



El Diácono



January 2026

A Newsletter for the Deacons of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Issue 52E

“COME NOW,
LET US SETTLE
THE MATTER,”

says the Lord.

"THOUGH YOUR SINS ARE
LIKE SCARLET, THEY SHALL
BE AS WHITE AS SNOW;
THOUGH THEY ARE RED
AS CRIMSON, THEY SHALL
BE LIKE WOOL."

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV



Every year has its good and bad moments. I prefer to dwell more on the positive – 14 new deacons were ordained in 2025 – which was also a Jubilee year; we had a successful in-service on homiletics; and the retreat was, at least in the opinion of those who completed an evaluation, an overwhelming success. Perhaps one of the key highlights was that the Rebuild My Church campaign concluded with the promulgation of a new pastoral plan.

Could we have done better? Of course! But every New Year brings the promise of starting over – of renewal. The theme of renewal is no stranger to Christians who are called constantly to repent and reform our lives. At least the pastoral plan gives us some direction for that renewal.

It will take some time to digest exactly how this plan will move our church forward, especially as our Archbishop has submitted his letter of retirement. The Deacon Council and the Deacon Formation Curriculum and Policy Board will both be looking to the plan for guidance, as will the Office of Deacons.

This edition of the *El Diácono* has tons of information and some new features!

- ♦ Date for the Deacon Retreat 2026
- ♦ Deacon In-services
- ♦ Continuing education report
- ♦ Spring birthdays (new)
- ♦ Deacon Council Roster update
- ♦ Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week in Santa Fe (new)
- ♦ Lenten Scripture resource (new)

My hope is that our deacon community will continue to have an impact on the growth of our Church by leading many souls to conversion through our ministry.

May 2026 be an enriching time for you and your families!

Dcn. Keith Davis

Director, Office of Deacons



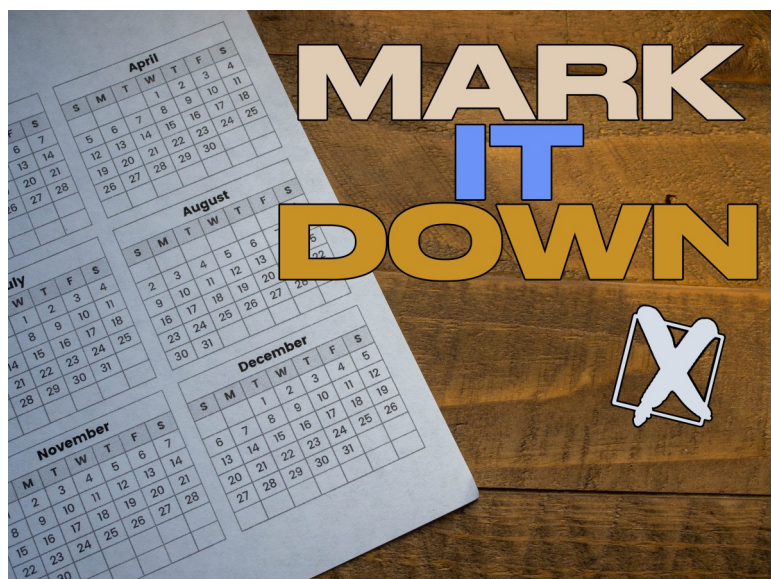


2025 Deacon Community Retreat Evaluations

Almost half (96) of those who attended the retreat this past October completed an evaluation form. **Thank you!!!**

Here is what they said:

- ⇒ 70% were okay with the art and environment
- ⇒ 79% enjoyed the spiritual aspects of the retreat
- ⇒ 80% said that the meals were satisfactory
- ⇒ 81% liked the speakers and 88% liked the theme
- ⇒ 81% liked the venue
- ⇒ 84% thought the music was good
- ⇒ 85% were happy with the publicity
- ⇒ 86% enjoyed the hospitality
- ⇒ 86% were happy with the liturgies



THE **2026** DEACON COMMUNITY
RETREAT DATES ARE:

SEPTEMBER 18-20

Sheraton Airport Hotel

Retreat Master: **Dcn. Scott Dodge**

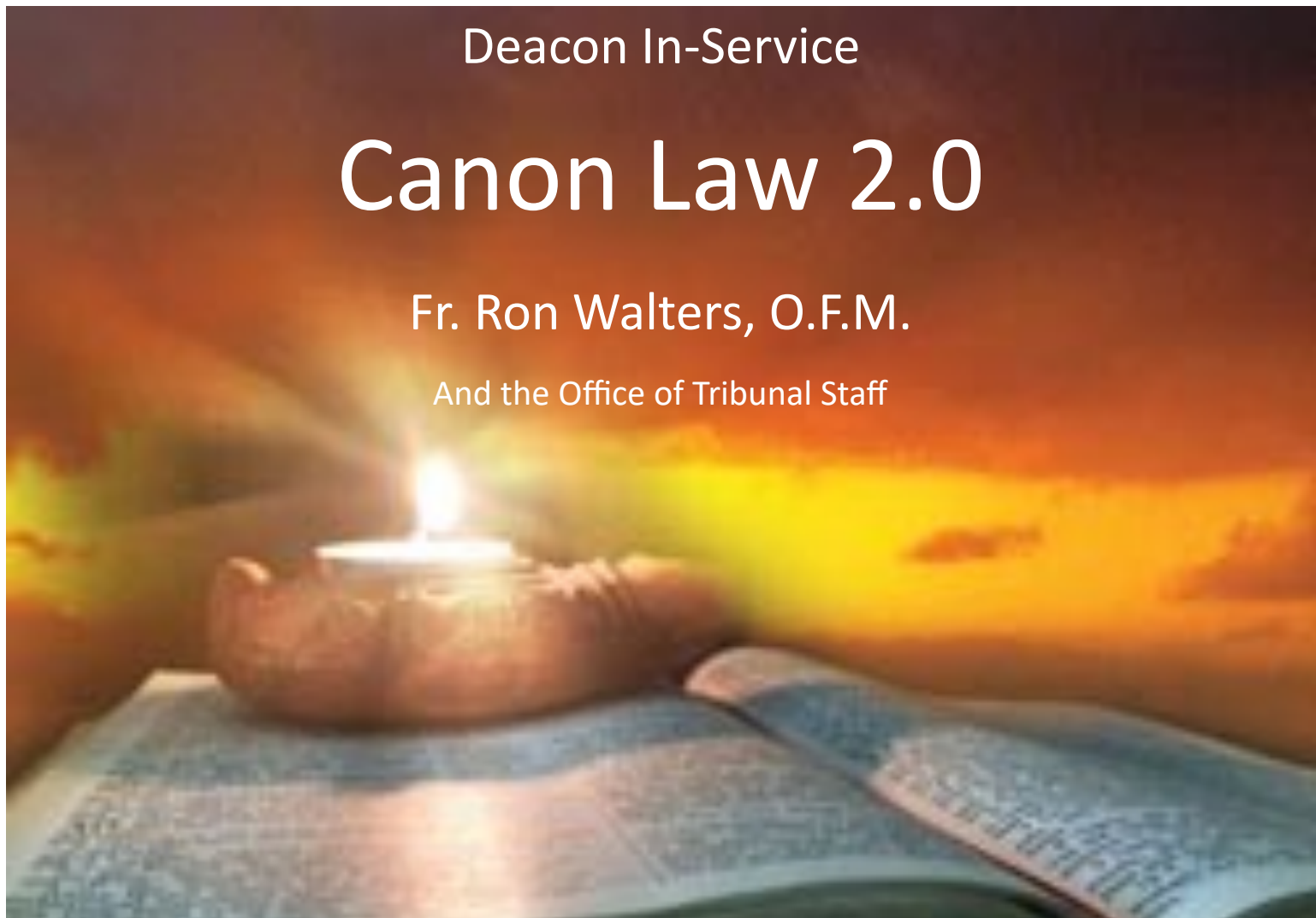
If you would like to be a part of planning this year's retreat, contact the deacon office.

Deacon In-Service

Canon Law 2.0

Fr. Ron Walters, O.F.M.

And the Office of Tribunal Staff



Two Sessions!

Choose One or Both

Saturday, January 31, 9am to 3pm

Marriage Basics



Casa Guadalupe Friary

1204 Stinson Rd. SW, Albuquerque

Saturday, March 7, 9am to 3pm

Marriage Cases and Other Sacramental Issues

[CLICK HERE](#) to register online

Participation is limited, so register soon!



BIBLE READING PLAN: *From Death to Life*

During Lent, Christians observe 40 days of confession, prayer and renewal. Just as our Savior fasted and faced temptation in the desert for 40 days, we use this season to grow our faith and prepare to minister.

Use this Bible Reading Plan to follow Jesus to the cross and then rejoice at his empty tomb on Easter. Travel through Scripture to reflect on who Jesus is and what he lovingly endured to give us life.



The Dry Desert

- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 [Ash Wednesday]
- Genesis 3
- Psalm 63:1-8
- Matthew 4:1-11
- Sunday: Hebrews 4:14-16



Hope on the Horizon

- Numbers 21:4-9
- 2 Samuel 7:1-16
- Job 19:23-27
- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Daniel 7:13-14
- Zechariah 9:9-17
- Sunday: Romans 8:22-30



Our Sacrificial Lamb

- Genesis 22:1-18
- Exodus 12:1-17
- Psalm 23
- John 1:1-34
- John 10:1-18
- 1 Peter 1:18-23
- Sunday: Revelation 5



Hatred & Persecution

- Psalm 22
- Jeremiah 20:7-13
- Matthew 24:1-31
- John 11:45-57
- John 15:18-25
- 2 Timothy 3:10-17
- Sunday: 2 Corinthians 4



Hosannas for a King

- Psalm 24:7-10
- Jeremiah 23:5-6
- Matthew 21:1-11
- John 18:33-40
- John 19:1-16
- Hebrews 1:1-12
- Sunday: Revelation 7:9-17



Journey to the Cross

- John 2:13-22
- Mark 14:1-11
- John 13:1-17
- Matthew 26:26-30
- Luke 22:39-46
- Mark 14:27-31, 66-72
- Palm Sunday: Ephesians 1:18-23



Victory Through Christ

- Isaiah 53
- Matthew 26:47-56
- Mark 15:16-20
- John 6:47-58 [Maundy Thursday]
- Matthew 27:32-54 [Good Friday]
- Psalm 16:5-11 [Holy Saturday]
- Easter Sunday: Luke 24:1-8;
- 1 Corinthians 15:47-57

Note: Sundays, known as "mini-Easters," are excluded from Lent's 40 days. But this reading plan includes verses for each day from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday.



Deacon Formation

We Need More Deacons!

If you know of a man who you think would make a good deacon, feel free to discuss this with him and have him contact the Deacon Office. Better yet, he can fill out an information form at this link: <https://form.jotform.com/kdavis5430/inquirercontact>



This new endowment through the Catholic Foundation, will support our deacon formation program. Your generosity will help to support this important work and enable the formation team to provide better formation. You can donate online by [CLICKING HERE](#).

New Formation Team Member



Welcome to **Dee Hernandez**, wife of Dcn. Lou Hernandez (St. Charles Borromeo, ABQ) who joins the Deacon Formation Team as Coordinator of the Wives and Families in formation.

She will collaborate with the other members of our team (Dcn. Keith Davis, Dcn. Doug Feery, Dcn. Tony Rivera and Fr. Chris Hallada) to ensure that the Deacon Formation Program holistically meets the needs of those aspiring to the permanent diaconate.

Upcoming Formation Schedule

January 9-10	Personal Prayer in the Life of a Deacon: Fr. Chris Hallada St. John XXIII, ABQ
January 24	Perspectives on Family and Marriage: Formation Board Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, ABQ
February 6-7	Scripture Study for Homiletics: Dcn. Bernard Ela St. John XXIII, ABQ
February 20-21	Introduction to the Social Teachings of the Church: Bernadette Zamora Catholic Pastoral Center
March 13-14	Preparation of the Homily: Dcn. Bernard Ela St. John XXIII, ABQ
March 20-21	Encountering Christ in the Other: Dcn. Robert Vigil Catholic Pastoral Center

2028 Cohort

2030 Cohort



Copies of this poster are available in both English and Spanish at the Deacon Office. Contact Yolanda if you would like one for your parish. They will also be available at the deacon in-services on January 31 and March 7.

Post Ordination Formation

“There are particular matters relevant to the newly ordained. It is important, therefore, that the newly ordained begin their ministry in a positive and supportive manner. A program is to be planned for the first five years of their ministry ...” (National Directory for the Formation and Life of Permanent Deacons in the U.S.)

2026 Post Ordination Dates for those ordained in 2023 and 2025 (stay tuned for details):

May 9

August 29



It's time to Report Your Continuing Education Hours!

Each year, deacons are asked to submit the hours they achieved in their continuing education and spiritual formation. Each permanent deacon who is granted faculties to function within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe is expected to complete a minimum of forty hours of continuing education each year. Hours of continuing education are determined on the basis of clock time actually spent in attending formal classes, lectures, seminars, and workshops on academic subjects related to the personal development of the deacon as an ordained minister. Newly ordained deacons must participate in their own formation as part of this requirement. Deacons are also expected to participate in an annual retreat.

Use this link to report your form, or download the form from the deacon website.

<https://form.jotform.com/kdavis5430/continuing-education-report-form>



Praise to You, Christ, Our Hope!

Diverse Ministries, Rebuilding our Church

¡Te alabamos, Cristo, nuestra esperanza!

Ministerios diversos, reconstruyendo nuestra Iglesia

64th Study Week
February 10–13, 2026
Santa Fe, New Mexico



Southwest
LITURGICAL
Conference

The **Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week** is coming to Santa Fe on February 10-13, 2026. This is an incredible opportunity to encounter some of the best in liturgy! [CLICK HERE](#) for information and to register.

Keynotes:

- ♦ Archbishop John C. Wester
- ♦ Ken Griesemer
- ♦ Carmen Florez-Mansi
- ♦ Dr. Dolores Martinez

Several workshop tracks will be offered:

- ♦ Liturgical Music
- ♦ Liturgical Architecture
- ♦ Liturgical Music
- ♦ Ministry and Evangelization
- ♦ Spanish

Translators

Needed

The Deacon Office is looking for help in ensuring that the materials from the office are translated into Spanish effectively. If you are bilingual and have an hour or two per month to review newsletters and other published materials produced by the Deacon Office, please contact Dcn. Keith at the Deacon Office.



ST. NORBERT COLLEGE

Master of Theological Studies

St. Norbert College, in cooperation with the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry, offers a professional degree for pastoral ministry for students in New Mexico and neighboring states. The MTS degree grounds students in the Christian tradition as a base from which to address the changing realities of parishes and congregations. Classes are offered (online) Friday evenings and Saturdays for maximum flexibility.

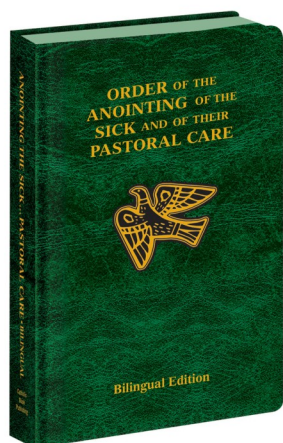
FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE

You may be eligible for reduced tuition!

For more information on the St. Norbert MTS Program

[CLICK HERE.](#)

NEW RITUAL BOOK!!!



The Pastoral Care of the Sick ritual book has been revised. The new editions are now available through several publishers (Liturgical Press, Catholic Book Publishing Company, Liturgical Training Publications, among others). Bilingual editions are available as well.

If you visit the sick, this is the book you will need. Be ready for a hit on the budget. Online prices start at \$25 plus shipping. Check with your local Catholic book store for discounted prices.



DEACON BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY THROUGH MARCH

JANUARY

2 Robert Morrow
5 Tom Baca
5 Reyes Sanchez
8 Mark Leonard
8 Jerry Griego
10 Gonzalo Calderon
10 Bert Dohle
13 Eloy Roybal
13 Doug Feery
16 Donald Cupps
16 Robert Burkhard
18 James Delgado
18 Edgar Torres Sr.
18 Jim Snell
21 Leroy Sanchez
21 Lloyd Garley
21 Louis Hernandez
22 David Little
23 Michael Irving
25 Jerry Quintana
26 Terry Palmer
30 William Barry

FEBRUARY

1 Manuel Trujillo
1 Paul Benoit
2 Alex Trujillo
2 Gabriel Romero
3 Robert Welch
3 James Owens
4 Eddie Blea
4 Chris Martinez
5 George Valverde
5 Juan Cabrera
8 Angel Rivera
8 Kiko Martinez
12 Frank Perez
13 Keith Davis
14 Donald Martinez
14 Andrew Hadcock
16 Manuel Montoya
17 Constantino Avalos-Sanchez
18 Jerry Pierce
22 Rafael Aragon
23 Tom Burns

FEBRUARY, Cont.

26 Nestor Garcia
28 Juan Lucero

MARCH

2 Edward Olona
3 Tom Stith
4 John Krepps
7 Roger Anaya
9 Phillip Kahle
12 Eugene Padilla
13 Mark Marvin Marquez
13 Lincoln Richey
14 Joe Silva
19 Gabriel Pacheco
19 Cresencio Salinas
20 Michael Rowley
21 Dominic Valencia
22 Frank Smith
23 John Sutton
23 Larry Cleveland
29 Richard Roybal





St. Stephen Fund



This fund is established according to the Archdioceses of Santa Fe Deacon Council by-laws and constitution. It is an approved fund for the designated purpose of giving financial assistance to Permanent Deacons and/or their wives. The St. Stephen Fund is intended to be temporary assistance during a time of crisis or when grave financial need has been identified. Assistance from the fund is intended to be a one-time gift, but under certain circumstances the St Stephen Fund Committee may decide to help on more than one occasion. The Permanent Deacon or widow requesting assistance must complete a Request for [ASSISTANCE FORM](#) (on-line) or contact the Deacon Office.

Direct Contributions

You can now make direct contributions to the St Stephen's Fund through the link below.

<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=Twwtgk>

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.



VIRTUS[®]Online

Just a reminder that all deacons must remain in compliance with the Archdiocesan Call to Protect protocols, including keeping current (every five years) with your VIRTUS training. If you are not certain if you are in compliance, you can look it up at the link below, or contact Yolanda at the Deacon Office.

[English Virtus Link](#)

[Spanish Virtus Link](#)

The Office of Deacons would like to thank you for your ministry to the Church, The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and to the many services provided to the people of God and the entire community. May God Bless you abundantly!



Upcoming Archdiocesan Liturgical Events

Rite of Election and Continuing Conversion:

Thursday, February 19—Albuquerque (time and location, TBA)

Saturday, February 21— Clovis (time and location, TBA)

Sunday, February 22— Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe

Chrism Mass:

Thursday, March 26, 5pm—Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe

Roster of Representatives to the Deacon Council

Chair	Dcn. John Cordova (SMDLP, Santa Fe)
Co-chair	Dcn. Michael Illerbrun (Nativity, Albuquerque)
Secretary	Dcn. Jeff Schaff (St. Thomas Aquinas, Rio Rancho)
Santa Fe Deanery	Dcn. Michael Salazar (San Isidro, Santa Fe)
Albuquerque A Deanery	Dcn. Ed Leyba (St. Thomas Aquinas, Rio Rancho)
Albuquerque B Deanery	Dcn. Lou Hernandez (St. Charles Borromeo, ABQ)
Albuquerque C Deanery	Dcn. Leon Jones (Ascension, ABQ)
Northwest Deanery	Dcn. Alex Valdez (Sacred Heart, Espanola)
Northeast Deanery	Dcn. Chris Torres (Immaculate Conception, Las Vegas)
Southwest Deanery	Dcn. Chris Martinez (Immaculate Conception, Tome)
Southeast Deanery	Dcn. Paul Benoit (St. Helen, Portales)
Newly Ordained Rep	Dcn. Jerry Griego, (San Miguel, Socorro)
Senior Deacon Rep	Vacant
Deacon Wives Rep	Melissa Cole (Nativity, ABQ)
Deacon Wives Rep	Esther Cordova (SMDLP, SF)
Deacon Wives Rep	Vacant

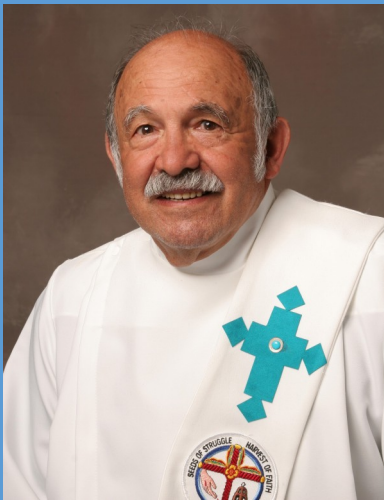


Ex-Officio

Archbishop John Wester
Deacon Keith Davis
Kathy O'Neill (Deacon Widows Rep)

If you have a topic or question for the Deacon Council, contact Dcn. John Cordova: Cell: 505-780-4073

Email: cordovajohne@yahoo.com



Rest in Peace

Deacon Donald Martinez

Born: June 20, 1937

Ordained: May 30, 1987

Died: December 18, 2025

Wife: Celina

Parish of Service: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Taos

January

- 3 Dcn. Fabian Garcia 2005
- Dcn. Desiderio Luna 2011
- 4 Dcn. Gilbert Valverde 2012
- 5 Dcn. Diego Herrera 2021
- 11 Dcn. Robert Paiz 2003
- 18 Dcn. Gregorio Henderson 2024
- 19 Dcn. Juan Andy Dimas 2023
- 20 Dcn. Alexander Elsberg 2011
- 30 Dcn. Esequiel Torres 2007
- Dcn. Benjamin Lopez 2008

February

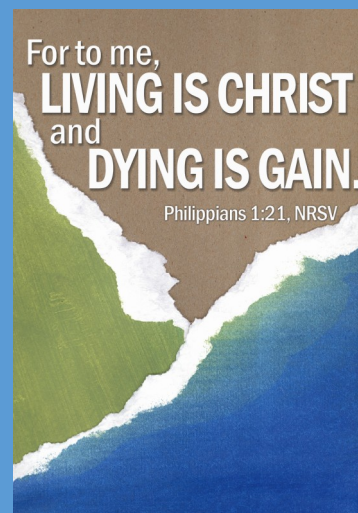
- 1 Dcn. Frank Lovato 2005
- 7 Dcn. Donald Bruckner 2016
- 9 Dcn. Alberto Sandoval 2006
- 10 Dcn. Salvador Nuñez 1997
- 13 Dcn. John H. Tourville 2004
- 14 Dcn. Oswaldo Montoya 1999
- 25 Dcn. Robert Contreras 2015
- 26 Dcn. John Patrick Kneafsey 2006
- Dcn. Patrick DeLozier 2016

26 Dcn. Alfred Gilbert 2006

March

- 1 Dcn. Joe Black 2003
- 18 Dcn. Robert Villarreal 2018
- 19 Dcn. Raymond Gonzales 2000
- 22 Dcn. Alfred McLane 2014
- 25 Dcn. Julian Padilla 2005
- 29 Dcn. Raymond J. Bouffard 1997
- 31 Dcn. Rene Greivel 2020

Please Pray for our Deceased Deacons!





The Deacon Personnel Board assists deacons looking for a change in their assignment as well as helping parishes that need a deacon. If you are looking to change assignments, please contact the Deacon Office to be placed on the agenda. Your request must be in writing (an email will suffice).

If your parish is in need of another deacon, your pastor must request this in writing. The Personnel Board also can help with retirements and leaves of absence.

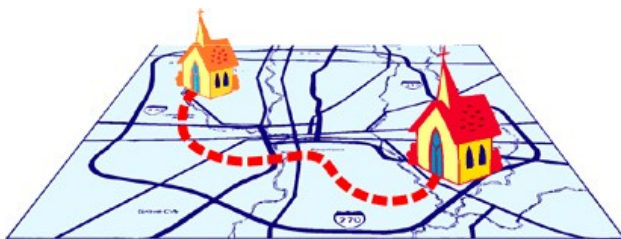
Parishes Requesting a Deacon

The following parishes have requested a deacon. If you are interested in transferring, please contact the deacon office in writing (email is fine).

- ♦ St. Francis Xavier (ABQ) (Spanish speaking)
- ♦ Queen of Heaven (ABQ)
- ♦ Sangre de Cristo (ABQ)
- ♦ San Ysidro (Corrales)

Transfer procedures:

If you would like to transfer from your current assignment, please contact the Office of Deacons. Requests must be submitted in writing before they can be acted on. Once the office has received your request, and a new assignment location has been agreed to, both your current pastor and the pastor of the parish of your new assignment will also be required to submit letters. Once this is accomplished, the Archbishop will make the final decision and issue a letter with the change of assignment.



Parish Transfers



Black Tie &
BLUE JEANS GALA

Sheraton Uptown Albuquerque
2600 Louisiana Blvd NE
Friday, January 23, 2026

Reception 5:30pm - Silent Auction - Dinner/Dance 6:30 pm

CELEBRATING THE STARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Join us in honoring some of the remarkable individuals who have made a lasting difference in our Catholic schools. Together, we can make a difference and strengthen the promise of Catholic education.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET—\$150.00

Table of 10—\$1,500.00

Visit the Catholic Schools website:

<https://www.asfcatholicschools.org/2025-archbishops-school-fund-dinner>

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GENEROUS DONATIONS, YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION WILL MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON OUR STUDENTS AND THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THEY REPRESENT.



No to Women Deacons

Last month, a committee appointed by the Vatican rejected the notion of ordaining women to the permanent diaconate in a report presented to Pope Leo. The recommendation still offers a possibility for women to be ordained, but requires, according to the committee, an examination on doctrinal grounds. Two American deacons were part of the committee (Dcn. Dominic Cerrato and Dcn. James Keating). For a good summary of the issue, see this article in America Magazine:

<https://www.americamagazine.org/explainer/2025/12/12/vatican-women-deacons-commission-report/>



Solemnities, Feasts and Memorials October through December

January

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- 2 Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
- 4 Solemnity of the Epiphany
- 5 St. John Neumann, Bishop
- 6 St. André Bissette, Religious
- 7 St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
- 11 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- 13 St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- 17 St. Anthony, Abbot
- 19 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 20 Sts. Fabian (Pope and Martyr) and Sebastian (Martyr)
- 21 St. Agnes (Virgin & Martyr)
- 22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- 23 St. Vincent (Deacon & Martyr), St. Marianne Cope (Virgin)
- 24 St. Francis de Sales (Bishop & Doctor of the Church)
- 26 Sts. Timonhy & Titus (Bishops)
- 27 St. Angela Merici (Virgin)
- 28 St. Thomas Aquinas (Priest & Doctor of the Church)
- 31 St. John Bosco (Priest)

February

- 2 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
- 3 St. Blaise (Bishop & Martyr)
- 3 St. Ansgar (Bishop)
- 5 St. Agatha (Virgin & Martyr)
- 6 St. Paul Miki & Companions (Martyrs)
- 10 St. Scholastica (Virgin)
- 11 Our Lady of Lourdes
- 14 Sts. Cyril (Monk) & Methodius (Bishop)
- 17 The Seven Founders of the Servite Order
- 18 ASH WEDNESDAY
- 23 St. Polycarp (Bishop & Martyr)

February (Continued)

- 27 St. Gregory of Narek (Abbot and Doctor of the Church)

March

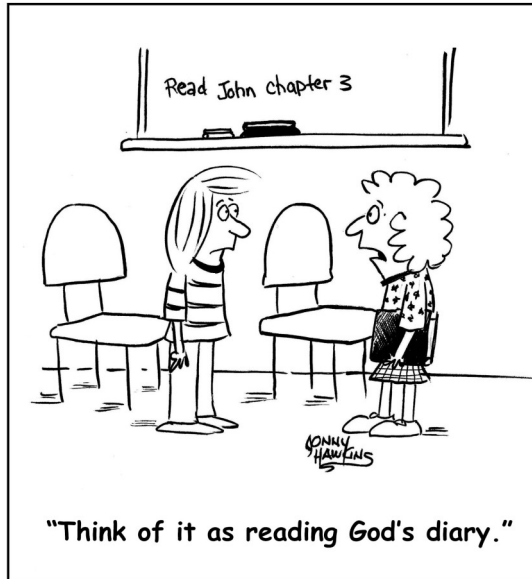
- 3 St. Katharine Drexel (Virgin)
- 7 St. Perpetua & Felicity (Martyrs)
- 9 St. Frances of Rome
- 17 St. Patrick (Bishop)
- 18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem (Bishop & Doctor of the Church)
- 19 Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 23 St. Turibius of Mogrovejo (Bishop)
- 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
- 29 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

St. Patrick's Day





Just for Fun!

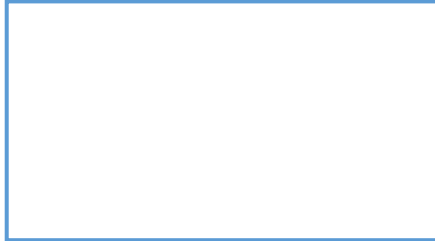
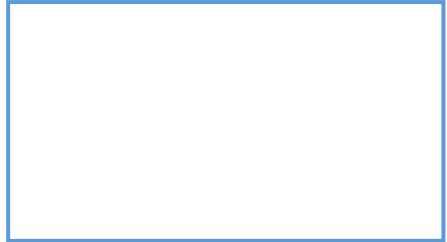
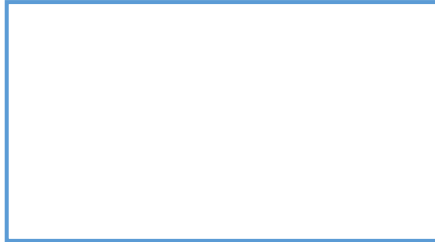


Deacons: Update your contact information. If your personal contact information has changed, please inform the Deacon Office. This helps facilitate communication between you, the Deacon Community and the Archdiocese. Contact Yolanda Lovato at 505-831-8246 or by email at ylovato@asfnm.org

NOTE

Keep in mind if there is any information you would like to include in the El Diácono Newsletter that would be of interest to the Deacon Community, i.e., special events, accomplishments, ministry work, etc., please inform the Deacon Office and we will be happy to announce it. With the publication of this newsletter, we will be especially looking for events in the April through June 2026 time frame with a submission deadline of March 5, 2026 to the Director of the Office of Deacons.

**Advertising Spaces available:
Contact the Diaconate Office if
you would like to Advertise
your business here.**



**Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of the Diaconate
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