

**Archdiocese of Atlanta
Permanent Diaconate**

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Spring 2019



THE BEACON

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

My Dear Brothers,

I am writing this as we prepare to enter the Lenten Season. Honestly, this is not my favorite part of the Church year. It's taken me many years to come to an understanding that it's ok to get a little down as we approach Lent. This is a penitential time, something that we tend to resist. The Gospel for the last Sunday before we have Ash Wednesday, at least this year, clearly lets us know that we need to take time to become introspective. We have to see what is flawed in our own lives in order to be able to open our hearts and minds to the message of Jesus and what He has in mind for us. We need to stop judging others and find, identify, and weed out of our own lives all that keeps us from that perfect union with God. So Lent is hard! If we take it seriously. My prayer is that each of us, as servants in the vineyard, are able to find some quiet time to reflect and pray and dig deep into our innermost being. My prayer is that we can all find the peace and joy and comfort that comes when we can realize that we are not in charge, God has this, and we are to listen and follow His direction in our lives and in our ministry.

Much is still going on even as we enter Lent. On most every front we continue to be assaulted with the news of the failure of men who have been given the responsibility to lead. It seems ever more true that the sins of the fathers do sometimes rest on their children. It certainly seems that way in our Church right now. Revelations come daily, of high ranking Church leaders who allowed their sinful inclinations to overtake them. While I have heard many say, "It's about time they are getting justice." I am constantly reminded that this is only one part of the story. My mind and heart continue to go out to the victims. I can only imagine that each of these new reports must be like salt in the wounds that they already are suffering with. May all of us be blessed with a spirit of compassion and love for these afflicted souls, and for their family members.

Perhaps one way that this Lent can be of greater impact on each of us is if we are able to find a way in our fasting and abstinence, to join that miniscule bit of sacrifice with the suffering of those who carry the weight of this on their shoulders every day!

Maybe in this way we can focus our prayers and penance in such a way that when we do come to the end of this season we will all truly be ready to recognize the hope of the Resurrection.

Pope Francis has said that "There will always be a cross, trials in the middle, but at the end we are always led to happiness. Jesus does not deceive us; he promised us happiness and will give it to us if we follow his ways." *Embracing the Way of Jesus*

May this Lent be a time of growth and renewal for all of us and may we all find peace, hope, and happiness in the promise of the Resurrection!

Know that I am here to serve you and that you are in my prayers. Please keep our entire community in prayer!

Sincerely in Christ,

Deacon Dennis



**Co-Director of
Diaconate For-
mation**

**Office of the
Permanent Di-
aconate**

**Archdiocese of
Atlanta**

Formation Forum

We participate in each Mass we are privileged to attend. However, on some occasions, we are really present to the readings and the prayers. I hear the words of Consecration at every Mass, and today, for some reason, I really heard those words at Mass, *“On the night before His death, at the Last Supper . . .”*

With the season of Lent not far off, my thoughts went to the fact that Jesus was preparing for His death,

and He was still giving us gifts – Himself, the priesthood, community.

In John’s Gospel, Jesus gives the command of service to the people of God, *“Therefore, if I, your master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet.”* Jn. 13:14

What keeps me from giving and what keeps me from service? Maybe its work, family, study, preparing for RCIA, etc. etc.

If Jesus, who was preparing to suffer and die for us, could be giving us gifts, we should do the same.

Even in the noise and confusion of all that is present in our lives, we too can give gifts.

Jesus gave us the greatest gift – Himself. How can I give of myself to follow the example of Jesus? What are my treasures? One of mine is time. Perhaps during Lent I should give away my treasure, my time. I can give time in prayer for those who won’t even know it: my family members who may hide their troubles so I won’t worry; my neighbor with struggles that are not mine; my church family who are seeking a deeper relationship with God; The clergy and laity of the church with great responsibilities; and leaders of

countries and CEOs of corporations for right judgment.

Maybe I could give time to fasting from TV and electronics, and the things that keep my mind occupied with all but my relationship with my God. Perhaps I may even develop the habit of meditation, scripture study, or reading a good book.

Others need my time: to provide clothing; teach an English class; clean their house; provide a meal; fix a fence. The men in Diaconate Formation and their wives and families are giving their time – for classes, spiritual direction, social justice ministry, pastoral care and many other facets of formation.

Many others are giving time to teach classes, work as deacon mentors, and spiritual directors, retreat masters, selection committee members, educational review and much more.

Diaconate Formation Classes are once again in full swing. Aspirants meet monthly and Candidates meet twice a month. In between, there are reflections, and homework assignments, and work in the parish.

We seek your time in prayer for all in Diaconate Formation and for all who support the men and their wives and families as they give their time to be formed to serve the people of God. We pray that we follow the example of Jesus and give our most treasured gift.

Penny Simmons

PLEASE PRAY FOR US

FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIED

Ann Krupa Ingllinesi	sister of Deacon Brad Krupa	March 6, 2019
Dorothy Gallagher	wife of Deacon Al Gallagher	March 1, 2019
Jerome Hayward	father of Deacon Mike Hayward	February 23, 2019
Robert Putkowski	brother-in-law of Deacon Tom McGivney	February 5, 2019
Hugh Hogan	father of Deacon Rick Hogan	January 25, 2019
Jim Nemchik	brother of Deacon Tom Nemchik	December 23, 2018
Ann Brown	mother of Deacon Raymond Brown	December 11, 2018
Barbara Marsh	mother of Deacon Curt March	December 9, 2018
Betty Garrett	mother of Deacon Bill Garrett	October 9, 2018
Louise Chambliss	mother of Deacon Leonard Chambliss	September 25, 2018
Juanita Andronaco Berg	mother of Deacon Chris Andronaco	September 17, 2018
June Sholander	mother of Deacon Mark Sholander	August 20, 2018
Melvin Breaux	uncle of Deacon Jim Tramonte	July 24, 2018
Deacon Richard Searls		July 24, 2018
Michael K. Jones	son of Deacon Mike R. Jones	July 22, 2018
Mary Alice Widener	mother-in-law of Deacon Dick Tolcher	June 27, 2018

PLEASE PRAY FOR US

FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

James Martin	father of	January 31, 2019
Linda Wojcik	Deacon John Martin	January 25, 2019
Deacon Tom and Helen	wife of Deacon John Wojcik	
Zaworski		January 23, 2019
John Grimaldi	father of	
Deacon José Espinosa	Deacon Bob Grimaldi	January 16, 2019
Kevin Kelsey	son of Deacon Don Kelsey	January 11, 2019
Deacon Mike Jones		December 20, 2018
Deacon Scott Medine		December 11, 2018
Deacon Bill Hampton		October 31, 2018
Bobby Bloodworth		November 2, 2018
Deacon Larry and Rita		October 15, 2018
Casey		October 7, 2018
Deacon Tom Ryan		September 17, 2018
Carol McHugh	wife of Deacon Al McHugh	August 22, 2018
Lynn Ory	wife of Deacon Randy Ory	August 22, 2018
Deacon Lloyd Sutter		August 20, 2018

Retreat for Deacons

of the Archdiocese of Atlanta

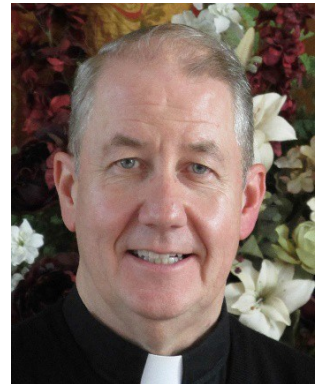
May 17-19, 2019



The Ministry of the Deacon in the Catholic Church is one of service in three areas: The **Word**, the **Liturgy**, and **Charity**.

This retreat will explore the graced reality and experience of such service, and more specifically, of service to the faithful, the people of God. Participants will be invited to pray and reflect on their growing relationship with God, God's unique and personal call to service, as well as their lived experience of such service.

Fr. Joseph Ligan, SJ was raised in Alexandria, Va., attended Gonzaga College High School and Virginia Tech, earning a degree in Public Administration. Following his graduation, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1979. He pronounced his first vows in 1981 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1990. Fr. Ligan has served in the ministries of Secondary Education, Higher Education, Spiritual Formation and Vocational Development. He is on the Pastoral Team of Ignatius House.



Register at IgnatiusHouse.org

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THE CATHOLIC DISTANCE UNIVERSITY

Life Long Learning in the Faith Through Distance Education

DIACONAL FORMATION IN CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE ETHICS

Diaconal Formation in Catholic Healthcare Ethics is a 16 hour course that has a twofold purpose:

To equip deacons to help families and individuals make healthcare decisions for themselves or their loved ones that are consistent with Catholic moral teaching when parishioners approach them for help and guidance.

When families are faced with making medical decisions and are unsure of how to proceed ethically, they many times turn to the parish for guidance. It often is the deacon who helps people wade through these issues.

To equip deacons to offer parish seminars on Catholic healthcare ethics and develop ministries that educate the faithful in these issues.

Oftentimes diocesan offices are called upon by parishes to provide resources and seminars to help parishioners develop living wills that are consistent with Catholic moral teaching. Diaconal Formation in Catholic Healthcare Ethics allows this service to

expand exponentially by giving deacons the tools they need to serve their parishes in this way effectively.

Charity is the most important ministry of a deacon. Among other things, deacons assist the members of the faith community to live out the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Diaconal Formation in Catholic Healthcare Ethics is one way to strengthen this ministry.

For Deacon Directors, Diaconal Formation in Catholic Healthcare Ethics is an excellent way to provide Continuing Education and Formation credits to their deacons.



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Diaconal Formation in Catholic Healthcare Ethics is a four week on line course. Each week there are readings, videos, questions for discussion with other deacons and written assignments that give the deacons opportunities to apply what they have learned in to real life pastoral care situations. Deacons could log into the course at any time during the week to participate in it.

Week One

Philosophical and Theological Foundations of Catholic Healthcare Ethics

Christian Anthropology, The Origin and Meaning of Human Life, The Human Person and His Body

Philosophical Methods Used in the Practice of Catholic Healthcare Ethics with and emphasis on Natural Law and Personalism

Week Two

Moral Premises and the Preeminence of Conscience

Moral Premises derived from Natural Law and Personalism

The Role of Conscience, Conscience Formation and errors in the understanding of Conscience

The Principle of Cooperation in Evil

Week Three

Ethical Decision Making in the Beginning of Life

Human Love in the Divine Plan Responsible Parenthood Natural Family Planning

The Truth about Contraception Assisted Reproductive Technology

Genetic Counseling and Stem Cell Research

Week Four

Ethical Decision Making at the End of Life

A Broader Definition and Understanding of euthanasia

Ordinary/Proportionate Care and Extraordinary/Disproportionate Care

Assessment of Benefits and Burdens Withholding and Withdrawing Care Do Not Resuscitate Orders

Palliative care

Nutrition and hydration Medical futility



For more information on the course and enrollment information, please visit:

cdu.catalog.instructure.com

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Witness to Marriage



Save the Date

Witness to Marriage is a support group meant to encourage, support, and guide individuals who are civilly divorced, but validly married (and possibly other irregular situations), to live faithfully to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through this irregular situation.

On Saturday, **June 15, 2019**, the Office of Formation and Discipleship is hosting a free meeting for individuals who are separated or civilly divorced but are still married in the eyes of the Church.

Please encourage individuals who may benefit to attend this initial meeting at the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, 2401 Lake Park Dr. SE, Smyrna, GA 30080. The meeting will begin at 9:30am and conclude by 12:00pm.

To register visit: <http://tiny.cc/marriagewitness>

Questions? Please contact Patrick Metts at 404-920-7643 or Daniel West at 404-920-7631.

Mark your Calendar and Save the Date:

Each year we hold a Cook Out for the Seminarians in the Archdiocese of Atlanta hosted by the Diaconate Community. This year the Seminarian Cook Out will be held on Thursday, **July 25, 2019**, at the Chancery. We begin with Mass in Grand Hall A at 5:30 pm with dinner immediately following in Grand Halls B and C. Deacon Bill Hampton will be our Grill Master, with sides and desserts and golf shirts for the Seminarians provided by the Diaconate Community. More information will follow as we move closer to the date.