

THE SERVANT



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
Office of the Permanent Diaconate



July 2026

Episcopal Ordination for Bishops-elect of Washington: July 7



(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, and who will be ordained on July 7, 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 His Eminence, Robert Cardinal 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." The biographical backgrounds of the Bishops-elect can be found in a recent Catholic Standard article, [by clicking here](#).

Cardinal McElroy has announced that Bishop-elect Boxie will serve as Archdiocese 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."

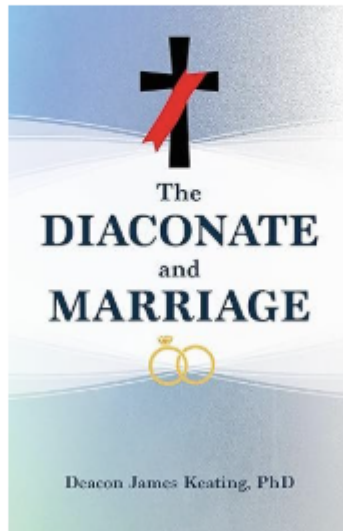
Cardinal McElroy has announced that Bishop-elect Studniewski will serve as Archdiocese Vicar for Clergy, effective July 8, 2026. Cardinal McElroy commented, "Given [Bishop-elect Studniewski's] many years as a pastor and his knowledge of our priests and the pastoral, spiritual and evangelical challenges 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. Bishop Menjivar's Instillation Mass will be held on July 2 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, in Wheeling West Virginia. Additionally, Pope Leo has accepted the resignation due to age of Auxiliary Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., who is expected to remain active in ADW ministry.

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, for their abiding pastoral care, interest and support of deacons and wives.

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

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.

Here are the details for joining our virtual discussion via Zoom:

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 850 7273 5901

Passcode: 288p4C

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,85072735901#,,,,*937961# US (Washington DC)

+16469313860,,85072735901#,,,,*937961# US

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](#). Please join us for our discussion even if you don't have the opportunity to finish reading the text by July 15. (Up to six continuing formation hours available).

We plan to record the discussion 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.

Jubilarian Anniversary Mass & Luncheon: Review



(Pictured above, Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., along with Very Reverend Anthony E. Lickteig, with deacons celebrating their jubilee anniversaries, following the Jubilee Anniversary Mass held on June 27 at Saint Ursula Chapel in the Archdiocese Pastoral Center).

Several ordination classes of deacons celebrated their anniversary year of ministry in our Jubilarian Mass and Luncheon held on Saturday, June 27 at the Pastoral Center. Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., was our Principal Celebrant at the Mass, honoring those deacons who have provided many years of charitable service to their parishioners and within their community, and provided a joyous occasion to reconnect with classmates and their wives. The Mass and celebration also included the Rite of Candidacy for six men entering formal formation as candidates. (See next article in this newsletter).

In his homily, Bishop Campbell emphasized that the charity we as deacons and deacons' wives show to others in need is based upon the Faith that we have, that by his love for us the Lord calls us to be instruments of his Peace to others.

Jubilant deacons in attendance (with years of service) included the following: Deacon John Lynch (55 years), Deacon Bartholomew Merella (40 years), Deacon David Cahoon, Jr. (35 years); Deacon Frank Salatto (30 years), Deacon Joseph Bell (26 years), Deacon Alton Davis (26 years), Deacon James O'Brien (26 years), Deacon Mario Moreno (21 years), Deacon Dan Abeyta (20 years); Deacon Neal Conway (20 years), Deacon John Feeley (20 years), Deacon William (Mike) Greenfield (20 years), Deacon Stephen Mitchell (20 years), Deacon Desmond Yorke (20 years), Deacon Richard Dubicki (16 years), Deacon Thomas Dwyer (16 years), Deacon Brandon Justice (16 years), Deacon Barry Levy (16 years), Deacon Don Longano (16 years), Deacon Stephen Maselko (16 years), Deacon Ammon Ripple (16 years), and Deacon Timothy Tilghman (16 years). All deacons and wives renewed their commitment to ministry and charity in a special commissioning ceremony during the Anniversary Mass.

Sincere thanks to Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., for leading us in the Mass and for his inspirational homily; to Very Reverend Anthony Lickteig who concelebrated the Mass; to Deacon Joseph Bell and Deacon Dan Abeyta who served as assisting deacons at the Mass, to Mr. Gerald Cullens, candidate in formation who served as Master of Ceremonies, and to Mrs. Yolanda Caraballo, wife of Deacon Carlo Caraballo, who served as lector.

Rite of Candidacy: Review



(Pictured above: Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., along with Very Reverend Anthony E. Lickteig, Deacon Charles Huber, and candidates and their families, following the Anniversary Mass and the Rite of Candidacy held on June 27 at St. Ursula Chapel in the Pastoral Center).

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

“Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr. on Saturday, June 27, at the Pastoral Center, conferred the Rite of Candidacy on six aspirants accepted as Candidates by His Eminence, Robert Cardinal McElroy, during the Mass of Celebration for our deacon jubilarians. This was the first time we celebrated the Rite of Candidacy at a diaconate community Mass, and it was well-received and joyful.

The aspirants accepted to candidacy are the following:

Mr. Brandon Brown, born in Chicago, 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 and several grandchildren, 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, born in Spokane, married to Dawn, with three adult children, their parish is Our Lady Star of the Sea, Solomons.

Mr. Pierrick Nbessa, originally from Contonou, capital 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 and a granddaughter, 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 in the fall, and the date and parish will be named in a future edition of this newsletter.

Both cohorts are in summer pastoral field formation under the auspices of Deacon Steve O'Neill as coordinator, and have been invited to the discussion of the summer reading book “Diaconate and Marriage” by Deacon James Keating, which is mentioned further in this newsletter.

Several faithful men from the Archdiocese (inquirers) have been given applications and will be interviewed for aspirancy this summer. Those recommended by the Deacon Formation Review Board and accepted by Cardinal McElroy will start their two years of Aspirancy with a retreat in October, and attend our days of reflection in Advent and Lent with their wives.

Several of these applicants speak languages other than English, and about half of those offered applications were born outside the Continental United States. More than a third of those applying are in their thirties or forties, and about half have young children. Most were raised in the Catholic faith, with about a quarter having become Catholic as an adult. While inquirers can submit an inquiry form at any time, the majority of these applicants had attended one of the sixteen 'Come & See' meetings held throughout the Archdiocese earlier this year.

If you are aware of a potential inquirer, please ask him to review the ADW Formation website and encourage him to talk with his wife (if married, with a close family member if unmarried) as well as his pastor. Introduce him to other deacons, and encourage him to talk with you and them about his potential vocation. I always recommend "101 Questions and Answers about Deacons" as an initial book for those discerning, and it is available in both paperback and ebook format.

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

Archdiocese Goal: Celebrate and Evangelize Marriage and Family Life



One of the six Goals For Pastoral Action of our Archdiocese led by Cardinal McElroy is to Celebrate and Evangelize Marriage and Family Life. Deacons and deacons' wives are living witnesses to the Christian joys of the Sacrament of Marriage and family life, and many are active in parish ministries preparing for and sustaining marriage and family. Encouraged by

the spiritual care of families in parish communities, the Archdiocese Office of Family Life, in collaboration with the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, will provide two opportunities for further ministerial training during the next several months to better equip deacons and wives in these vital ministries.

SmartLoving BreakThrough Program Training is a practical and purposeful training course for ministerial assistance in all stages of marriage. It helps deacons and wives to accompany individuals in faith as they learn to break through the gridlock in their troubled marriage. Drawing on contemporary research and Catholic theology, this course assists in accompanying individual spouses as they gain insights into the cause of their struggles and develop skills to restore hope and reestablish loving connection in their marriage.

As companion, a deacon—or a deacon and his wife—accompanies an individual spouse as they progress through the material. You support, encourage, pray with the individual, and help them apply the frameworks of the program to their life. You will use your listening skills and faithful presence to help spouses in distress find comfort, clarity, and hope in Christ. The program is designed to support individual spouses and help them to identify conflict triggers, to learn strategies to de-escalate arguments, and to find constructive ways to re-establish connection with their spouse.

BreakThrough training is open to deacons and their wives at no charge and consists of three 90-minute sessions, on Tuesdays, September 29, and October 6 & 13. Companion Trainees will complete the lesson before each meeting. [To register to join us for the training, please complete this form.](#) For more information, please contact the Office of Family Life at 301-853-4499 or flm@adw.org.

FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory Facilitator Training. Many deacons and wives are active in Pre-Cana counseling and marriage preparation in their parishes. Learn how to facilitate the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory to accompany couples who are preparing to live the vocation of life-long, loving marriage. Facilitator Certification Training is open to deacons and their wives and will be offered during Lent 2027. Through the one-day training course, you will develop the skills for using FOCCUS Inventory tools to invite couples to listen more attentively to one another and share more openly. FOCCUS also helps you to identify areas in the couple's relationship where growth will help them build a faithful and enduring marriage. For more information, including participant fee, and to join us for training during Lent 2027, please contact the Office of Family Life at 301-853-4499 or flm@adw.org.

In addition, the diaconate Continuing Formation Committee in coordination with the ADW Office of Family Life is planning a workshop that will enrich our marriage pastoral ministries in a number of issue areas, to be scheduled for Spring, 2027; to provide further insights and assistance as we deacons and wives offer important care to parishioners in celebrating Sacramental marriage and family life.

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.

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](#). Please see the separate article in this newsletter for further information and the Zoom link for participating in our discussion. (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.

July 4th and Summer Blessings!



Best wishes to you and your family for a Happy 4th of July and a Blessed and Restful Summer, from your Office of the Permanent Diaconate team: Very Reverend Anthony E. Lickteig, Deacon Charles Huber, Deacon Don Longano, Deacon Steve O'Neill, and 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.

Mrs. Patricia Welch, deceased, wife of the late Deacon Joseph C. Welch, Sr., ordination class of 1995.

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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