

Archdiocese of Atlanta

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THE BEACON

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

Summer 2021



My Dear Brothers,

As we prepare to celebrate the July 4th holiday it seems to me that this is an excellent time to think back on all the ways that the world has changed since the last time we were able to gather for all of the traditions so associated with Independence Day. Just the idea of being in person with family and friends is a sea change. Gathering for cookouts and fireworks will be a great joy.

We are blessed to live in a country with the many freedoms that we sometimes take for granted. One of our greatest gifts is religious liberty. It is not lost on me that having spent nearly a year and a half in so much isolation due to the pandemic, the fact that we can come together and worship, praising God in our communities is no small thing.

Receiving the news from the Archbishop that we will once again host the Eucharistic Congress on June 17-18, 2022, the 25th Archdiocesan Congress, has been a real cause for celebration. Y'all will be hearing more from me on that soon!

As we begin this Summer, my prayer is that all of you and your families will be safe. I pray that you will have time to gather with others to catch up and rekindle relationships that may have been strained with the stresses of the last many months.

I imagine that many of you, like me and mine, will be heading to the beach or mountains for some rest and relaxation. In the same way that Jesus would go off on his own to renew and refresh, I hope that we all can find a sense of peace and renewal during this traditional time of vacations.

I ask you to pray for our entire diaconate community. We have lost many of our brothers and their spouses over the last few months. We are blessed to have over forty men in Formation, Nothing, however, can replace the years of experience and dedication of so many of the longest serving deacons in our Archdiocese. They truly are my heroes.

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

Formation Forum



"God, come to my assistance, Lord, make haste to help me."

My favorite prayer, right from the Liturgy of the Hours. I pray it often, even when I am not praying the Liturgy of the Hours. Then I look around and realize God has been with me all the time, I'm the one in a hurry. Looking back every once in a while helps me to see God even in my impatience.

Diaconate Formation has been very good this year. There are forty-four men in formation. Eight men are looking for Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate on February 5, 2022, as they near the completion of five years in discernment and formation.

We are looking forward to the re-opening of the St. Stephen Center for Diaconal Study on the Campus of St. Paul of the Cross.

During this time of virtual classes and virtual retreats, we've come to know the necessity and beauty of community. We are anxious to pray Morning Prayer together, celebrate Mass with our friends, and share 'coffee break conversations' with the men and wives in other classes. I often pray, "God, come to my assistance, Lord, make haste to help me." And God has come to our assistance.

Men in formation come from many areas in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, including Jasper, Cleveland, Athens, and Jefferson, Georgia. Making a two hour trip to and from the St. Stephen Center every other week for a formation day can be as tiring, or maybe even more tiring, than six hours of classes. With all of the virtual ways of meeting, we can now hold every other formation day virtually and meet once a month in person. This makes formation possible for aspirants and candidates from far reaching areas of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

A challenge turned into a blessing. Took a while to realize it, but we prayed for God's assistance in making Diaconate Formation possible to all areas of the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Lord came to our assistance.

The revised *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States* addresses the need for ongoing formation and discernment, especially after Ordination, as it is vital in the life of a Deacon. The new *National Directory* will require Post Ordination formation for a period of five years after ordination. The next Post-Ordination Workshop – *On the Journey with God's People, Pastoral Counseling* - has been scheduled for our newly ordained Deacons, from the Class of 2015 through the Class of 2021 on **July 31, 2021.**

There are so many aspects of Diaconate Formation. We depend on the of the Human, Spiritual, Pastoral, and Intellectual supports of the Diaconate. The Pastoral support is enhanced through the experience of a Deacon Mentor who is assigned to a Candidate in formation. We need good Deacon Mentors.

A training session will be held at the St. Stephen Center for Diaconal Study on **October 23, 2021**, from 9:15 am until about 12:15 pm. If you have been ordained a Deacon for three years or more, please plan to join us for Morning Prayer and/or Mass and the Training Session to discern your participation in this wonderful ministry. Your wife is invited to attend with you. If you have questions or plan to attend, please contact Penny Simmons psimmons@archatl.com.

Formation Forum

We seek your prayers for the men, their wives, and their families who are in Diaconate Formation. Please lift up the faculty and committees that keep us moving forward to help those in formation. Please pray as we enter back into formation in August after our summer break that God will continue to assist Aspirants and Candidates who are in formation and discernment.

The Annual Diaconate Formation Retreat is September 16-19, 2021; and the Wives of Men in Diaconate Formation Retreat is October 30, 2021. We beg prayers for those who will attend and the retreat masters who will lead us closer to our God who always comes to our assistance.

I am going to continue to pray, "God, come to my assistance, Lord, make haste to help me." However, I will also follow the advice of St. Augustine, "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

Peace,

Penny Simmons

Co-Director of Diaconate Formation

**A FREE ONLINE INTERACTIVE SEMINAR FEATURING:
DR. TOMMY HUMPHRIES
AND BROTHER LUCIUS AMARILLAS, O.S.B.
TUESDAY JULY 14 FROM 7:00-8:00 EST**

Free Theology Roundtable / Workshop Praying the Liturgy of the Hours

PLEASE JOIN SAINT LEO PROFESSOR THOMAS HUMPHRIES AND BROTHER LUCIUS AMARILLAS, PRIOR OF THE MONASTERY AND ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY AT SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY AS WE DISCUSS THE HISTORY, THEOLOGY, AND SPIRITUALITY OF THIS FOUNDATIONAL METHOD OF PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



TO RSVP AND RECEIVE THE LINK TO THE SEMINAR- EMAIL:

RANDALL.WOODARD@SAINTLEO.EDU

Eucharistic Congress 2022 - Save the Date
from Archbishop Hartmayer:

I am pleased to announce the return of the Archdiocese of Atlanta Eucharistic Congress. The 25th Congress is set for June 17-18, 2022.

Please put this on your calendar now so you and your parish can plan to participate.

Moving forward, the Archdiocese will gather for a Congress every other year. In the years without an Archdiocesan event, we will shift this wonderful celebration to the parishes. In this way, we can go forth as disciples into our communities and share the joy of the Lord with everyone

PLEASE PRAY FOR US

Jan 5	Death of Deacon Val Bathea
Jan 11	Death of Mariá Concepción Merlo, sister of Deacon José (Trini) Merlo-Quintero
Jan 13	Death of Peggy Connell, widow of Deacon Jerry Connell
Jan 13	Death of Ivette Ortiz, mother of Deacon Randy Ortiz
Jan 22	Death of Deacon Carlos Garcia
Jan 19	Death of Iván Gabriel Merlo, nephew of Deacon José (Trini) Merlo-Quintero
Jan 25	Death of Shirley Millinger, mother of Deacon Terry Millinger
Jan 31	Death of Deacon Ed Krise
Feb 3	Death of José Guadalupe Merlo, brother of Deacon José (Trini) Merlo-Quintero
Feb 4	Death of Naida Speed, wife of Deacon Bill Speed
Feb 15	Death of Elizabeth Wolfa, mother of Deacon Friar Nicholas Wolfa
Mar 10	Death of Mary Alice Dietz, mother of Deacon Paul Dietz
Mar 11	Death of Deacon Don Kelsey
Mar 17	Death of Tom Ranft, father of Deacon Pete Ranft
Mar 31	Death of Van T. Jefferson, father-in-law of Deacon Carl Taylor
Apr 9	Death of Liz Schueth, mother of Deacon Paul Schueth
Apr 15	Death of Lorretta Grebe, mother of Deacon Jim Grebe
Apr 29	Death of Deacon Ed Grabowy
May 6	Death of Deacon Al McHugh
May 7	Death of Barbara Anne Simmons, mother of Deacon Bill Simmons III
May 12	Death of Pam Waken, wife of Deacon Chris Waken
June 6	Death of Lisa Malki, sister of Deacon Chris Carroll
June 8	Death of Deacon Enrique Galvis
June 10	Death of Deacon Bill Speed
June 11	Death of Deacon Scott Parker

PLEASE PRAY FOR US

Prayers for Healing and Comfort

Jan 21	Suzy Fragale, wife of Deacon David Fragale
Jan 29	Deacon Cecil (Cece) Reimer
Feb 1	Deacon Joe Eustace
Feb 17	Deacon David Fragale
Feb 19	Donna Crowley, wife of Deacon Joe Crowley
Mar 4	Marcus Weiss, nephew of Deacon Tom McGivney
Mar 5	Deacon Ed LaHouse
Apr 9	Kathy Hampton, wife of Deacon Bill Hampton
Apr 12	Deacon David Hanson
Apr 22	Deacon Larry Casey
Apr 26	Lyadel Pupo, wife of Deacon Joe Pupo
May 28	Deacon Joseph "Joe Pat" Rhodes
June 29	Jacques Ngoy, father of Deacon Kapya Ngoy