

The ArchLou Deacon

DIACONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE | SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2025

*Our Sign
of Hope*

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October 2025

From the Diaconal Director

Dear Friends, My Dear Companions on the Journey,

It is an absolute imperative to respect, love, and promote the life of every brother and sister, in accordance with the requirements of God's bountiful love in Jesus Christ (EV n. 77).



In October of each year is observed Respect Life Month in parishes across our great nation. This annual observance provides a special time to focus on the truth and dignity of the human person.

Watching television, listening to the radio, reading the newspaper, and perusing online news magazines will present in a very real way just how much an increasingly secular society is constantly attempting to compete with our holiness. From the very moment of conception to natural death, life is threatened because our society has lost the true meaning of humanity, respect and basic human dignity. However, we must never lose sight of the fact that Christ became flesh so that we may come to know God's beneficent love (1 John 4:9) and to make us "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). Pope Saint John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* explains to us that "it is an absolute imperative to respect, love and promote the life of every brother and sister, in accordance with the requirements of God's bountiful love in Jesus Christ" (n. 77).

Each of us was made in the image and likeness of God, and so we must affirm the intrinsic value of human life and the dignity of every human being in a way that transforms the culture of secular society. This priority is not limited to any "particular" human life. Rather, the priority is to affirm the dignity of "every" human life because every human life has value. The 2025-2026 Respect Life theme, "Life: Our Sign of Hope," embodies the spirit of this Jubilee Year by encouraging us to bear witness to the hope found in the resurrection. It calls upon us to actively promote and defend the invaluable gift of life.

Evangelium Vitae conveys unequivocally that we are "to preach the Gospel of life, to celebrate it in the Liturgy and in our whole existence, and to serve it with the various programs and structures which support and promote life" (79). The way we should be in the communion processional is how we must live in the world each day. Let us continue to urge the Christian faithful to participate in initiatives that defend the dignity of every human life. May we never forget that Jesus came that we may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10). ✠

—F. DeKarlos Blackmon

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.



A true commitment to respecting human life compels us to uphold the inherent dignity of every individual, including immigrants, travelers, prisoners, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, as all are created in the image of God. We must resist the urge to overlook those whose experiences and cultures differ from our own limited perspectives. — DeKarlos

From the Associate Director for Diaconal Formation

This month we have thirteen men who will be admitted to the candidate phase in their formation as potential deacons. This will conclude the two years that they have spent in the aspirant stage of diaconal formation. One thing that I found interesting was that the aspirant stage corresponds to the “propaedeutic period” that is now included in priestly formation (*National Directory*, no. 190). During the Rite of Candidacy, the aspirant “publicly manifests his will to offer himself to God and the Church (*National Directory*, no. 210).” It is also the Church’s “first official recognition of the positive signs of vocation to the diaconate (*Basic Norms*, no. 48).” This language should be a reminder that there are always two calls from the Holy Spirit at work in the discernment to ordination as a deacon: the call that the man receives and the call of the Church. Participation in this Rite does not guarantee an eventual ordination to the Diaconate but is a stepping-stone along the way.



Not only is this Rite a milestone in the life of those that are in formation, it should cause those of us who have been ordained to think about our own call to diaconal ministry as well. Think back to this time in your own life and remember the excitement you felt about the future. What did you feel called to at that time and how did that change over time? Is the Church calling you to discern something new; to stretch and grow into something that you haven’t done before? Let this Rite be a chance to remind us that we are called to continue our discernment throughout our ministry.

Please continue to pray for the men in formation and their families as they continue in the process of discernment. And may God bless you with a Spirit of Wisdom in your own discernment.

Peace,
Deacon Mark

Ongoing Diaconal Formation

November 8, 2025

The Role of Mary in the Church

with Agnes Kovacs

Saint Agnes Parish Center, Louisville | 9:00am-2:30pm

Calendar of Important Events

September 18, 2025

Blue Mass

with Archbishop Shelton and Deacon Greg Gitscher

Basilica of Saint Joseph, Bardstown | 10:00am

September 20, 2025

Catechetical Encuentro

with Hispanic/Latino Apostolate

Saint John Paul II Parish, Louisville | 9:00am-3:00pm

September 27, 2025

Annual Deacon Assembly and Rite of Candidacy

with Archbishop Shelton

Saint Peter the Apostle Parish, Louisville | 9:00am-6:30pm

September 29, 2025

Blue Mass

with Archbishop Shelton and Father Jeff Shooner

Saint Michael Parish, Louisville | 9:00am

October 5, 2025

Living Rosary

with Archbishop Shelton and Deacon Joe Calvert

Saint Michael Parish, Louisville | 3:00pm

November 8, 2025

Archdiocesan Catholic Women’s Conference

Holy Trinity Parish, Louisville | 8:30am-2:00pm

December 6, 2025

Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe

with Archbishop Shelton

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Louisville | 10:00am-1:00pm

June 5-7, 2026

Annual Diaconal Community Retreat

Saint Meinrad Archabbey - Bede Hall

ASSEMBLY

Mental, Physical, and Spiritual Well-being

Archbishop Shelton looks forward to joining the diaconal community for the annual assembly at Saint Peter the Apostle Church in Louisville.

The annual assembly will serve as a gathering for brothers in ministry and their wives, providing an opportunity to unite in prayer, worship, learning, fellowship, celebration, and reaffirm a commitment to living a life of holiness, reflecting the example of Jesus, the suffering servant. This gathering presents an excellent opportunity to foster a collective sharing of gifts to enhance the unity and strength of the entire church of Louisville.

Archbishop Shelton and Dr. DeKarlos have mentioned that while sacred ordination changes a man, it does not elevate him above others nor exempt him from the human condition. They emphasized the importance of the matchless opportunities deacons have to express shared connections with those they serve — a principle that equally applies to all priests and bishops — as they strive to be true servants of the Gospel and their communities. In view of this, two of the sessions at the assembly this year will concern (1) the intricate and inseparable relationship between the mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of deacons and wives, and (2) the current process of pastoral planning in the archdiocese.

The annual assembly will culminate in a dinner honoring deacons celebrating significant jubilees, allowing Archbishop Shelton to express gratitude for the love and commitment that deacons, wives, and families contribute within the archdiocese. All deacons with faculties are expected to attend and vest in their dalmatics for the Concelebrated Mass with the Rite of Candidacy with the archbishop.

BLUE MASS

In honor of Kentucky Public Safety Personnel

Join us as Archbishop Shelton celebrates Blue Masses honoring the dedication and sacrifices of active, retired, and deceased Central Kentucky first responders.

Archbishop Shelton will preside over two Blue Masses in recognition of the tremendous sacrifice of the people who perform a great and needed service that promotes justice and the common good in society. Time and again, first responders throughout Central Kentucky run to the scenes of tragedy by running into harm's way to help save lives. Unfortunately, not every first responder returns home at the end of his or her watch. As people of good will gather to recognize, honor, and bless our public safety community, we pray that society recognizes the inherent dignity of human life, realizing that each of us are made in the image of God.



SAINT JOSEPH PROTO-CATHEDRAL

310 W Stephen Foster Avenue, Bardstown
Thursday, September 18, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.



SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH

3705 Stone Lakes Drive, Louisville
Monday, September 29, 2025 | 9:00 a.m.

Deacon Greg Gitschier, a Louisville Police Chaplain, will preach at the Basilica of Saint Joseph. Father Jeffrey P. Shooner, the Archdiocesan Vicar General, will preach at Saint Michael Church. To participate in either of these liturgies, visit www.archlou.org/blue-rsvp.



Diaconal Ministry of the Archdiocese of Louisville
requests your prayers and presence for
**The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
and Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders**
for the aspirants in formation to be permanent deacons by

The Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Archbishop of Louisville

Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
Saint Peter the Apostle Church, Louisville

ARMANDO AVALOS TORRES
Saint Rita, Louisville

JEFFREY BUNCH
Saint Edward, Louisville

MICHAEL CIRAULO
Holy Trinity, Louisville

MARCOS FUSTER RAMOS
Saint James, Elizabethtown

GREGORY HERBERGER
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Louisville

ELIHAZAR HINOJOSA CARRAZCO
Saint John Chrysostom, Eminence

JAMES “GENTRY” HUGHES
Saint Patrick, Louisville

RAFAEL LUNA DIAZ
Saint Rita, Louisville

CHRISTOPHER MATTINGLY
Saint Thomas Church, Bardstown

TIMOTHY MAY
Saint Athanasius, Louisville

JESUS MOLINA TUERO
Saint Edward, Louisville

STEVEN SCHERDIN
Saint Martha, Louisville

JOHN “KIRK” WAGNER
Our Lady of Lourdes, Louisville

DEACON COUNCIL



The Council on the Permanent Diaconate (the Diaconal Advisory Council), a consultative body representing the diaconal community, serves to provide advice and counsel to the Archbishop and the Director of Diaconal Ministry. The Diaconal Advisory Council consists of persons appointed by the Archbishop, who strives to appoint persons to ensure the membership reflects a fair representation of the community.

Deacon Steve Heil convened a meeting of the Council on the Permanent Diaconate (Diaconal Advisory Council) at Our Lady of the Caves in Horse Cave on Saturday, September 6.

Current members of the Diaconal Advisory Council are Deacon Jim Shields (Deanery 1), Deacon Lucio Caruso (Deanery 2), Deacon Mark Kelley (Deanery 3), Deacon Ken Roberts (Deanery 4), Deacon Dean Sears (Deanery 5), Deacon Steve Heil (Deanery 6), Deacon Rick Fagan (Deanery 7), Deacon Bruce Sullivan (Deanery 8), Gina Ryan, Donrita Webb, Deacon Dean Giulitto, Deacon Dennis Nash, Deacon Mark Preischel, and DeKarlos Blackmon.

Deacon Heil is the chair, Deacon Kelley is the vice chairperson, and Madeline Kincaid is the secretary.

GATECHETICAL ENCUENTRO *Communion and Mission*



Saint John Paul II Church

3539 Goldsmith Lane, Louisville

Sat., Sept. 20 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Encuentro Sessions

<i>Echoing the Faith Through the Heart</i>	Dr. Olga Villar
<i>What Happens after Confirmation?</i>	Gabriela Escalante
<i>Nurturing the Faith</i>	Carla Ferrando-Bowling
<i>Building Bridges</i>	Art Turner Deacon Stephen Bowling
<i>Working in Communion for the Mission</i>	Eva Gonzalez
<i>Supporting the Mission</i>	Art Turner Deacon Stephen Bowling

Hispanic Ministry invites you to participate in the *Encuentro Catequético: Comunión y Misión*, a catechetical gathering to enhance our understanding and dedication to catechesis. This event presents a unique opportunity to delve into the significance of catechesis in nurturing the faith of families and youth, explore the roles of catechists and families in service to the community, and foster collaboration among various ministries related to catechesis, family, and youth to promote unity within our parishes.

Archbishop Shelton will begin with the Celebration of the Eucharist, followed by learning sessions, dialogue, shared experiences, and spiritual reflections, laying the groundwork for future activities. This gathering aims to create connections among parents, older adults, young people, catechists, and ministry leaders, with Hispanic Ministry working alongside other pastoral agencies to develop actionable plans for parishes. Presentations will be available in both English and Spanish to ensure full engagement from all participants. Let's unite to be inspired, renewed, and empowered as joyful missionary disciples.

Happy Birthday

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

(Psalm 139:14)

SEPTEMBER

2- Fran Bidwell	22- Fran Brown
2- Lillian Kramer	26- Lucio Caruso
2- David Smith	27- Joan Nitzken
2- Judy Walsh	27- Tim Stout
4- Mary Jo Abell	29- Julia Kelley
10- Bill Klump	29- Mark Preischel
15- Becky Box	29- Wanda Turner
17- Joan Heinsohn	30- Stephen Bowling
18- Sandy Moore	30- Melani McDonell
19- Ken Mitchell	
20- Susan Bowling	
21- Scott Haner	

OCTOBER

2- Peggy Cecil	22- Laurie Kelly
3- Linda Dant	23- Steve Age
3- Cheri Hall	23- Carolyn Gnau
9- Ellen Creely	23- Jim Turner
9- Jim Shields	24- Tom Mattingly
12- Rich Zoldak	24- Helen Froehlich
15- Ralph Bartley	26- Jerry Buehner
15- Kate Berghausen	28- Jean Harris
15- Charlotte Mattingly	29- Georgia Denk
15- Ken Roberts	29- Doug Korfhage
17- Jim Cecil	29- Kim Rougeux
20- Steve Smith	31- Craig Lish

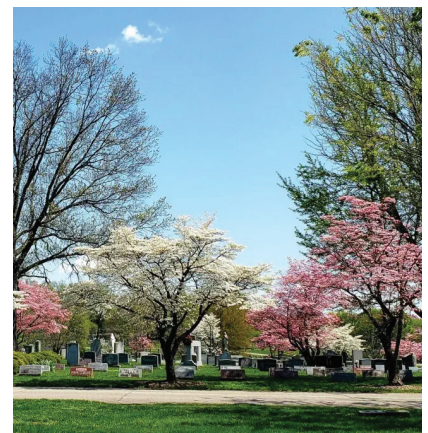


Necrology of the Archdiocesan Diaconal Community

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.

Rosie Fante	September 2, 2023	Virginia Shutts	October 3, 2014
Betty Dew	September 11, 2011	Dorothy Tohill	October 7, 2007
Deacon Raymond Ishmael	September 15, 2004	Sue Ronald	October 11, 2019
Deacon Lorenzo Hayden	September 16, 1981	Elnora Higgins	October 21, 2005
Mary Lou Houck	September 17, 2022	JoAnn Cooper	October 22, 2023
Deacon James Fogarty	September 23, 1982	Mildred Collard	October 28, 1988
Deacon William Kiefer	September 23, 1992	Joanne Golden	October 31, 2016
Margaret Thornbury	September 25, 1993	Deacon Syl Nitzken	October 31, 2024
Norma McGinty	October 1, 2006		
Jessie Ross	October 2, 2019		
Emma Logsdon	October 3, 2008		

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

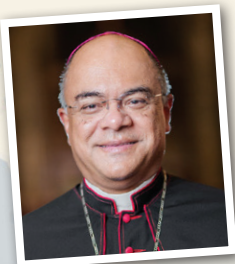


Archdiocesan Celebration of
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

**Bring your family, friends,
and your heartfelt prayer petitions**

Saturday
December 6, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

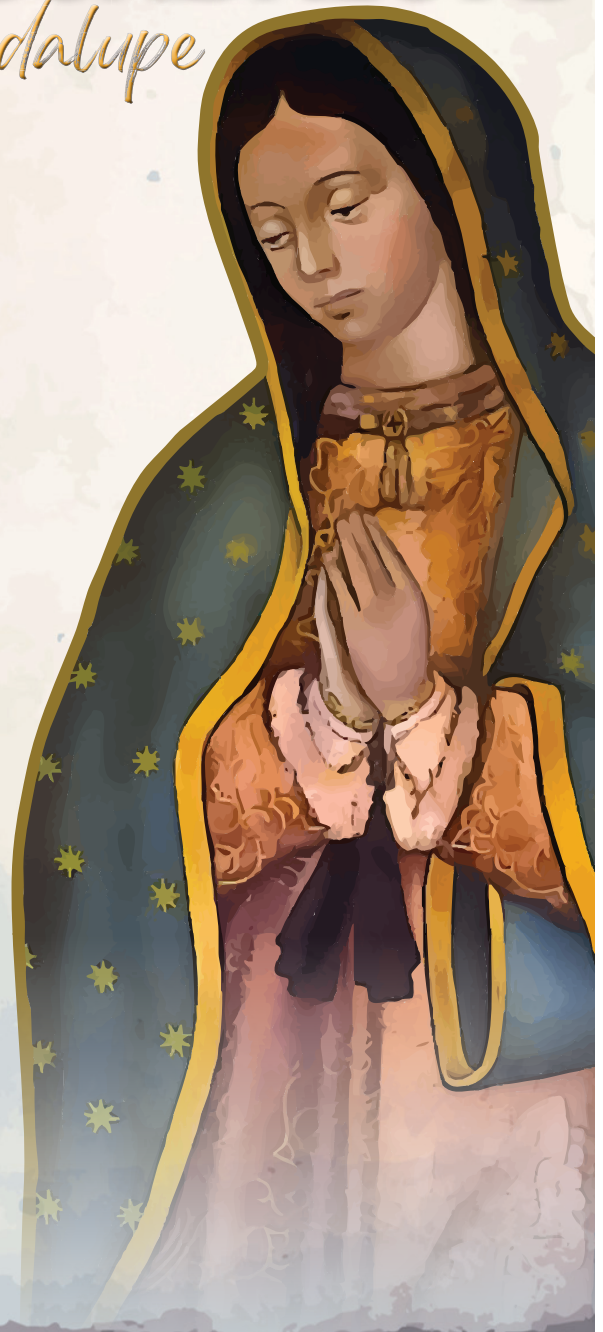
Our Lady of Lourdes Church
508 Breckenridge Lane, Louisville



Principal Celebrant
Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre
Archbishop of Louisville



Homilist
Rev. David Sanchez
Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church



**CAMPUS MINISTRY • HISPANIC MINISTRY • MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY • WORSHIP
DIACONAL MINISTRY • FAITH FORMATION • FAMILY AND LIFE • YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**



**ARCHDIOCESE
OF LOUISVILLE**



Giving
HOPE
to All



**Catholic
Services Appeal**
Bringing Christ to Others

<https://www.archlou.org/olg-2025>

Please email mkincaid@archlou.org for more information about the Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration