

The ArchLou Deacon

DIACONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE | MAY-JUNE 2025



From the Diaconal Director

Dear Friends, My Dear Companions on the Journey,

*Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters,
let us walk towards God and love one another.*

— Pope Leo XIV



Habemus Papam! Pope Leo XIV, when preaching his inaugural Mass, conveyed to the world, “I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling, I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God’s love, for he wants us all to be united in one family.”

Pope Leo serves as the visible focal point of the communion of saints, signifying the unity of the Church in Jesus Christ. Grounded in the belief that the Holy Father, as Bishop of Rome and successor of Saint Peter, leads the college of bishops, representing the communion of local churches around the world, Pope Leo’s primary responsibility is to uphold this unity and foster communion among all believers with God.

In his homily, Pope Leo implored “that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world.” Emphasizing that the authority of the Church comes not from outside forces or pressure, but from the inner strength of love, the Holy Father reminds us that this love – this charity, rooted in Christ – must serve as the fundamental principle for all members and leaders of the Church.

In Archbishop Shelton, who serves as the center of communion within our local church, we experience the very love about which Pope Leo speaks. Archbishop Shelton inspires us to be ever mindful of our responsibilities to ensure that the message of Jesus Christ reaches every community and culture. As a successor to the Apostles, the archbishop takes seriously his responsibility to reveal God’s presence through the love and the unity about which Pope Leo speaks – the love and unity brought about by the Holy Spirit.

Dear venerable deacons, it is a profound blessing to be able to accompany you in this local church as you live out the charity of Christ through your pastoral care for the faithful, imbued with humility and a genuine desire to serve rather than seeking personal recognition. Thank you for your continued ministry of liturgy, word, and charity while living up to the Church’s commitment to serving others and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ✠

—F. DeKarlos Blackmon, OblSB, EdD

Let us emphasize the Gospel message of life, peace, charity, and justice in the evangelical beatitudes (Mt 5:1-12) and the laity’s sharing in the mission of the Church in the world (LG, 31). — DeKarlos

Archdiocese of Louisville Diaconal Ministry

Deacons, as ministers, are not exempt from the missionary obligation of the universal Church. Hence, deacons should always remain open to the *missio ad gentes* [mission to the nations] to the extent that professional or family obligations permit (cf. *Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons*, §27).

Archbishop

Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre

Director

Dr. F. DeKarlos Blackmon, OblSB

Associate Director

Deacon Mark A. Preischel

Secretary

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Diaconal Ministry promotes the Diaconate by disseminating pertinent information, selecting and training candidates, providing opportunities for continuing education, and coordinating the pastoral supervision of ordained permanent deacons. In addition Diaconal Ministry provides support for the wives, widows and families of the deacons.



From the Associate Director for Diaconal Formation

I hope that those of you who were able to attend April's Ongoing Formation with Father Aaron Wessman enjoyed his talk as much as I did. Father Aaron's suggestion to look to Jesus and his parable of "The Good Samaritan" struck me the hardest. It was a reminder that as deacons, we are called to service whether we agree or disagree with those we serve. And our hope is that through this humble diaconal service, we can create a space for dialog, not divisiveness. For those of you who couldn't attend the presentation or want to read more, Father Aaron's book is [*The Church's Mission in a Polarized World*](#), ISBN 978-1565485495.



Our next Ongoing Formation will be on Saturday, August 16, 2025 at the Flaget Center. The subject of this session will be "The Blessings of the Eucharist." After last year's Eucharistic Congress, which some of you attended, we want to maintain a focus on the Eucharist. The presentation will be given by Father Jim Farrell of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Faith Formation has put out their [summer catalog](#). There are some exciting new topics that haven't been offered in a while, such as "Women of Faith in the Old Testament" on June 3 and "Women of Faith in the New Testament" on July 22. They also asked us to highlight the training on the Spanish Language training for "The Vision of the OCIA adapted for Children on Saturday, June 7. For more information, on any of these items, please contact Lynn McDaniel at lmcdaniel@archlou.org.

Finally, a reminder that this office sent out information about NDICE at Holy Trinity Parish in Fairview Heights, IL on July 20-23, 2025. Let us know if you need additional information.

Peace,
Deacon Mark

Ongoing Diaconal Formation

August 16, 2025

Blessings of the Eucharist

with Father Jim Farrell

Flaget Retreat Center | 9:00am-2:30pm

November 8, 2025

The Role of Mary in the Church

with Agnes Kovacs

To Be Determined | 9:00am-2:30pm

Ongoing Faith Formation Opportunities

To register, contact Lynn McDaniel, lmcdaniel@archlou.org

June 3, 2025

Women of Faith in the Old Testament

with Adam Zoeller and Dr. Thomas Malewitz

Maloney Center, Louisville | 1:00pm-4:00pm

July 22, 2025

What Catholics Believe and Teach About Marriage

with Father Philip Erickson

Maloney Center, Louisville | 9:30am-12:30pm

July 22, 2025

Women of Faith in the New Testament

with Dr. Thomas Malewitz

Maloney Center, Louisville | 1:00pm-4:00pm

Peace Be With You

A Homily by Deacon Scott Haner

Embracing God's peace, which is permanent, stable, and everlasting, not only enriches our own lives but also contributes to a more compassionate and understanding world. Deacon Scott Haner of Saint Patrick Parish explains it as a precious gift available to us, waiting to be embraced.

Explaining that our faith and trust in Christ conveys a message to the world that highlights the enduring strength of love and the hope that the Lord instills, Deacon Haner reminds us that our very faith serves as an invitation to draw nearer to Christ, fostering harmony in our relationships and encouraging a life rooted in love and understanding. Listen to the broadcast of the homily at https://youtu.be/2CM_c3B6QyM.

MINISTRY

Importance of Parish Ministry Agreements

Upon ordination, permanent deacons establish ministry agreements with their assigned pastors. This process involves evaluating community needs while also considering the unique gifts that the deacon brings, ensuring that these talents are effectively utilized to address those needs.

The Parish Ministry Agreement should take into account the deacon's family and employment priorities, promoting spiritual development and the overall well-being of both the deacon and his family.

This agreement acts as a framework for collaboration between a pastor and a deacon, establishing a shared commitment and understanding regarding the deacon's ministry within a specific parish. The agreement encourages a constructive dialogue that allows deacons and pastors to explore how the deacon can effectively fulfill his diaconal role, taking into account the unique aspects of his family and professional life. Additionally, the agreement outlines the pastor's responsibility to provide the necessary resources and support to help the deacon achieve his objectives, as well as to foster his ongoing formation and spiritual development.

Ensuring accountability to the Archbishop through the Director of Diaconal Ministry, deacons and pastors have the option to request a review of the ministry agreement if life or parish circumstances hinder the deacon's ability to meet the outlined commitments. In the absence of such requests, the agreement remains valid for three years or until a new pastor or parochial administrator is appointed, at which point a new agreement will be established.

CANDIDACY

Prayerfully Discerning the Aspirant's Fiat

The call of the Lord must be heard and understood by means of signs which reveal daily to the wise the will of God.

As the Diaconal Formation Class of 2028 prepares for the Rite of Candidacy in September, each deacon is invited to reflect on what it must have felt like to approach candidacy when he began his own journey to diaconal ordination — when he was discerning the diaconal call on his life.

During the 2024 Diaconal Assembly, deacons were urged to remember the blessings and guidance they have received from the Lord. Dr. F. DeKarlos Blackmon reminded the deacons to reflect on their candidacy journey and the inquiries they faced regarding their potential in diaconal formation. He posed thought-provoking questions about their initial hesitations, encouraging them to consider whether their reluctance stemmed from a belief that they were not called or from a failure to listen and respond to the call they received.

Even since the ontological change experienced through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, it remains essential not only to listen but also to comprehend the signs that resonate within you.

Deacons, as you remember the Diaconal Formation Class of 2028, pray that each aspirant keeps before him that from the very beginning, God has called him by name, shaping him in the depths of the earth and intricately forming him in his mother's womb. The aspirant's ongoing openness to the Lord's call, even amid challenges in discerning his role, along with his steadfast commitment to prayer, reflects a return to the Lord of what inherently belongs to God: the aspirant's fiat.



Norms for Posture

To foster a sense of unity and respect for the Eucharist within the archdiocese, Archbishop Shelton has issued a new document titled *Norms for Posture and the Communion Rite* to clarify the postures—sitting, kneeling, and standing—during Mass.

On May 14, new norms concerning appropriate postures during Mass were distributed to pastors, accompanied by a letter addressed to the faithful, outlining the changes that will take effect on June 22, coinciding with the feast of Corpus Christi.

Accompanying the new norms is formation material prepared by Dr. Karen Shadle of the Archdiocesan Office of Worship. Shadle provided a comprehensive analysis of the various postures observed

during the liturgical celebration, emphasizing their significance in enhancing the worship experience. The information from *Worship* serves not only as a guide to the physical expressions of reverence and participation but also as a reminder of essential practices related to the Eucharist, such as the important ministry of bringing Communion to the sick and the proper reservation of the Eucharist within the tabernacle. The resource underscores the interconnectedness of physical posture and spiritual engagement, highlighting how these elements contribute to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the sacramental life within the Church.

Deacons are encouraged to review the information posted at <https://www.archlou.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Norms-for-Posture-and-the-Communion-Rite-20250514.pdf>. ✖

Final Opportunity to Participate in Diaconal Pictorial Directory

Archbishop Shelton has requested the creation of a pictorial directory of permanent deacons serving in the archdiocese.

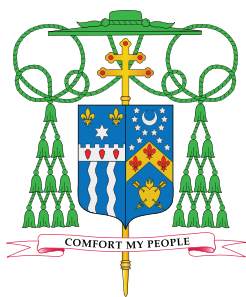
As we continue to build community and our deacons come together across the archdiocese for various events, we often encounter new faces and meet new deacon couples. It's common to find ourselves thinking, "Who is that deacon?" or struggling to recall a name that goes with a

familiar face. If you sometimes have trouble remembering names, you're not alone! To foster better connections among us, Archbishop Shelton requested the creation of a diaconal pictorial directory last year.

Deacon Mark Preischel has shared several opportunities for

participation, and the last chance for deacons to have their photos taken will be on Saturday, June 7, at 12:15 p.m. at the Basilica of Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral, where deacons are to wear light gray clerical attire.

Please click [Sign-Up Genius](#) to register to have your picture taken for the directory. For more information, contact Madeline Kincaid, (502) 636-0296 Ext. 1201.



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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Sharing in the Dignity of the Image of God

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 364)

Letter of His Excellency, Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, concerning

Norms for Posture and the Communion Rite

To all the faithful of the particular church of Louisville

Greetings in the Lord!

In the Holy Eucharist, we find the entirety of the Church's spiritual blessings, for it contains Christ himself, the living Bread that imparts life to humanity. As the precious gift of the Eucharist holds a significant place within the Sacred Liturgy, I write to you, the people of God in the particular church of Louisville, to promote unity and reverence for the Eucharist and to establish clear norms concerning (1) the posture of the Assembly during the distribution of Holy Communion, (2) the posture of each individual communicant at the time of his or her reception of the Sacrament, and (3) the communicant's choice of the manner of receiving Holy Communion.

1. **Posture of the Assembly during the distribution of Holy Communion.** In this local church, the previously recommended practice was to stand throughout the entire distribution of Holy Communion. While commendable, this is not the norm in most places throughout the United States and has led to some confusion and disunity. **Therefore, the practice will be for the faithful to kneel after the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) and remain kneeling until joining the Communion procession. After receiving Holy Communion, the faithful return to their places and kneel, or sit if unable, for a period of thanksgiving and personal prayer** (cf. *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 43; Prot. N. 855/03/L).

2. **Posture of Individuals while receiving Holy Communion.** Standing is the norm for the reception of Holy Communion. While standing, the communicant bows his or her head before receiving the Body of the Lord or the Precious Blood. While communicants may not be denied Holy Communion because they may kneel, catechesis of the faithful (such as sacramental preparation) should instruct that standing is the normative posture for reception of Holy Communion. Deacons, servers, and other liturgical ministers are to observe the normative posture of standing to receive Holy Communion to appropriately

model this norm for the faithful (*cf. General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 160; Prot. N. 1322/02/L).

3. Manners of Receiving Holy Communion. Communicants may choose whether to receive the consecrated Host in the hand or on the tongue. Since the Church presents these as equally appropriate options, catechesis on this point may not indicate that either method is better, preferred, or more reverent than the other. As the choice is reserved to the communicant, no minister may require that the faithful receive the consecrated Host in a certain way. The faithful receive the Precious Blood by drinking directly from the Chalice after it is handed to them by the minister. Intinction, while possible in some circumstances, is not a normative practice for distribution to the faithful at Masses within the Archdiocese of Louisville. Deacons and the lay faithful may never intinct the Host themselves (*cf. General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, nos. 160, 249, 287; Norms nos. 48, 50).

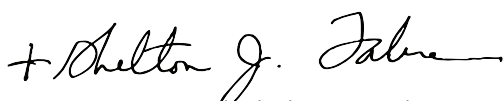
As always, pastoral adaptations should be made for those who cannot take the normative postures due to physical limitations.

These norms and clarifications may be implemented at any time, but no later than June 22, 2025 – the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Pastors are encouraged to ensure that catechesis and preparation are provided for the faithful in our parishes. To that end, a more detailed explanation of all these points is included separately. Please share it with catechetical and liturgical leaders in your parishes. The Archdiocesan Office of Worship and Office of Faith Formation remain available to you to answer any questions and provide further catechetical support.

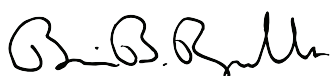
May the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, from whom the Lord took flesh, intercede for us as we continue to cultivate the awareness that the work of our redemption is happening most of all during our celebration of the Eucharist.

Given in Louisville, from the chancery, this fourteenth day of May,
on the Feast of Saint Matthias, Apostle,
in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-five.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Archbishop of Louisville



Dr. Brian B. Reynolds
Chancellor

Happy Birthday

We praise you, because we are wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!

(Psalm 139:14)

MAY		JUNE	
6 - Kathy Parker	17 - Alice Noltemeyer	3 - Bob Caruso	19 - Dean Sears
7 - Karen Sheets -Mobley	17 - Craig Roberts	6 - Therese Richerson	20 - John Hamilton
8 - Patty Korfhage	19 - Marcia Marks	7 - Cherie Zoldak	20 - Melinda Lockett
10 - Keith McKenzie	20 - Ann Padgett	9 - Shirley Beavin	21 - Rita Jenkins
11 - Sheila King	22 - Donnie Robbins	12 - John Maher	22 - Earl Baker
11 - John Strain	23 - Walt Jones	12 - Toni Mullins	22 - Elizabeth Cottrell
12 - Ann Hamilton	23 - Teresa Nash	13 - Bonnie Dever	25 - John Fellonneau
12 - Dotty Lewis	25 - Cathy McKenzie	14 - Mark Rougeux	25 - Don Masterson
13 - Booper Carney	28 - Gloria Dawson	15 - Thomas Roth	26 - Frank Cottrell
14 - Carmen Rendon	29 - Therese Caruso	16 - Greg Klinglesmith	27 - Phil Noltemeyer
15 - Joann Dugan	30 - Scott Hedges	17 - Ted Marks	28 - Thomas Ryan
16 - Joe Moore	31 - Jack Koenig	19 - Jennifer Bush	29 - Jim Kramer
17 - Theresa Chathaparampil	31 - Mary Raibert	19 - Susie Heil	29 - Christopher McDonell
			29 - Martha Stuber

Necrology of the Archdiocesan Diaconal Community

Since ancient times, the Church has consistently included prayers for both living and deceased members during every Eucharistic celebration. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* emphasizes that these intercessions highlight the communal nature of the Eucharist, underscoring that the offering is made for all members, both living and departed, who are called to share in the redemption brought forth by the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.



Deacon Bob Kampschaefer	May 1, 2020	Helen Flowers	May 27, 2011	Catherine Craycroft	June 22, 1999
Deacon Joseph Wheatley	May 3, 2008	Deacon Bill Skeeters	June 2, 2015	Pat Kampschaefer	June 23, 2018
Judy Patterson	May 7, 2018	Deacon John Whelan	June 8, 2019	Deacon Lamar Fante	June 25, 2006
Rose Amon	May 8, 2008	Deacon William Thomas	June 9, 2010	Deacon Bob Markert	June 25, 2024
Charlotte Mattingly	May 12, 2017	Deacon James Benton	June 12, 2005	Mary Kinsella	June 25, 2022
Deacon David Kannapall	May 16, 1993	Deacon Paul Bissig	June 16, 2018	Deacon Joe Filiatreau	June 27, 2016
Carolyn Bissig	May 16, 2012	Mary Hobb	June 17, 2015	Deacon Tom Ryan	June 28, 2012
Deacon Peter Houck	May 17, 2022	Ruth Ratterman	June 17, 2007		
Deacon Jim Mitchell	May 21, 2003	Mary Voll	June 17, 2004		
Deacon Rufus Young	May 21, 2013	Barb Brown	June 20, 2017		
Martha Kannapall	May 22, 2018	Deacon Gary Becker	June 21, 2018		
Deacon Paul Arnold, Jr.	May 24, 2003	Deacon Joseph Wiechert	June 22, 2013		

