

The Herald

A Newsletter of Diaconal Ministries



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Editor's Corner

Over the years I've come to see more clearly how deeply the Church needs strong support for the vocation of the permanent diaconate. Diaconal Ministries grew out of that conviction. Its purpose is simple but important: to help deacons deepen their relationship with Christ the Servant so that their ministry flows from a living interior life.

The various initiatives within Diaconal Ministries are meant to lift up the diaconate and encourage deacons to grow more deeply into the grace they have received. In other words, the goal is to challenge and support deacons in becoming ever more fully who they are in Christ Jesus, servants shaped by prayer, fidelity to the Church, and generous charity toward the People of God.

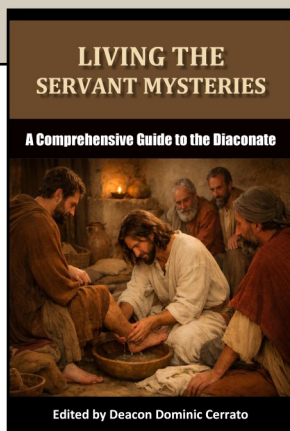
That's where The Herald comes in. Think of this newsletter as a simple way for us to stay connected. Each edition will notify you when new podcasts, reflections, blog posts, and other resources become available. All of this is offered freely so that our Lord may be glorified in all things, and in a particular way through the ministry of His holy diaconate.

In Jesus and Mary,

Deacon Dom

[Subscribe](#)

Coming Soon



The First Comprehensive Textbook on the Diaconate

SPRING 2026 *Living the Servant Mysteries* is a comprehensive eighteen-chapter textbook, written in collaboration with twelve contributing authors, that presents a deeply integrated vision of the diaconate, moving beyond pastoral technique to the very heart of the vocation itself.

[Learn More](#)



From the Heart of a Deacon

In this column, I speak to you, personally, sharing a brief reflection born of prayer, ministry, and the daily desire to remain close to Christ our Lord. In the end, I am simply one poor beggar sharing with others where the food is found, passing along the grace I myself have received from the Lord who alone nourishes and sustains our diaconal vocation.

Living the Easter Season As a Deacon

Deacon Dom

The season of Easter invites the entire Church into the joy of the Resurrection. Yet for the deacon this sacred season holds a particular resonance. Ordained not only to serve but to reveal Christ the Servant within the life of the Church, the deacon is called during these fifty days to live and proclaim the victory of the Risen Lord. Easter is therefore not merely the remembrance of an event in salvation history. It is the living presence of Christ who continues His mission through the Church, and in a distinctive way through the ministry of the deacon.

The Resurrection reveals the full meaning of service. Christ who humbled Himself in obedient love, even to death on the Cross, is raised in glory by the Father. As the Apostle Paul writes, “God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name” (Phil 2:9). The Church teaches that the Resurrection confirms all that Christ did and taught and manifests the triumph of divine love over sin and death (CCC 651). For the deacon, this truth illuminates his vocation. Service is not weakness, nor is it mere assistance within the life of the Church. Rather, it is participation in the victorious love of Christ, a love that conquers through self-gift.

To live Easter as a deacon therefore begins, as all authentic ministry does, with the interior life. The joy of the Resurrection must first be received before it can be proclaimed. Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, fidelity to the Liturgy of the Hours, and attentive meditation on the Easter Scriptures allow the deacon to encounter the Risen Lord personally. In these moments of quiet communion, the heart of the servant is renewed. The deacon comes to recognize that the same Christ whom he proclaims in the Gospel and serves at the altar is alive and active within his own life.

From this interior encounter flows the deacon’s ministry of the Word. During the Easter season the Church proclaims the great narratives of the Resurrection and the missionary preaching of the Apostles in the Acts of the Apostles. When the deacon proclaims the Gospel and preaches, he does so not merely as a reader of sacred texts but as a witness to the living Christ. His voice echoes the proclamation of the early Church: “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses” (Acts 2:32). Authentic preaching during Easter radiates hope, inviting the faithful to live as people transformed by the Resurrection.

The altar also reveals the Easter identity of the deacon. In assisting the priest at the Eucharistic sacrifice, the deacon stands at the place where the mystery of the Resurrection becomes sacramentally present. The Eucharist is the memorial of the Lord’s Passion and Resurrection, the sacrament in which the Risen Christ gives Himself as food for His people. The *Catechism* teaches that in the Eucharist “the sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice” (CCC 1367). Each time the deacon prepares the altar, elevates the chalice, or invites the faithful to exchange the sign of peace, he participates in the living mystery of the Resurrection made present in the Church.

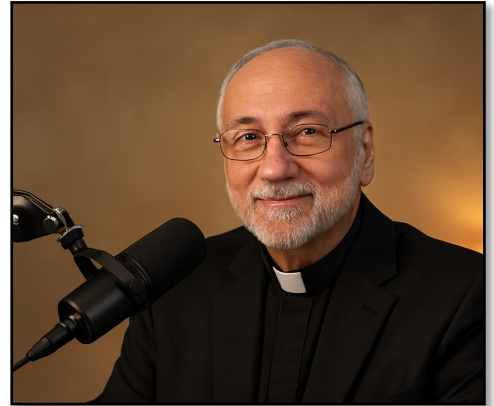
Finally, the deacon lives Easter through his ministry of charity. The Resurrection sends the Church outward in mission. The same Christ who appeared to the disciples also commanded them to proclaim the Gospel to all nations (Mt 28:19). The deacon embodies this missionary impulse in a particular way. His service among the poor, the suffering, and the forgotten becomes a visible sign that the Risen Christ continues to act in the world through the charity of His Church. When the deacon accompanies the lonely, assists the needy, or encourages the discouraged, he becomes a living witness that death does not have the final word.

Video Podcasts

Latest Posting: A Beauty That Wounds

This podcast presents ordination as a sacred wounding in which the deacon is pierced by the beauty of Christ the Servant, drawing him into a deep and abiding communion that transforms his very identity. Through the analogy of spousal love, it shows how this mutual vulnerability shapes authentic diaconal service, uniting the deacon to Christ's own suffering and extending His redemptive love into the world.

[View Podcast](#)



Dom's Blog



Latest Posting: Serving a Searching Generation

This blog post, reflects on an interesting paradox in the life of the Church today. While much is said about secularization and declining religious practice, there are also signs that many young adults, particularly those of Generation Z, are beginning to ask deeper questions about faith and meaning. For deacons, this moment presents a unique pastoral opportunity. Because our ministry unfolds within the ordinary circumstances of life, in workplaces, neighborhoods, hospitals, and parishes, we often meet people precisely where their questions begin to surface.

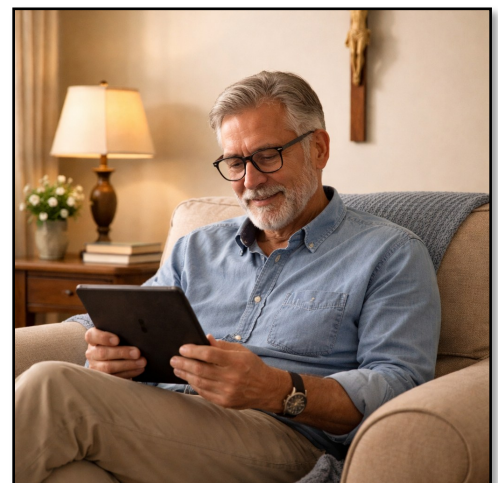
[Visit the Blog](#)

Short Reflections

Meditations on Christ the Servant

These many reflections are drawn from the prayer and pastoral experience of Deacon Dominic, offering brief but penetrating meditations on the mystery of Christ the Servant and the vocation of those called to serve in His name. Rooted in Scripture, and the lived reality of diaconal ministry, they invite the reader into a deeper interior life. In this way, they gently lead the reader to allow that interior communion with the Lord to overflow into concrete acts of charity.

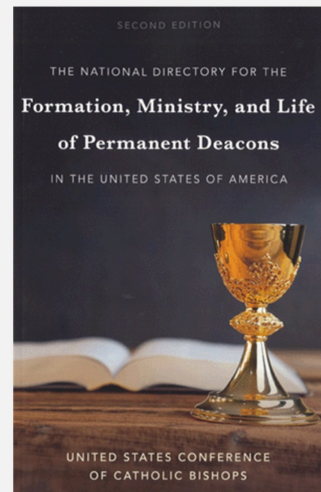
[Read the Reflections](#)



Diocesan Diaconate Directors

Is Your Program Fully Aligned with the National Directory?

The diaconate is not shaped by preference or circumstance, but by the mind of the Church. The National Directory establishes the normative vision for the diaconate, guiding its formation, and mission so that deacons are better prepared to serve the Church.



To Accomplish This,

Diaconal Ministries' AI-Enhanced Evaluation Tool offers a comprehensive, objective assessment of your diocesan diaconate in light of these norms. With clarity and precision for your diocese, you will receive:

- A structured evaluation of your formation and ministry.
- A complete gap analysis.
- A concrete actionable strategic plan
- Confidence that your diaconate reflects the Church's vision

See for yourself what Diaconal Ministries has to offer, visit our website to download full samples of the gap analysis and strategic plan and begin your evaluation today.

[Learn More](#)

Be a Part of Our Ministry

Help Support Us

Your support of Diaconal Ministries makes it possible to strengthen deacons in their identity as servants of Christ and to provide the spiritual, theological, and pastoral resources they need to serve the Church with confidence and charity. By partnering in this mission, you help deepen the interior life of the deacon, renew his ministry, and extend Christ's love to those he is called to serve.



[Learn More](#)

Christ is risen, and you, O death, are annihilated! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life reigns! Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the tomb.

— St. John Chrysostom, Paschal Homily 15:54–57

This ancient homily, still proclaimed in the liturgy of the Eastern Church, captures the universal triumph of the Resurrection.



Upcoming Events

EveryDayDeacon and  DIACONAL MINISTRIES present
Deacons. Become What You Are.

An Online Conference for Catholic Deacons

A Love That Stoops

Encountering Christ the Servant in the Diaconate

[Learn More](#)

JUNE 12-13, 2026



Pope Leo: The Dalmatic & Service



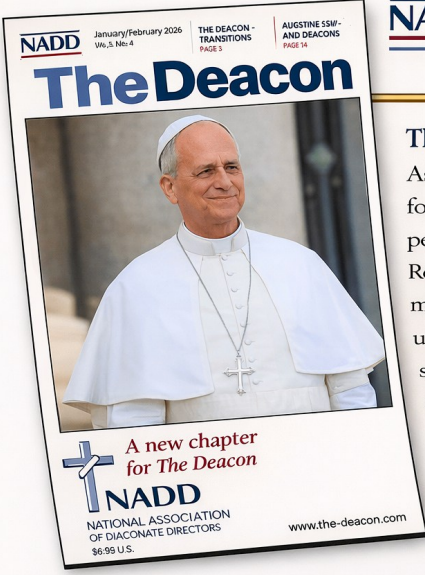
Holy Thursday, 2026

On Holy Thursday, when the Church contemplates Christ bending low to wash the feet of His disciples, the image of Pope Leo XIV vested in the dalmatic becomes a living catechesis on the unity of Holy Orders. The dalmatic, proper to the deacon, is not merely a garment but a sign of service rooted in charity. When worn by the Roman Pontiff, it reveals that the diaconal dimension is not an isolated grade, but the very foundation upon which the entire sacrament rests.

Thus, when the Pope wears the dalmatic, he embodies his ancient title, *Servus servorum Dei*—Servant of the servants of God. In him, the unity of Holy Orders is made visible: authority flowing from charity, governance rooted in humility, and leadership expressed through self-gift. The Church is reminded that every ministry, at its heart, must kneel before it can stand.

Diaconal Resources

The resources highlighted below are not paid advertisements. They reflect organizations, publications, and initiatives with which Deacon Dom has been personally associated or has found beneficial in his ministry. Their inclusion is offered solely



NADD **The Deacon**
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DIACONATE DIRECTORS

January/February 2026
Vol. 3, No. 4

THE DEACON -
TRANSITIONS
PAGE 2

AUGUSTINE 55W-
AND DEACONS
PAGE 14

The Deacon

A new chapter
for *The Deacon*

NADD
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF DIACONATE DIRECTORS
\$6.99 U.S.

www.the-deacon.com

The Deacon magazine, published by the National Association of Diaconate Directors, serves as a vital resource for the spiritual, theological, and pastoral formation of permanent deacons and those in formation for the diaconate. Rooted in the Church's teaching on Holy Orders and the ministry of service, it offers articles that deepen the deacon's understanding of his identity as an icon of Christ the Servant, strengthen his communion with the bishop and presbyterate, and support his mission of charity in the world.

Through reflections, pastoral guidance, and practical resources, **The Deacon** fosters an integrated vision of diaconal life that unites prayer, liturgy, and service, helping deacons live their vocation with clarity, fidelity, and zeal.

[Learn More](#)



Your Partner in Deacon Formation

The Josephinum Diaconate Institute is a trusted partner in forming men for the diaconate. Our flexible and cost-effective online format allows students to study from anywhere, with accredited courses taught by deacons and academic faculty.

Courses are available in English or Spanish, allowing mixed-language cohorts to learn in their preferred language.

We also offer short-format programming for continuing formation in Josephinum Connect! These courses are designed to support the lifelong process of formation for ministry.



**THE JOSEPHINUM
DIACONATE INSTITUTE**

Providing Faithful Formation for Deacons Since 2007



Learn more today at
diaconate.pcj.edu

FORMING MEN OF THE CHURCH FOR THE SACRED ORDER OF SERVICE

CENTER FOR DIACONAL STUDIES

At the heart of *the Church's life* stands the deacon, configured *sacramentally* to Christ the Servant and called to pour himself out in humble charity for the People of God. *The Franciscan Center for Diaconal Studies* forms men for this sacred ministry through a deeply integrated vision of *intellectual, spiritual, pastoral, and human formation*, drawing each deacon into an ever-deepening *communion* with the Lord whose love he proclaims in word and service. Rooted in *Scripture, Tradition, and the living Magisterium*, and offering courses for *both diaconal formation and ongoing formation*, this formation equips deacons to serve their bishops, strengthen their parishes, and become living signs of *Christ's self-gift poured out for the life of the world*.



FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY
— of STEUBENVILLE —

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DIACONAL MINISTRIES

Growing in Greater Intimacy
with Christ the Servant



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