates, with the Rite of Candidacy to be conferred by Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr. on Saturday, June 27. This cohort would form the potential ordination class of 2031.

The aspirants accepted to candidacy are the following:

Mr. Brandon Brown, married to Margaret, with two young children, their parish is Saint Mary, Piscataway.

Mr. Judito Concepcion, originally from Manila, married to Evelyn, with two adult children, their parish is Saint Mary, Piscataway.

Mr. Darrin Hall, a native Washingtonian, married to Roxana, with two adult children and a teenager, their parish is Saint Raphael, Rockville.

Mr. Craig Jones, married to Dawn, with three adult children, their parish is Our Lady Star of the Sea, Solomons.

Mr. Pierrick Nbessa, originally from Contonou, capitol of Benin, married to Gratias, with three young children, their parish is Saint John Neumann, Gaithersburg.

Mr. Gordon Pracht, a native Washingtonian, married to Cathy, with two adult children, their parish is Saint Anthony, North Beach.

In other formation activities, the candidates from both cohorts (2027 and 2029) will be on retreat in August, and will start classes after Labor Day. The new cohort of candidates will be instituted as lectors on the fall.

The cohort of 2027 is studying the introduction to Canon Law, having finished other courses in May. The cohort of 2029 is also finishing up Spring classwork. Both cohorts will be doing summer pastoral field formation under the auspices of Deacon Steve O'Neill as coordinator.

We are going to be interviewing inquirers who expressed interest during the recent 'Come and See' process this month, and those recommended for applications will be discussed by the Deacon Formation Review Board after their application has been reviewed. Those accepted by Cardinal McElroy as aspirants will start with a weekend retreat in October and then attend a series of workshops and classes for the first of two years of aspirancy.

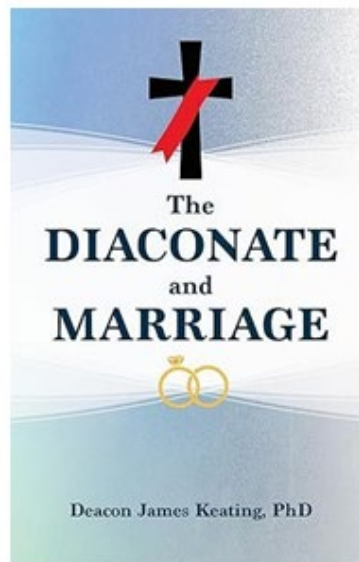
After we look at the inquirer's information, review his initial Information Form, and ask a few questions about any marriage situations that may need to be referred to the tribunal, we then offer them screening interviews if their pastor recommends them, and if they have submitted a requested spiritual autobiography.

If there are no apparent canonical problems, a group of deacons, wives, and a priest-instructor interview them during the screening process and make a recommendation that a particular inquirer submit an extensive application.

Those who complete the extensive application provide sacramental certificates and any civil marriage documents, and citizenship or residency proof, and then they are presented to the Deacon Formation Review Board for consideration. The Review Board then makes a recommendation for acceptance into aspirancy of a particular inquirer by Cardinal McElroy.

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

Summer Reading for Deacons & Wives: July 15 Virtual Discussion



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).

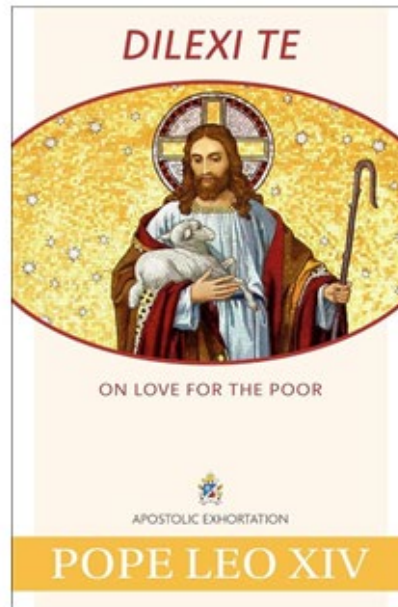
On Wednesday, July 15 at 7:00 p.m., Deacon Keating will join us to lead a virtual discussion of this text, which explores the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders as those graces enable and resonate in the profound spirituality of the diaconate.

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).

A Zoom link for participating in this discussion will be sent to all deacons at the end of June. 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.

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



Dilexi Te, Pope Leo's first Apostolic Exhortation, and the diaconate ministerial focus on those in need were the topics of our May 16, workshop discussion for deacons and wives.

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

Our Spring workshop explored our diaconal commitment to charity in practical application. The workshop included discussion 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, joined us as a panelist, and provided a heartfelt recollection as a boy of his father, a permanent deacon, giving his coat to a poor person in need. 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 provided insights on the various charitable outreach activities of that organization and parish activities.

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, moderated our panel discussion, providing an overview of the teachings contained in *Dilexi Te*, and our diaconal mission to serve the poor and those in need (along with our wives also active in these charitable ministries). Deacon Jim additionally led a discussion on parish partnering with Catholic Charities in providing a wide array of necessary services to those in need.

Mr. Antonio Cube, ADW Coordinator of Justice and Peace, related how deacons and wives can be instrumental in providing care to the poor, marginalized and undocumented. He listed four parishes that are leading in providing these charitable outreach activities: Saint Camillus Parish, Silver Spring; Sacred Heart Parish, Washington, DC (whose Pastor has recently been appointed the Bishop of Venice, Florida, Bishop-elect Emelio Biosca Agüero, OFM Cap.); Holy Trinity Parish, Washington, DC; and Saint Martin of Tours Parish, Gaithersburg. The workshop participants discussed how, due to each deacon's dedication to a Particular Ministry of Charity as typically listed in Matthew 25, are well enabled to assist efforts to pursue the Fifth Archdiocese Goal for Pastoral Action: 'Care for the Vulnerable: Migrants, the Unborn and the Marginalized.'

A number of ideas were discussed during the workshop as potential 'next steps' for deacons and wives in providing essential services to the poor and marginalized. If you missed the discussion, please click here to watch the [Dilexi Te Workshop Replay](#). See below for the *Dilexi Te* Workshop Slides. [Click here to read Dilexi Te online](#). (Up to three continuing formation hours are available for this workshop).

We thank Monsignor Enzler, Deacon Jim Shanahan, Deacon Andy Geisz and his wife Mary Jo, and Tony Cube for leading this most meaningful and engaging discussion of our diaconal mission to charity for the poor and those in great need.



Dilexi Te Workshop Slides.pdf

Pope Leo XIV Issues Landmark Encyclical: *Magnifica Humanitas*



(Pictured above, Pope Leo XIV signing his landmark Encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* (Magnificent Humanity)); Photo credit: Vatican Media)

In [*Magnifica Humanitas*](#) (Magnificent Humanity) Pope Leo XIV in his landmark Encyclical issued on May 25, 2026, calls upon the Church and all people of goodwill to safeguard human dignity amid the rapid rise of artificial intelligence. Pope Leo warns against a technocratic culture that prizes efficiency over humanity and concentrates power in the hands of a few. The encyclical urges a renewed commitment to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching—especially the common good, solidarity, and subsidiarity—as essential guides for shaping technological development. A Catholic Standard article describing the Encyclical can be found [by clicking here](#).

Pope Leo emphasizes in the Encyclical, "... the Social Doctrine of the Church calls for a shared responsibility. It asks that these processes be guided with foresight: by institutions capable of regulating without stifling, and protecting without taking over; by businesses that recognize work and dignity as measures of success; by intermediary organizations and educational communities that rebuild trust and relationships; and by citizens who cultivate responsibility, moderation, discernment and a sense of truth. Only in this way can innovation genuinely serve integral human development, rather than becoming a source of exclusion and dominance. And only in this way can the promise of progress be recognized as authentic, because it is measured against the inviolable dignity of every man and woman." (Par. 181).

Cardinal Robert W. McElroy emphasized in his comments on the issuance of the Encyclical, "Pope Leo XIV urgently summons the global community to a profound reflection on the relationship between our humanity and the emerging technologies that are engulfing us with ever greater advances, opportunities, temptations and threats." He continues, "*Magnifica Humanitas* is resplendent in its assertion that the uniqueness of our humanity cannot be replicated, and that efforts to breach that uniqueness must be rejected in the fundamental search for enduring and objective truth in our world." Click here to read the full [Statement by Cardinal McElroy on 'Magnifica Humanitas'](#) in the Catholic Standard.

It is noteworthy that Pope Leo XIV signed the Encyclical on May 15, 2026, the 135th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's landmark Encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (On Capital and Labor)(1897), which set forth Catholic Social Teaching on labor, capital and the dignity of the worker and the family in the then-developing age of the Industrial Revolution. *Magnifica Humanitas* is also a landmark teaching, guiding Catholic thought in the developing age of artificial intelligence. As Cardinal McElroy has commented, "Magnifica Humanitas does not seek to define the new world which is emerging in our midst. It seeks to do something more important -- be a catalyst for a continuing societal conversation about the most consequential questions we are facing and how the contribution of Catholic Social Doctrine can enrich that conversation in the years to come."

Deacons and wives are highly encouraged to prayerfully study this landmark Encyclical. A workshop will be scheduled for deacons and wives to discuss this most important teaching. A copy of the Encyclical is set forth below.



MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS.pdf

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.

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 and registration instructions in the separate article in this newsletter.

July 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. (Summer Reading Virtual Discussion): 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](#). A Zoom link for participating in this virtual discussion will be distributed in late June. 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 focused on the development of the Black Catholic Ministry Pastoral Plan, building upon listening sessions being held throughout the Archdiocese during the Summer, and implementing the goals of the National Black Catholic Congress. This discussion will be facilitated by the ADW Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach. Further details and a registration form 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.

Reminder: Mass and Eucharistic Procession for Immigrants on June 7



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. [Click here to view Bishop Menjivar's video invitation.](#)

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. In addition, multiple permanent deacons are needed during the procession to assist carrying the Blessed Sacrament. To volunteer to assist in the procession or for more information, contact Mr. 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](#)

Click here to read "[Media Advisory: Bishop Evelio Menjivar to lead Eucharistic procession through DC streets in support of immigrants and refugees](#)" in The Catholic Standard.

July Diaconal Letters of Suitability



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

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As we plan to travel and visit family and friends this Summer, a friendly reminder to please plan ahead for any needed upcoming Letters of Suitability. Deacon Don Longano and Mrs. Karen Sachs will both be away in early July, and during that period only true emergency requests—such as those needed for a funeral—can be processed. If you anticipate any summer ministry outside the diocese, please submit your requests well in advance so everything can be prepared smoothly and without delay. Please [submit your requests here](#) or via email to sachsk@adw.org.

Thank you, and best wishes to you and your family for Peaceful and restful Summer travels and vacations.

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 Montford (Monte) D. Naylor, Jr., deceased, ordination class of 1994.

Deacon Philip William Ricker, deceased (December 2022), ordination class of 1994.

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.

Mr. Carlos Ortiz, father of Deacon Juan Ortiz, ordination class of 2017, 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

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