



Deacon News

Diocese of Davenport

Winter 2020

From the Diaconate Office:

Deacon Michael Snyder, Director of the Diaconate

Hello Diaconate Community, and Candidates

Merry Christmas to all! I know that Advent and Christmas can be a busy time for clergy, on top of all the secular Christmas activities in which we may participate. I hope you were able to prepare during Advent for Christ's arrival, and celebrate Christmas with all the joy that it offers.

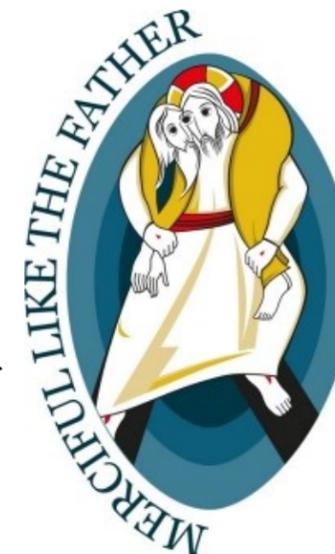
The Diaconate office is thinking about the community and fraternity within the Diaconate. One aspect of this is fellowship; another is caring for one another and our families. Some of this happens naturally, but some structure is necessary for consistency and to eliminate gaps.

In the Deacon Council meeting on 14 January, proposals will be made to organize events for the diaconate to gather twice a year in addition to the Retreat and Convocation, and to meet regionally for prayer, fellowship, and what ever else you may like.

See the information in this newsletter about where to attend the 14 January Deacon Council meeting in person, or how to call in virtually.

God bless each of you in your ministry,

Deacon Michael Snyder



Heavenly Father, since the time of the Apostles you have inspired the Church to commission certain members to assist in a special way in the pastoral mission of Christ. Bless the deacons and all other ordained and non-ordained ministers that they may be humble and faith-inspired in their service. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Virtual Deacon Council Meeting—Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 5:30 PM

Chrism Mass — Monday, April 6, 2020 at 2:30 PM

Spring Retreat — April 25-26, 2020 - Benet Retreat House, Rock Island

- Will include a Deacon Council Meeting

Deacon and Priest Ordination - Saturday June 6, 10:00 AM at Sacred Heart Cathedral

- Deacon family social gathering after

Virtual Deacon Council Meeting - July 12, 2020

Fall Deacon Convocation

The 2019 Fall Convocation was held 19-20 October. 21 deacons and 11 deacon wives attended.

Dr. Matthew Coomber presented: *Old Testament: Marginalized People and What It Tells Deacons How to Serve*. It aligned well with Vision 20/20 and evangelizing to the people on the periphery of our society.

To read more about the Convocation, go to the Catholic Messenger article at: <http://www.catholicmessenger.net/2019/10/deacon-convocation-2019-deacons-gain-inspiration-from-old-testament-study/>

Plan to attend the 2020 Convocation

Planning for the Fall Deacon Convocation has begun. Several deacons have asked to learn more about Spiritual Direction. We have all been asked to visit with people who have a problem or issue they are dealing with. Your conversation with them is partly pastoral care, and partly spiritual direction. How do you best handle these conversations? How do you do spiritual direction, even in these ad hoc conversations? Do you ever second-guess afterward, and wonder if you handled it the best way?

The Fall Convocation will focus on Spiritual Direction, for our own spiritual development, and providing information for handling the conversations that come up. It will also help us know how to work with our own Spiritual Directors to get the most out of those meetings.

More information will be available by Spring 2020.

Deacon Council Elections

Officer elections were held at the October Council meeting. Officers for the next 2 years are:

- President: Chuck Metzger
- Vice-President: Dan Freeman
- Treasurer: Chris Kabat
- Secretary: Joe Welter

All offices are two-year terms,

The Vice-President accepts the role of President after two years.



Saints Stephen and Phoebe Deacon Council

All deacons, deacon wives, and deacon widows are invited to the Deacon Council meeting to be held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, January 14. The meeting is virtual; a phone number and video-conference number will be sent to you prior to the meeting. All members in the Quad City Area are invited to attend in person at the Chancery; members in other areas are encouraged to gather and call in together.

To join the video conference, go to: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/856163677>

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/856163677>

You can also dial in to audio-only, using your phone.

Phone: 646-749-3112 Access Code: 856-163-677

The agenda will include new business topics of:

- A proposal to gather socially as a diaconate 4 times per year
- A proposal to create a standing committee for diaconate social gathering planning
- A proposal to establish Deanery Representatives within the Deacon Council. See the box immediately below for details.
- A proposal to create a standing committee for communication and outreach
- A Rural Catholic Life proposal to go and offer blessings and prayers or homes, farms, equipment, livestock, etc., and have deacons support parishes without deacons, at priest request.

Deacon Council Deanery Representatives

A proposal will be made at the January Deacon Council meeting to establish Deanery representatives in the Council. The responsibility of the deanery rep will be:

- Plan and organize social events periodically within the deanery
- Check on deacon families periodically to monitor health and other needs
- Communicate to Deacon Director and Outreach Committee when a family is in need of help or prayer
- Share best practices with other deanery reps

Congratulations John Jacobsen

Effective 1 January, John Jacobsen has been assigned as Diocesan Chaplain for Scouting. In this role, John is a member of the Diocesan Committee for Scouting, and will provide faith leadership and recognition across the diocese.

Congratulations John!!

Welcome Deacon Matt Levy

Please join me in welcoming Deacon Matt Levy, and his wife Lisa, to the diocese. Matt comes to us from the Peoria Diocese and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Silvis, Illinois.

Lisa and Matt live in LeClaire. Matt has been assigned to Our Lady of the River in LeClaire, and Church of the Visitation in Comanche.



Phone Numbers and Email Addresses Needed

To improve communication, especially during a emergency situation, the Diaconate office would like to have email address and cell phone numbers for all Deacons and Deacon Wives. Not everybody has email and/or cell phones, but most do.

The diaconate office has email addresses for all deacons who have email. We started collecting wives' email addresses at the Fall Convocation, but many are not yet known.

Phone numbers for active deacons are listed in the Diocese Directory, but many are not identified as home number or cell number. We do not know cell phone numbers for all deacons, and we don't have cell phone numbers for any deacon wives.

If you have not already, please send in your email addresses and cell phone numbers so we can contact you when a situation arises. Simply reply to the email with this newsletter, or send it to: Snyder@davenportdiocese.org

Please identify the name of the person and whether the phone number is a land line or cell phone.

Thank you

How are you doing?

Please let us know if you have any needs; either for prayer or otherwise.

Call Mike Snyder at 563-726-5426, or send email to: snyder@davenportdiocese.org

Save the Date!

All deacon families will gather socially after the Chrism Mass.

The Chrism Mass is at 2:30 PM on Monday April 6, 2020

Time and location to be announced

Save the Date!

Spring Deacon Retreat April 25-26, 2020

For Deacons and Wives

Held at the Benet Retreat House, Rock Island, IL

Save the Date!

All deacon families will gather socially after the Ordination.

The Ordination is 10:00 AM on Saturday, June 6, 2020

Time and location to be announced