

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Most Reverend John E. Keehner

DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY 1821 Jackson Street, Sioux City, IA 51105 (712) 233-7555

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My dear Brother Deacons,

With this most current publication, I am pleased to formally approve our Diocese of Sioux City Deacon Handbook effective immediately. I especially want to thank Father Brent Lingle, Deacon David Penton and Father David Esquiliano for developing, reviewing, refining, and compiling the attached documents, all of which I have examined in detail.

With the creation of these documents, we continue to move our deacon program into compliance with the <u>National Directory for the Formation</u>, <u>Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons</u>, paving the way for quality diaconate service well into the future.

The role of the permanent diaconate is of critical importance going forward as collectively we strive to serve our people; the 85,000 Roman Catholics spread across the 24 counties which make up the Diocese of Sioux City.

I am so grateful for the blessing of the men who serve in the diaconate. Please know of my prayers for you, your wives, and your families. St. Stephen, pray for us!

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John E. Keehner

Bishop of Sioux City

Deacon Mark Prosser

Chancellor