

The Herald

A Newsletter of Diaconal Ministries



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Editor's Corner



Subscribe

I hope you're enjoying these summer days and finding at least a little time to slow down, pray, and simply rest in the Lord. This issue of *The Herald* has several things I think you'll find worthwhile. I'm especially excited to introduce *Living the Servant Mysteries: A Comprehensive Guide to the Diaconate*, a new resource centered on helping us grow not simply in what we know about the diaconate, but in who Christ is calling us to become. You'll also find my latest podcast on humility along with a new reflection on celibacy as the gift of an undivided heart. I've also included several resources for formation and ongoing diaconal life that I believe are worth knowing about. As always, my hope is that something in these pages and on the [website](#) will encourage you to draw a little closer to Christ the Servant and, from that encounter, return to your family, parish, and ministry renewed in the joy of serving Him.

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AVAILABLE
NOW

LIVING THE SERVANT MYSTERIES

A Comprehensive Guide to the Diaconate

The first comprehensive resource on the theology, spirituality, identity, formation, and mission of the permanent diaconate.



ROOTED IN CHRIST

Deepen your relationship with Christ the Servant, the source of every diaconal vocation.



CONFIGURED BY ORDINATION

Discover your identity sacramentally rooted in the One who came not to be served but to serve.



SENT FOR MISSION

Be equipped for mission in the Church and the world as One who witness of Christ's servant love.

“

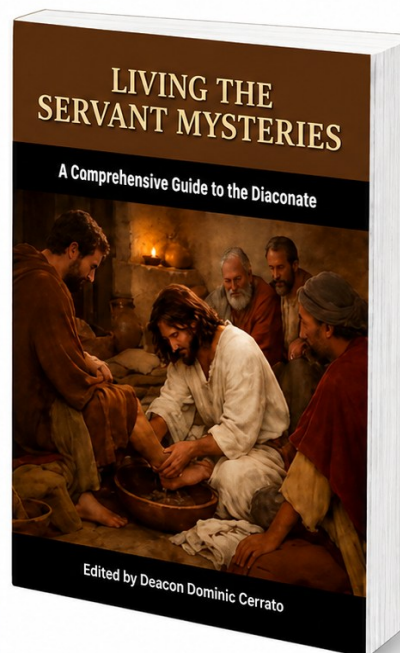
Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant... for the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.

— Mark 10:43-45



FOR DEACONS, CANDIDATES, FORMATORS, CLERGY, AND ALL WHO SEEK TO SERVE.

Authentic ministry flows from sacramental identity, and sacramental identity flows from relationship with Christ.



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IN-DEPTH
CHAPTERS



12

EXPERT
CONTRIBUTORS



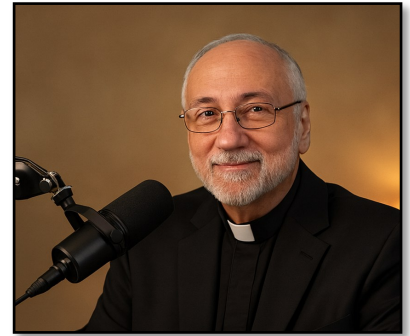
FAITHFUL TO
THE MAGISTERIUM
OF THE CHURCH

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Video Podcasts

The Chair Reserved for You Humility and the Heart of the Servant

In this podcast, we enter Jesus' parable of the wedding feast to confront one of the most subtle obstacles to holiness: the desire to be noticed. True humility isn't simply choosing the lowest seat; it's becoming free from comparison, recognition, and applause so that we can joyfully accept whatever place Christ has prepared for us. For the deacon, this lies at the heart of our vocation: the stole isn't a badge of honor, but a sign that we've been configured to Christ the Servant—the One who kneels, washes feet, embraces the Cross, and gives Himself away in love.

[View Podcast](#)

Short Reflections

Meditations on Christ the Servant

Latest Reflection: *Celibacy: The Gift of an Undivided Heart*

In this reflection, celibacy in the diaconate is explored not primarily in terms of what a man surrenders, but as a deeper invitation to give himself completely to Christ. Whether embraced before ordination or encountered unexpectedly through the death of a beloved wife, celibacy calls the deacon toward an undivided heart—one increasingly free to belong to Christ the Servant and to His people. Through prayer, Eucharistic communion, married love, grief, solitude, and service, even loss can become part of a renewed self-gift. Ultimately, celibacy reveals something essential about the diaconate itself: before service is something we do, it is someone we become, until the whole of our life can become a simple offering to Christ—"I am yours...let it all become a gift."

[Read the Reflections](#)

Be a Part of Our Ministry

Special Appeal

Diaconal Ministries is completely self-supported and receives no financial assistance from any organization. If you like content of the [website](#) and want it to continue, please consider a donation. Even a small amount is appreciated. Thanks,

In Jesus and Mary,

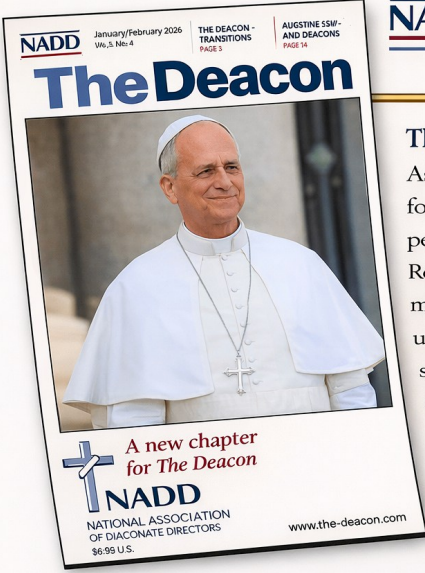
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Diaconal Resources

The resources in this newsletter 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 as a service to deacons seeking faithful, enriching resources for their spiritual and pastoral life.



NADD **TheDeacon**
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DIACONATE DIRECTORS

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 —

[Learn More](#)

EveryDayDeacon

Strengthen Your Ministry, Deepen Your Calling

EveryDayDeacon brings Catholic deacons and their wives together in a vibrant online community for ongoing formation, spiritual growth, meaningful discussion, and mutual support. Grow alongside those who understand your vocation.

[Learn More](#)



SERVANT'S HEART



WHERE CLERGY EMBRACE CHRIST'S HEART FOR LIFE AND FAMILY

Servant's Heart is a pastoral conference series equipping and inspiring deacons and deacon candidates to address, through preaching and pastoral care, the pressing issues facing human life and families.



WE OFFER FORMATION FOR MEN IN DIACONAL FORMATION, CONTINUING EDUCATION, OR RETREATS.

The St. John Paul II Foundation collaborates with each diocese to develop a unique curriculum, schedule, and to select faculty members for every conference that will meet the needs of the clergy and the pastoral initiatives and goals of the diocese through:

- Expert faculty with an appreciation for pastoral situations
- Up-to-date presentations on practical, social, and cultural implications
- Themes, topics, and faculty tailored for the diocese
- Focus on preaching and pastoral care, not partisan politics



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION,
OR VISIT
forlifeandfamily.org/clergy-initiatives/

SAMPLE PRESENTATION TOPICS

- Cohabitation and Marriage Preparation
- Issue of Pornography in Family Life
- Accompanying Homosexual Persons and People Experiencing Gender Dysphoria
- Infertility and Natural Family Planning
- Pastoral Care for the Divorced, Separated, and Remarried
- Pastoral Care for the Sick, Elderly, and Dying