



DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER
OFFICE OF THE
**PERMANENT
DIACONATE**



Bishop Edgar
da Cunha

DEACON UPDATE

CROSS BEARERS



“Pick up your cross and follow Me”! There is certainly no doubt about the demands of the Lenten journey! As we have entered our desert pilgrimage we instinctively think of sacrifices. We voluntarily embrace the self-sacrifices, the “giving ups” of the season. We embrace the “Lenten diets” of not satisfying our sweet tooth, extra efforts in prayer and a fuller commitment to be kinder, more patient etc. all efforts of choices of crosses we willing bear.

The bold truth is we don’t necessarily have to choose our crosses but they in fact choose us! The sudden and unplanned turns of events in our lives that so readily disquiet and create a spirit of confusion and despair are not crosses that we so easily accept.

What characterizes our life as “cross bearers”? We may turn our attention to the hill of Calvary but we may forget the pathways of the stations that brought us there. *continued on next page*

The daily steps of acts of sacrifice, acts of self-donation have become the crosses of love that define our vocation as cross bearers.

As cross bearers of love we have gotten up every morning, worked, provided for our families and modeled the dignity of work at the stations of our shop, school and in our workplaces. As cross bearers we have opened our hearts as parents, friends offering our compassion and care to the sick, alienated, those caught in the addictive prisons of fear and dependency. As cross bearers we have shed our tears, shared our resources and stood in solidarity with the brokenhearted and victims of injustice in society, church and world. And as cross bearers we have learned the foolish wisdom of the beams of “letting go” and “letting be” as we face with trust an unknown future.

The cross finds us and is custom made as it intersects at the crossroad of our daily journey. The vertical beam of the cross is anchored in our lives yet points upward with trust. The horizontal bar embraces all the sorrows, hopes, joys and dreams of each day and each step on our walkway to Calvary. It’s our cross!

May we embrace the cross that finds us and have the courage and foolish wisdom to live it.

In His Love!
Fr. Bob Oliveira

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL ACTIVE DEACONS

DEACON ANNUAL REPORT OVER DUE

Active deacons in the Diocese of Fall River are required to attend an annual retreat, meet with a Spiritual Director, as well as completing the CEU report each year.

Effective January, 2023, all active deacons are asked to complete an Deacon Annual Report by the end of January each year.

This report requests a copy of your CEU Report (which you can attach to the report form) as well as information on your annual retreat and the name of your spiritual director.

Please submit this report. NOW OVERDUE

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deacon Frank.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The link to the report may be copied below or may be found on the Deacon Portal section of the website.

<https://diocesefr.wufoo.com/forms/annual-deacon-report/>

FUNERAL POLICY FOR DEACONS

Although not required, it is strongly suggested that each deacon of the diocese should have on file in the Diaconate Office a completed form setting forth his choices and wishes in the arrangement of his wake and funeral at his death.

The form may be found in the DEACON PORTAL of our website under Reports and Forms.

<http://frpermanentdiaconate.com/portal/deaconreports.html>

DEACON COUNCIL UPDATE

We welcome Deacon David Boucher and Deacon Kevin Gingras to the Deacon Council. We also extend our gratitude to Deacon Robert Craig for his service to the Diaconate Community as part of the Council.

DEANERY MEETINGS

Thank you to Deacon Gene Sasseville and other members of the Deanery, who have given so much of their time and talent to gather members of the Fall River/New Bedford Deanery on a regular basis. And thank you to Deacon David Harum for his efforts in revitalizing the Taunton/Attleboro Deanery.

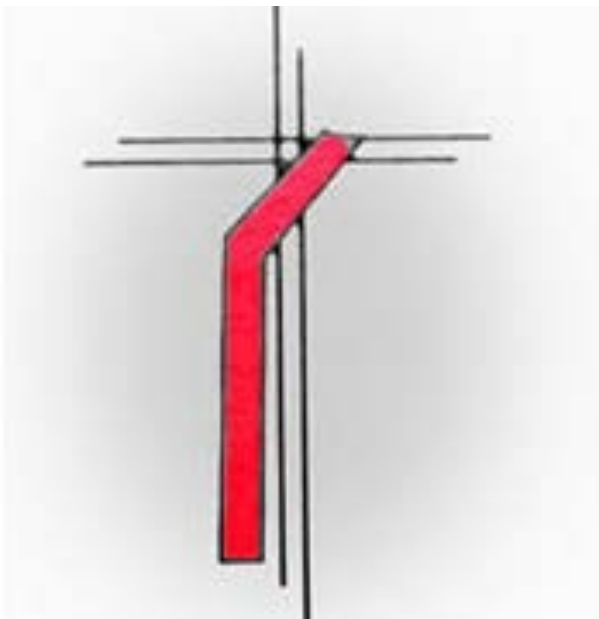
It is our hope that our fellow brothers from the other Deanery areas will do the same and work to gather our brothers and sisters in Christ on a regular basis, for fellowship, prayer and ongoing formation.

If you can assist those working to re-energize the Cape Cod Deanery, please reach out to Fr Bob or Dcn Frank.



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Convocation 2023



Deacons and Spouses

June 24, 2023

HolyTrinity Parish
951 Stafford Road, Fall River, MA

SAVE THE DATES!

We will continue to publish dates as soon as they are available as requested by the Wive's Council. At their suggestion, please cut this out and place on your refrigerator so you won't miss these important events!

Pre-Ordination Retreat

March 10-14, 2023
LaSalette Retreat Center

Diocesan Women and Men's Conference

March 11, 2023
Stonehill College
Easton, MA

Chrism Mass

April 4, 2023
Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption

Diaconal Ordination

May 20, 2023
Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption

Presbyteral Ordination

June 3, 2023
Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption

Convocation for Deacons and Spouses

June 24, 2023
Holy Trinity Parish Hall
Fall River, Ma

Deacon Retreat 2023

September 29-October 1, 2023
LaSalette Retreat Center

Couples Retreat 2024

August 16-18, 2024
LaSalette Retreat Center

***All in person dates are tentative and depend on the Covid-19 situation at the time.*

Birthdays

MARCH

Paul Macedo 18
Norman McEnaney 2
Dominic Messina 18
David Pepin 31
Abilio Pires 12
Albertino Pires 28
Peter Schutzler 25

Prayer Requests

- Marie Guy - wife of Deacon Mike Guy
- Janice Fitzpatrick wife of Deacon John Fitzpatrick
- Marissa, daughter of Deacon David Boucher
- Michael Wojcik
- William Bazzinotti, the father in law of Candidate Lenny Guyette
- Deacon Albino Pires
- Lorraine Cipriano, wife of Deacon Tony Cipriano

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