

THE SERVANT



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
Office of the Permanent Diaconate

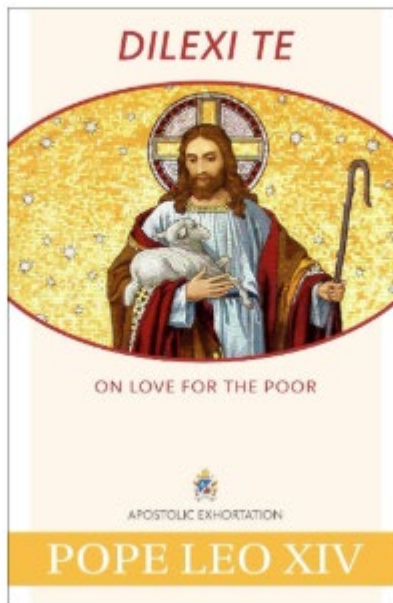
April 2026

Holy Week and Easter Blessings



Best wishes to you and your family for a Blessed Holy Week and a Joyous Easter Season, from your Office of the Permanent Diaconate team: Very Reverend Anthony E. Lickeig, Deacon Charles Huber, Deacon Don Longano, Deacon Steve O'Neill and Mrs. Karen Sachs.

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



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 Jim Shanahan, who has worked at Catholic Charities for over a decade in parish partner, financial literacy and other assistance programs, 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).

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).

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

We have concluded the sixteen 'Come and See' meetings for inquirers held in the following locations: three in Washington, DC; five in Montgomery County; five in Prince George's County; one in Calvert County; one in Charles County; and one in St. Mary's County. The meetings were meaningful and informative for the inquirers and their wives. Some of the meetings had as many as 8-9 inquirers, others were smaller with two or three inquirers.

At least half of these meetings were held at parishes with significant numbers of immigrants in their congregations, so there were also opportunities for those born outside the United States or who speak other languages to participate in the inquirer process.

As a next step in the process, those men who filled out an inquiry form, whether or not they attended a Come and See meeting, are being asked further questions based on their situations prior to being invited for preliminary interviews.

The most common situations for delaying current consideration of a faithful man to enter aspirancy are: (1) length of time married within the Catholic Church, (2) length of time as a Catholic, and (3) whether the couple feels they are ready based on work and family responsibilities. In addition, some inquirers have visa issues - either not yet permanent residents or naturalized citizens, including those who have various work visas that have some stability, but which visa status holds no guarantee of long-term residency.

As part of our outreach to faithful men, we have been encouraging discernment for men with young children, as well as expanding our outreach to younger inquirers.

I look forward to reporting more details about the inquirer process as the aspirancy class is formed for the fall. In brief, those inquirers meeting the basic age and other requirements and who fill out an Inquiry Form will be asked to submit a Spiritual Autobiography, if their pastor approves their application in this cycle. Based on those autobiographies, the Screening Committee, made up of a priest, deacons, and wives, will interview the inquirer and his wife (if married) and then recommend whether he should get an application. Applications are reviewed for any impediments or concerns, and then applicants are presented to the Deacon Formation Review Board, consisting of priests, deacons, wives of deacons, and instructors. The board will make recommendations to Cardinal McElroy.

Thank you to those deacons and wives who either attended, helped facilitate, or promoted our 'Come and See' meetings; and who have volunteered to assist in our ongoing process to recommend to Cardinal McElroy the next class of aspirants.

Workshop for Deacons and Wives Nearing/at Retirement: Review



SAINT LUKE INSTITUTE

A workshop discussion for deacons and wives who are nearing, at or planning for retirement from secular work, or contemplating reduction in ministry, or are beginning to plan for those life changes, was held on March 14. Our discussion was facilitated by Dr. Stephen T. Carroll, Clinical Staff, Saint Luke Institute.

Dr. Carroll has been a member of the clinical services department at the Institute since 2012 and now serves as Director of Education and Aftercare Services. He received his doctoral degree in counseling from Loyola University in Maryland, and a master's degree in pastoral ministry from Boston College. He has extensive experience in counseling with individuals, families, veterans, and people in ministry for the last thirty years.

Our discussion focused on optimizing ministry and decreasing stress during life transitions. Deacons (and wives) planning for, or at retirement from secular work, or contemplating reduction in ministerial activities, face diverse challenges, and our workshop provided an overview of issues to be considered in ministry, including warning signs of burnout that can arise in parish ministry, and strategies for setting healthy boundaries for self-care. Deacons have unique challenges in ministry of balancing pastoral and family needs. The workshop offered strategies for improving communication with pastors and other supervisors, and clarifying expectations for balance between pastoral and family responsibilities.

As part of the workshop discussion, Dr. Carroll explored the dangers of 'vicarious trauma', that is, the emotional and psychological impact experienced by individuals who regularly provide care to those experiencing trauma. He related this trauma to our ministries as deacons, as we minister to those in great need, and provided suggestions for reducing pastoral 'burnout.'

With specific reference to deacons (and wives) approaching retirement and potential reduction of ministerial responsibilities, Dr. Carroll recommended several approaches to allow an honest and accurate assessment of present and future ministry responsibilities.

Many deacons and wives participated, in-person or by livestream, in this most meaningful and helpful discussion. We are thankful to Dr. Carroll, and the St. Luke Institute, for their ongoing support of the diaconate community. Following the workshop, participants enjoyed informal lunch discussions with the deacons and wives who attended the concurrent workshops for the newly-ordained (see article, below).

In case you missed this workshop, a recording of the discussion can be found by [clicking here](#). The presentation slides are attached below. (Two continuing formation hours available).



ADW-Deacons-Optimizing-Ministry-Decreasing-Stress-During-Life-Transitions-March-6-2026.pptx

Workshops for Newly-Ordained Deacons and Their Wives: Review



(Pictured above, Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr., Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, and the ordination class of 2025 following ordination on June 28, 2025 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC).

Workshop discussions for newly-ordained deacons and their wives were held on March 14. The discussions are designed for deacons ordained in the Classes of 2021, 2023, and 2025, and their wives. This was the first in an anticipated series of workshop discussions for the newly-ordained and their wives.

The discussions were meaningful on a wide range of ministerial issues. Although the meetings were confidential, four 'follow up' points for future meetings were identified. First, group support for the wives of the newly-ordained deacons should be developed, to allow opportunities for fellowship and sharing experiences and insights. Second, a regular periodic schedule of discussion meetings for the newly ordained should be established. Third, some of the future meetings should be scheduled in Southern Maryland for the convenience of the deacons and wives residing there. Fourth, opportunities for dialogue among candidates in formation and wives of candidates, with active deacons and wives should be considered to share experiences on different pastoral joys and challenges in ministry, as candidates prepare for ordination and diaconal service.

Thanks to Deacon Curtis Turner and his wife Tara; Pat Baker-Simon, wife of Deacon Kyle Simon; Deacon Steve O'Neill; and Deacon Charles Huber, for facilitating these discussions. The meetings were a great beginning to an ongoing periodic dialogue for recently-ordained deacons and their wives as they adjust to ministerial life, and balance work, family, and ministerial responsibilities.

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.

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.](#) (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.

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, or 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.

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.

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

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