

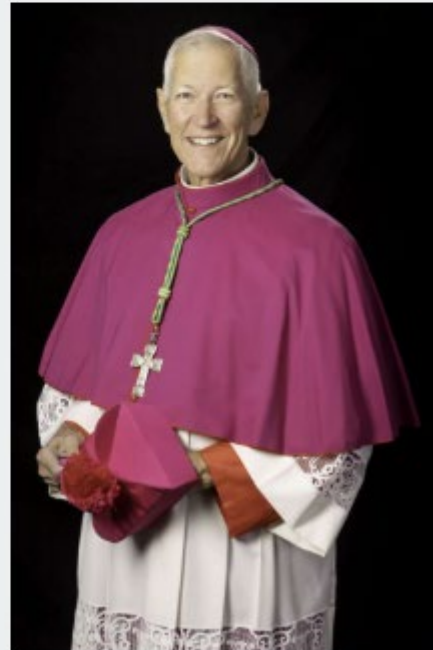
THE SERVANT



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington
Office of the Permanent Diaconate

August 2026

Welcoming Our New Auxiliary Bishops



(Pictured above, Bishop Robert P. Boxie, III and Bishop Gary R. Studniewski, who were appointed by Pope Leo XIV as Auxiliary Bishops of Washington on May 1, 2026, and who were ordained on July 7, 2026).

The permanent diaconate community welcomes with great joy our two new Auxiliary Bishops of Washington, Most Reverend Robert P. Boxie, III and Most Reverend Gary R. Studniewski. The two new bishops were appointed by Pope Leo XIV on May 1, 2026, and their Episcopal Ordination was held on July 7, 2026. About 2,500 faithful attended the ordination held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, including many deacons and wives. His Eminence, Robert Cardinal McElroy, Archbishop of Washington, acted as the Principal Consecrator and Principal Celebrant of the Mass.

In his homily at the ordination Mass, Cardinal McElroy addressed the two new bishops, "The footprints of grace that you have left during your priestly ministries are deep and enduring in the parishes where you have been shepherds and servants, in unstinting service to the men and women who defend our nation [Bishop Studniewski]; in the vibrant Catholic community of Howard University that you have renewed [Bishop Boxie]. It is these footprints of grace that have led our Holy Father, Pope Leo, to call you to the episcopate for your earthly pilgrimage on this life ahead ... as you undertake this vital mission of leadership, sacrifice and profound faith."

The complete text of Cardinal McElroy's homily, 'The Joys of a Bishop', can be found [by clicking here](#). The replay of the Episcopal Ordination Mass can be found [by clicking here](#).

Bishop Boxie entered priestly formation following a career as a lawyer, and was ordained a priest in our Archdiocese in 2016. Since 2020, he has served as Catholic Chaplain at the Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Student Center at Howard University. He also taught in our permanent diaconate formation program. Bishop Boxie's Coat of Arms contains the motto, "O Lord, give me wisdom" (Wisdom 9 and 1 Kings 3). Additional biographical information about the life and spiritual journey of Bishop Boxie can be found in a Catholic Standard article [by clicking here](#), and [by clicking here](#). The Catholic Standard article containing testimonials of sincere appreciation from Howard University students for Bishop Boxie's service as Chaplain can be found [by clicking here](#). Cardinal McElroy has appointed Bishop Boxie to serve as Archdiocese Vicar for Cultural Communities and Synodality.

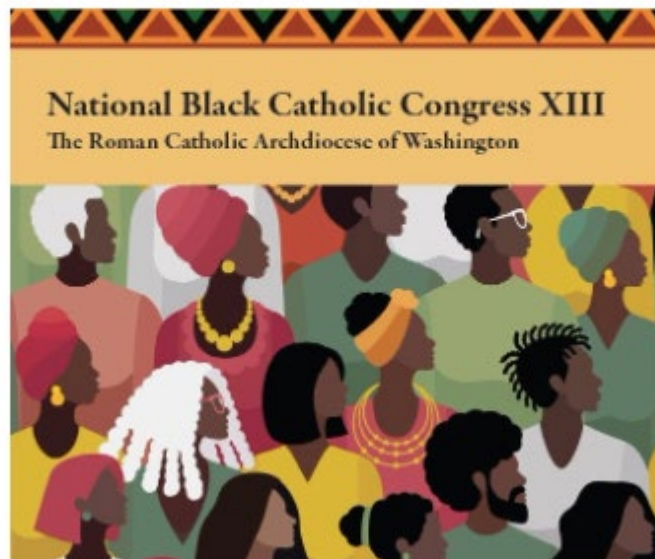
Bishop Studniewski entered priestly formation following a career in the Army, and was ordained a priest in our Archdiocese in 1995. He subsequently re-entered active Army service as a Chaplain serving in various roles, including deployment in Iraq. He retired from the Army with the rank of Colonel in 2016. He served as Pastor of Saint Peter's Parish, Washington, DC, from 2017 to 2022, and since 2022 has served as Pastor of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Washington, DC. Bishop Studniewski's Coat of Arms contains the motto, "My grace is sufficient for you." (2 Corinthians 12:9). Additional

biographical information about the life and spiritual journey of Bishop Studniewski can be found in a Catholic Standard article [by clicking here](#), and [by clicking here](#). The Catholic Standard article containing sincere expressions of appreciation from parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Parish for Bishop Studniewski's service as Pastor can be found [by clicking here](#). Cardinal McElroy has appointed Bishop Studniewski to serve as Archdiocese Vicar for Clergy and Secretary for Ministerial Leadership.

The permanent diaconate community rejoices in the Pope's appointments of our two new Bishops, and very much looks forward to their leadership and pastoral care.

Further, the permanent diaconate community is deeply grateful 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 during his six years of service as Archdiocese Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Secretary for Ministerial Leadership.

Black Catholic Ministry Pastoral Plan: September 12 Workshop



Our deacons and wives Fall ongoing formation workshop will focus on the Black Catholic Ministry Pastoral Plan -- Listening Session, on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Archdiocese Pastoral Center, followed by lunch and informal discussion. [Please click here to register](#) for our workshop.

United as one Body in Christ, deacons and their wives are invited to share their experiences, insights, and hopes for the future of Black Catholic ministry at an upcoming listening session for the Black Catholic Ministry Pastoral Plan. Rooted in faith, guided by the Holy Spirit, and inspired by the vision of the National Black Catholic Congress, this pastoral planning process seeks to prayerfully discern the gifts, hopes, needs, and aspirations of Black Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Washington. Since June 2025, the Black Catholic Ministry Pastoral Planning Committee has been intentionally engaging in dialogue and discernment to help shape a pastoral plan that affirms our rich cultural heritage, strengthens evangelization, and fosters vibrant Catholic community life.

The listening session will provide an opportunity to:

- Receive an update on the pastoral planning process;
- Review, reflect, and discuss the emerging pastoral objectives;
- Share personal insights, experiences, and recommendations; and
- Help shape a pastoral vision that responds to the spiritual and pastoral needs of Black Catholics across the Archdiocese.

The voice, presence, and perspective of our deacons and their wives are important as we journey together in faith and synodality. Together, we can continue building a welcoming, faith-filled, and mission-driven Church that honors the spiritual legacy and ongoing contributions of Black Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Please plan to join us in this most important discussion. (Two continuing formation hours available). For further information, please contact Mrs. Wendi Williams, Executive Director, ADW Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach, williamsw@adw.org.

Deacons and Wives Fall Retreat: September 25-27



(Pictured above, Monsignor Anthony R. Frontiero, S.T.D., will be our Retreat Leader at the Fall Deacons and Wives Retreat, September 25-27 at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland).

Our popular tradition of a Fall weekend retreat continues at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Maryland, on the weekend of September 25-27, 2026. 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. He has served as a confessor at recent Deacon and Wives Advent and Lenten Days of Reflection.

Please note that our current registration numbers for this retreat are close to the Loyola Retreat House general limit for participants in overnight retreats. Please [click here to register](#). Any registrations received after the participation limit is reached will be placed on a waiting list, and Karen Sachs will inform you if this occurs. In 2027, we hope to offer a Spring deacons and wives retreat; as well as continuing the traditional Fall retreat.

Permanent Diaconate Formation: Update



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

"Screening Interviews are planned for mid-August for the applicants who are asking for acceptance as aspirants in the 2031 cohort. Several of these men, most of whom are married, were born outside the Continental United States, and several also speak languages other than English, as do several wives of these applicants.

The Screening Committee consists of deacons and wives, along with a pastor, who provide advice on who should be recommended to be named aspirants and continue the formation process. The committee members read spiritual autobiographies of applicants and relevant information prior to the interviews of an applicant and his wife, if he is married. Based on these interviews a recommendation is made to propose an applicant for formation or not, or if a particular applicant has certain situations that require waiting, to recommend that he continue in discernment during that time, ideally with mentoring.

Those applicants will then be discussed by the formal Deacon Formation Review Board to consider recommendation to Cardinal McElroy on accepting a particular applicant into formation, as well as to continue in formation. The Review Board consists of priests, deacons, and laywomen who read reports from instructors and pastors, among others, for applicants, aspirants, and candidates, and the Review Board will interview aspirants and candidates at specific times in the formation process. Those accepted into aspirancy by Cardinal McElroy will begin the aspirancy process with a retreat in October.

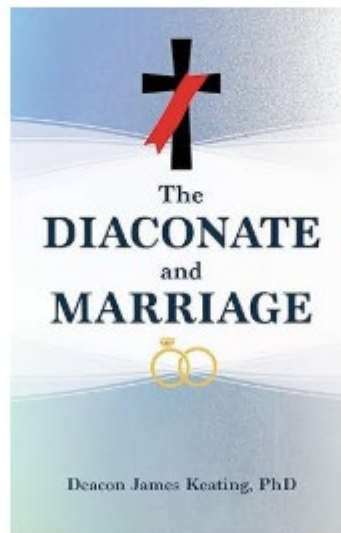
With respect to the two current cohorts in formation, the candidates for ordination in the classes of 2027 and 2029, along with their wives, will be on retreat in August, along with

several assisting deacons and wives, at the Priest Field Retreat House in West Virginia. Members of both cohorts are currently engaged in Summer pastoral service mentored by Deacon Steve O'Neill, our Coordinator of Pastoral Field Formation. These cohorts will resume their coursework after Labor Day.

A special note of thanks to Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Jr., for his conferring the Rite of Candidacy in June, as summarized in the July edition of this newsletter. We in the diaconate community are most grateful for Bishop Campbell's long, abiding service to our Archdiocese and the diaconate community, and to Saint Joseph Parish, Largo, for their support for us.

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

Summer Reading for Deacons & Wives: Review



Approximately 50 deacons and wives participated on July 15 in our annual tradition of a summer reading text and virtual discussion, this year focused on the new book written by Deacon James Keating, *The Diaconate and Marriage* (Our Sunday Visitor Press, 2026).

Deacon Keating led the group in 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 stressed the vital importance of the graces from the Sacrament of Marriage integrating with those received in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. He emphasized the importance of the marital graces, and the strength of the marital relationship between husband and wife, as informing the discernment and formation process of a candidate for the permanent diaconate, and in sustaining and nurturing the loving relationships within the family life of the ordained deacon.

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 those who were unable to participate in the virtual presentation, please [click here to view the replay](#). (Up to six continuing formation hours available).

In his presentation, Deacon Keating emphasized, "Marriage in Christ and the diaconate form an integral sign. The Sacrament of Marriage images Christ loving His Church; and the Sacrament of Holy Orders allows Christ to continue this ministerial presence. These two sacraments come together in the body of the one man, the spouse-deacon."

For ordained deacons, even those with younger children, he advises that diaconal duties can be successfully integrated into marriage if: (1) the deacon sees communication with his wife as a priority, (2) is committed to discerning prayer with God daily; and (3) prudently communicates with his pastor to say 'no' to alleviate burdens from too many pastoral needs. (Page 75). For all deacons, he further advises that "Ministry is not an effort to get God's attention; it is an effect of remaining in his presence and being vulnerable to his love." (Page 74).

During his presentation, Deacon Keating stressed the utmost importance of spiritual direction and the interior spiritual transformation of the deacon in formation and ministry, in six aspects: (1) Entering the living God: conversion and fidelity; (2) Living within the Living Word of God; (3) Participating in the self-offering of Christ at Mass; (4) Meeting one's own poverty in serving others; (5) Committing oneself to interior living; and (6) Leaving the American culture and entering the liturgy as one's new native land."

Deacon Keating led our summer reading virtual discussion last year with his text *Remain in Me -- Holy Orders, Prayer and Ministry*. We sincerely thank Deacon Keating for rejoining us

this Summer and providing his excellent and meaningful 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.

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 are set forth in the separate article in this newsletter. (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. Further information and a registration form are set forth in the separate article in this newsletter.

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 focusing on the Six Goals for Pastoral Action of our Archdiocese. Please plan on joining 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.

National Congress for Deacons and Wives: July 2028



**ANNOUNCING
NADD NATIONAL
DEACON CONGRESS
2028**

"Embracing the Servant Heart of the Deacon"

Crown Center
Kansas City, Missouri

July 16 - 20, 2028

Sheraton Kansas City
Westin Kansas City

An event for all
deacons and wives
throughout the
United States

NADD
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF DIACONATE DIRECTORS

In 2018, the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD) welcomed deacons and wives from around the country to New Orleans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the diaconate in the United States. That National Deacon Congress was a very successful event combining prayer, liturgy, fraternity, and education for all that attended, celebrating the contributions and vocation of deacons in the Catholic Church. NADD is pleased to announce that the second National Deacon Congress will be held at the Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri from July 16 through July 20, 2028.

The theme for the 2028 National Congress is "Embracing the Servant Heart of the Deacon." Please mark your calendars for this wonderful opportunity to join fellow deacons and wives from across the nation for four days of faith and fellowship. More details on registration and pricing will be available in the near future. Deacon Don Longano, Director, Office of the Permanent Diaconate, is our regional representative on the NADD Board of Directors. Please contact him for further information on the National Congress, longanod@adw.org.

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.



Mr. Ibrahim Lopez Cid, deceased, brother-in-law of Deacon Alan Jeeves, ordination class of 2013.

Deacon John R. Barnes, ordination class of 1995, for prayers of healing.

Deacon James L. Caldwell, Jr., ordination class of 2013, for prayers of healing.

Deacon Francisco Cartagena, ordination class of 2011, for prayers of healing.

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 Robert Villanueva, ordination class of 2015, for prayers of healing.



Office of the Permanent Diaconate

Most Reverend Gary R. Studniewski,
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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