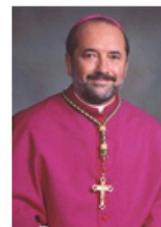




DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER
OFFICE OF THE
**PERMANENT
DIACONATE**



Bishop Edgar
da Cunha

DEACON UPDATE

THE LANGUAGE OF THANKSGIVING



Greetings! I hope that the summer has provided all a rich opportunity for recreation and renewal. Well into August, plans are being formulated for what I know will be a busy year ahead. This upcoming year may find us in a dialogue of discernment as we digest our recent synodal process and delve more deeply into the mystery of our Eucharistic identity.

The synodal conversations, on both the locally and worldwide stage, invited us to look critically at the gifts and challenges we face as a community of faith. The reflections gleaned from our listening to each other speaks to the hopes, the dreams, the concerns and disappointments we have envisioned and encountered as we live out the reality of being church. In a spirit of openness, we have in the words of the synod “journeyed together in the pathway of Jesus”.

As we continue that journey one specific pathway we enter is rooted in our Eucharistic hope that will be so much of the focus of renewal this year. I find it providential that the pathway of Christ’s true presence in the gift of the Eucharist is at the heart of our journey. The Eucharist as our sum and source of hope offers each of us the vocabulary and vision of who we are. What does that Eucharistic language entail? What are the nouns, verbs and direct objects of a Eucharistic conversation? Might I suggest just a few key words in the lexicon of the language of thanksgiving we call the Eucharist.

“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn.1:14). In a world of virtual exploration and cyber relationships, the Eucharist is about flesh and blood encountering. Sitting next to me, perhaps even singing out of key and even perhaps someone I prefer were sitting someplace else, we come together not virtually but in a true and real presence. We come together with our hopes, dreams, disappointments.

We gather, signed with the cross, gathered in Christ’s friendship, crying out in joy and in mercy. Joyful and with longing hearts we come hungry. We gather to be feed.

Feed by the true presence of our God and we come to feed each other in Christ’s name. Christ is the noun, we are the objects and our lives shared are the verbs of the hospitality we receive and are called to share.

“God so loved the World” (Jn.16). We gather to hear a love story. The incredible love story of God’s love in the gift of His Son. The story told has been foretold from the very first breath of God in creation, the Word from the very beginning (Jn.1). We hear the narrative of God’s love letter to us. God is the author of the story, we are the recipients of His love letter and we are the living verbs of that love received and to be given in His love to each other.

“What we have seen touch and heard” (1 Jn. 3). We bring what we have seen, touched and heard. The bread and wine of our lives, the sweat and tears of our daily journey, the joys and songs of the banquets we have celebrated and the heartbreak of our losses, we bring all to the altar of God love. In the breaking of the bread, like the disciples on their Emmaus walk, we take and eat and rediscover in the Broken Bread of life

that what we touch and see in the miracle of Christ's presence is a cause for "complete joy" (1 Jn.4). Christ is the noun, we the objects of His love and our lives, hungering and longing, are fed by God's thanksgiving banquet of redemption and outpouring unconditional love.

"Love one Another" (1 Jn. 3). Our Eucharistic dialogue doesn't end at the table of the altar but the narrative continues in the daily lexicon of the Eucharistic language we share with each other. St. Augustine would invite us "to become what we receive". The Eucharist is a living language spoken in all places at all times. Each time we speak the good news of thanksgiving in Christ's name, each time we break the bread of our lives in Christ's service, we continue to tell the "love story", the narrative of Jesus's love for the world. We, in Christ name, become the noun, our world becomes the object and the lives we live are the active verbs of Christ love poured out.

The Eucharist holds so many treasures. In the synodal spirit may we continue to journey together in the pathway of Jesus and learn well and speak well the language of His "thanksgiving" love.

In His Love!
Fr. Bob Oliveira

FORMATION CLASSES BEGIN

Classes for the fifth year for our current class of deacons begins next week. Classes are recorded and available on our website for all deacons/spouses to watch. These classes may be used for ongoing formation and may be counted toward required CEU credits.

This semester's classes are Marriage and Canon Law.

Visit the Deacon Portal and click on Class Recordings to access all of the courses.

CALLING ALL DEACONS - SHARE YOUR MINISTRY

We'd like to feature articles by our deacons in this newsletter each month. If you would like to share a brief reflection or description of a particular ministry that you are involved in, please let us know and we'll set aside some space for you.

DEACON MANUAL

The Deacon Manual was distributed at the Convocation. If you did not attend the Convocation, we mailed a copy to you. Please review the manual at your earliest opportunity.

NEXT DEACON CLASS - Aspirancy Begins

Our 11th Diaconate Class begins on September 12 2022. Academic classes begin in September 2023. Please keep our aspirants and their wives in your prayers as they begin this first year of discernment.

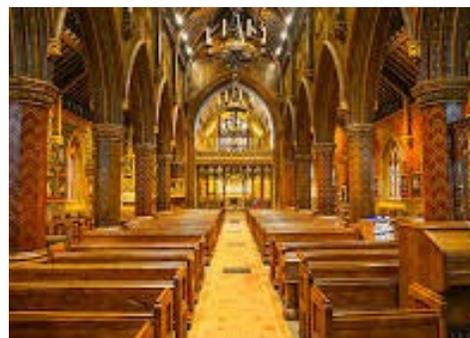
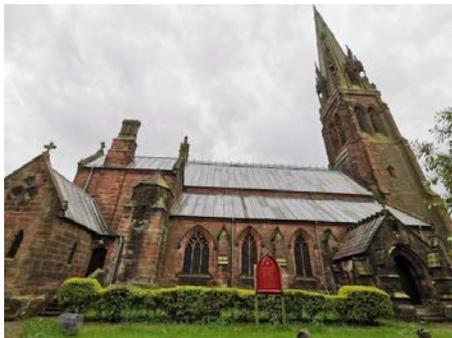
The Formation program for deacons has been modified and extended to five years. This class is scheduled, God willing, to be ordained in 2027.

THE WIVES' CORNER

This month's contributor is Barbara-Anne Foley



Happy Feast Day, Saint Giles! He was one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages! In England alone there were more than 160 churches dedicated to him! This may be due to the fact he was dedicated to the poor, mentally ill, lepers, and those crippled and looking for a miracle. He was born in 650 AD, died in 710 AD and his Feast Day is September 1st. My friend Donna and I visited the St. Giles Catholic Church in Cheadle, England years ago when I went to meet a family member in Oundle England and went to Manchester too. Absolutely gorgeous church!!



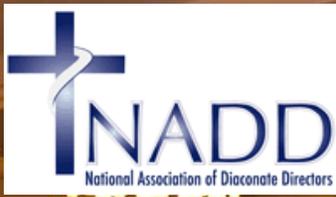
St Giles was originally from Greece, he lived as a hermit in the forest of France for many years and interestingly, his sole companion was a deer who is said to have sustained him with her milk! The legend goes that when King Wamba's hunters pursued and shot at the deer, the arrow wounded St. Giles instead, making him the Patron Saint of cripples. As compensation, the King gave Giles a piece of land in the Provence, on which St. Giles founded a monastery. He died with the highest repute for sanctity and miracles. He is also sometimes referred to as one of the **14 Holy Helpers** who are a group of Saints venerated together by Roman Catholic Christians because their intercession is believed to be particularly effective, especially against various diseases. The other Holy Helpers are: Saints Acacius, Barbara, Blaise, Christopher, Cyriacus, Catherine of Alexandria, Denis, Erasmus of Formia, Eustace, George, Margaret of Antioch, Pantaleon and Vitus.

St Giles Patronage: people with disabilities, the poor, cancer patients, difficulty breastfeeding, mental illness, sterility, depression, childhood fears, convulsions, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Since I started my new position as Outreach & Programs Manager at the Cape & Islands Veterans Outreach Center, a lot of the work we do is with homeless Veterans. My Vietnam Homeless Veteran friend Tommy, living on the streets taught me about St. Giles and said the homeless highly respect and pray to him.

When you say your prayers tonight and you pray for the homeless-please say an extra prayer for St. Giles! God Bless and Goodnight.





Discount of \$100 per couple or \$50 for individual for all Fall River Deacons, Candidates and spouses.



The Soul of Diaconal Ministry: Union with Christ

Registration Now Open
www.nadd1assembly.org

NADD REGION 1 ASSEMBLY 2022

November 11-12, 2022

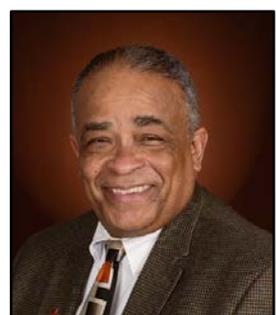
Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center
Southbridge, MA



Deacon
Dominic Cerrato



Father
Paul Schenck



Deacon
Art Miller



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!

Deacon Retreat

September 30-Oct 2, 2022
LaSalette Retreat Center
Attleboro, MA

Diaconal Ordination

May 20, 2023
Cathedral of St Mary of the
Assumption

Advent Day of Reflection

November 19, 2022
Holy Trinity Parish
Fall River, MA

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

Pre-Ordination Retreat

March 6-10, 2023
LaSalette Retreat Center

Birthdays

SEPTEMBER

Philip Bedard 2
John Burkly 18
Gary Donahue 19
John Fitzpatrick 24
Peter Guresh 22
Joseph Kane 25
Theodore Lukac 9
Dana McCarthy 13

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 Paul Roma

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
FALLRIVERDEACONS.COM**

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

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Deacon Frank Lucca - deaconfranklucca@frpermanentdiaconate.com

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Deacon Advocate

Jackie Collins - office@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Administrative Assistant

121 Mt Pleasant Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

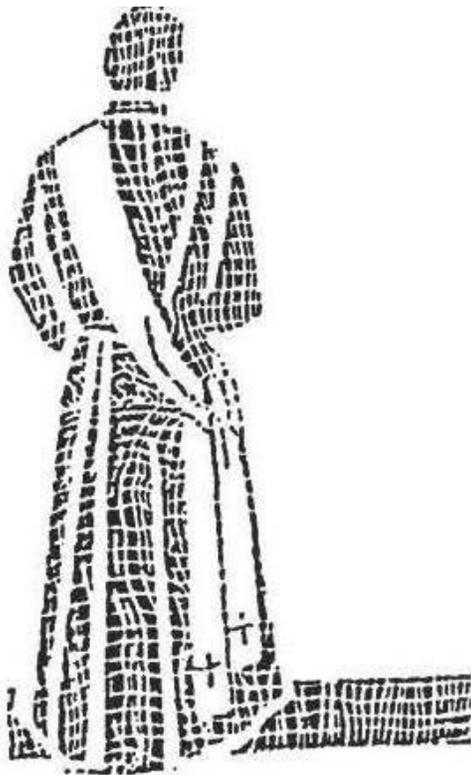
Ph: (508) 990-0341

E: office@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Fax: 508 673 5518

Registration Deadline fast approaching!

DEACON RETREAT 2022
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCT 2, 2022



LaSalette Center for Christian Living
947 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703
508-222-8530

Register Today

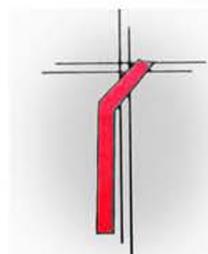
www.fallriverdeacons.com

This will be the only retreat sponsored by the Permanent Diaconate Office this year for deacons and deacon candidates.

A reminder that an annual retreat is required for all active deacons in the diocese.

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
ON OUR WEBSITE!**

Upcoming Webinars - Save the Date!



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

WEBINAR SERIES

HOSPICE CARE

With **John Rider**, Chaplain/Bereavement Coordinator

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

6:30 PM - Evening Prayer

7:00 PM - Webinar

NEXT DEACON CLASS - Aspirancy

Our 11th Diaconate Class begins on September 12 2022. Academic classes begin in September 2023. Please keep our aspirants and their wives in your prayers as they begin this first year of discernment.

The Formation program for deacons has been modified and extended to five years. This class is scheduled, God willing, to be ordained in 2027.



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PROJECT CONNECT

Deacon Joe McGinley, the Deacon Advocate, has been on a mission to reach out to the wives of all active, retired and decesased deacons.

Deacon Joe is also available to connect with any deacon, retired or active, who would like to discuss any ideas, or issues that arise in ministry.

Please feel free to reach out to Deacon Joe at
deaconjosephmcginley@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Thanks to Deacon Joe for his support of our deacons and spouses.



Thank you to Deacon Gary John and other members of the Deacon Council who have worked so hard to plan and host the Family Gathering this weekend. We look forward to seeing all those who are attending.

Deacon Council and Wives' Council

There are a number of openings on our Deacon Council and Wive's Council. Our goal is to have at least one or two representatives from each deanery area. If you have interest in serving in such a capacity, please reach our to Fr Bob Oliveira or Deacon Frank.

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.

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 Attleboro/Taunton and Cape Cod Deaneries, please reach out to Fr Bob or Dcn Frank.

Deans of the Diocese of Fall River

Effective September 1, 2022 the Bishop has appointed the following Deans of the Diocese of Fall River

Very Reverend Timothy P. Reis, V.F. – Attleboro Deanery
Reverend Monsignor Stephen J. Avila, V.F. – Cape Cod Deanery V
Very Reverend Riley J. Williams, V.F. – Fall River Deanery
Very Reverend John M. Schrader, V.F. – New Bedford Deanery
Very Reverend Neil F. Wack, C.S.C., V.F. – Taunton Deanery