

The ArchLou Deacon

DIACONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE | JULY-AUGUST 2025



Photo by Susan C. Bowling

From the Diaconal Director

Dear Friends, My Dear Companions on the Journey,

*If we are going to be a church on the move,
we have to engage in decision-making processes
that invite participation and leave room for
the most important person in the process: the Holy Spirit.*

— Dr. Joe Paprocki, *A Church on the Move* (2016)



The pastoral ministry agencies of the Archdiocese of Louisville have the noble objective to support and educate all Catholics in ministry, leadership, and service. This work, effected through our many programs and activities and support of pastors and parishes, responds with Gospel values to the needs not only of the particular church of Louisville but also of the universal Church and society in general.

Deacons play a key role in advancing and maintaining the apostolic mission of the Church, particularly through the essential ministry of charity and justice which is characterized by initiatives focused on social issues and the promotion of integral human development. Serving as a reminder of the mission to embody service and promote justice in the world, through the deacon's own example of dedicated service and commitment to advocacy, he inspires the Christian faithful to reflect the spirit of Christ's service in our lives.

The lay faithful should never lose sight of our role as members of the common priesthood of the faithful. We possess an indispensable role in the mission of the Church (cf. *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 1). Pope Benedict XVI stated that above all, the *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity* [*Apostolicam Actuositatem*], “stresses that ‘the success of the lay apostolate depends upon the laity’s living union with Christ,’ that is, a solid spirituality, nourished by active participation in the liturgy and expressed in the style of the evangelical beatitudes” (Angelus Address, November 13, 2005).

Whether our days begin at the Pastoral Center, Maloney Center, Catholic Charities, one of our parishes, or a prison unit, we are reminded that Christ was sent into the world to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, to give sight to the blind, and to free the oppressed (Luke 4:18). In Christ, through baptism, we are born again and made a royal priesthood, a holy people set apart. Even more, your diaconal ministry furthers the efforts of the Christian faithful to carry the Gospel message into the world. Our work is integral to the apostolate of the laity derived from our Christian vocation. ✠

—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

Madeline Kincaid

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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

We had a wonderful community retreat at Saint Meinrad with Father Tom Reitmeyer in late June. For those who were unable to sign up, I sincerely apologize to you. Saint Meinrad was unable to accommodate us in our usual location in Bede Hall, and we had to limit the registration to fit the available space in the Guest House facilities. But I hope that you will all be happy to know that we were able to schedule next year's retreat in Bede Hall for June 5-7, 2026.



For those of you who could attend, I hope that you found Father Tom's presentations as insightful as I did. Father Tom's discussion on the virtues of humility and charity in the deacon in relationship to his pastor (and his wife!) were good reminders. He also reminded us that pastors are people too and that they need our love. Finally, I think it was a good time for the community to come together and visit with each other. It was good to see that the rocking chairs in the Guest House lobby were full of people talking every morning, evening or actually anytime there was a break.

Finally, I hope that you can join us in celebrating the Rite of Candidacy with our families in formation. The Archbishop will be celebrating this Mass with our soon-to-be candidates at the start of our annual Assembly Day. I know that it will mean a lot to them to see the community and feel their support.

Peace,
Deacon Mark

Diaconal Retreat Opportunities

June 5-7, 2026
Annual Diaconal Ministry Community Retreat
Bede Hall, Saint Meinrad

July 19-22, 2026
National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education
Xavier University, Cincinnati

Ongoing Diaconal Formation

August 16, 2025
Blessings of the Eucharist
with Father Jim Farrell
Flaget Retreat Center | 9:00am-2:30pm

September 27, 2025
Deacon Assembly Day
with Archbishop Shelton and Dr. DeKarlos
Saint Peter the Apostle Parish | 9:00am-3:30pm

November 8, 2025
The Role of Mary in the Church
with Agnes Kovacs
Saint Agnes Parish | 9:00am-2:30pm

GRATITUDE

A Note of Thanks from Father Tom Reitmeyer

Dear Deacons and Wives,

As I have returned to the Diocese of Austin to resume my ministry here, my heart remains full of gratitude for the grace-filled weekend I spent with you during your annual retreat at Saint Meinrad Archabbey (June 27-29). It was a true joy and blessing to be in your company, to pray and reflect together, and to explore how we might grow in humility and charity for the sake of deeper communion in our respective ministries.

Thank you for your warm hospitality, your engaged participation, and the many personal stories you shared with me. I was especially heartened to hear that the retreat was meaningful for you.

I am deeply grateful to Archbishop Shelton Fabre and Dr. DeKarlos Blackmon for the gracious invitation to serve as your presenter this year. My thanks also to Deacon Mark and Holly Preischel, Madeline Kincaid, Dr. Karen Shadle, and all who helped bring the weekend to life through their efforts behind the scenes.

Please know of my ongoing prayers for each of you, your families, those you serve – and yes, for your pastors too! Should your travels ever bring you to Austin, don't hesitate to reach out. I would be delighted to introduce you to the joys of true Texas barbecue!

In Christ,
Father Tom Reitmeyer
Diocese of Austin

Happy Birthday

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

(Psalm 139:14)

JULY

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- Betty Miller | 12- Charlotte Shumway |
| 2- Shirley Hutchins | 13- Gerry Mattingly |
| 3- Carol McGoff | 15- Dennis May |
| 4- Tim Johnson | 19- Alice Burns |
| 5- Pat Klinglesmith | 19- Jan Mitchell |
| 5- Lisa Shields | 27- Jim Creely |
| 6- Louie Dugan | 30- Cheryl May |
| 8- Angela Maxwell | 31- Jim McCarty |

AUGUST

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1- Lee Bidwell | 15- Bob Hart |
| 1- Jim McGoff | 15- Gloria Sullivan |
| 2- Greg Gitschier | 17- Ned Berghausen |
| 4- Mark Kelley | 18- Bryan Bush |
| 6- Bev Olrich | 20- Gus Cooper |
| 7- Julia Lish | 21- Jim Olrich |
| 8- JoAnn Haner | 27- Mistianna Barnes |
| 9- Colleen Perkins | 28- Beth Hedges |
| 10- Tim Stewart | 31- Jan Smith |
| 11- Dan Bisig | 31- Scott Turner |



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 Charles Hammond	July 2, 1994	Deacon Jack Hawkins	July 20, 1999	Rita Livers	August 15, 2018
Deacon Gary Fowler	July 7, 2024	Deacon Benjamin Thornbury	July 20, 1999	JoAnn Filiatreau	August 20, 2021
Deacon Walton Jones	July 7, 2025	Liz Waldon	July 22, 2015	Alma Sturgeon	August 20, 2023
Deacon John Hobb	July 8, 1991	Deacon Charles Voll	July 24, 2002	Deacon John Tohill	August 21, 2008
Mary Leppert	July 8, 1999	Deacon Francis Klosterman	July 28, 2002	Deacon Fred Higgins	August 23, 2015
Rosie Hosch	July 10, 2024	Deacon Joe Amon	July 29, 1997	Deacon Jay Jenkins	August 24, 2007
Deacon Sam Filiatreau	July 11, 2021	Genevieve Churchill	July 30, 2023	Dee Fitzmayer	August 26, 2020
Diane Maguire	July 12, 2025	Deacon Carter Ross	August 8, 2015	Deacon Joe Bishop	August 27, 2009
Deacon David Newton	July 13, 1997	Deacon Harold Leppert	August 12, 1988	Deacon Butch Padgett	August 27, 2011
Deacon Dan Patterson	July 15, 2022	Deacon Jerry Antile	August 13, 2001	Deacon Dick Walsh	August 29, 2024
Barbara Whelan	July 16, 2022	Deacon Arthur DeWitt	August 13, 1985	Mary Hayden	August 31, 1997
Deacon Joseph Hutchins	July 17, 2014	Deacon Bruce Lincoln	August 13, 2010	REQUIESCANT IN PACE	
Mary Ann Simpson	July 19, 2016	Deacon Joseph Stuber	August 13, 2002		