

The Herald

A Newsletter of Diaconal Ministries



Deacon Dominic Cerrato, Ph.D.



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Editor's Corner



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As summer begins to give way to fall, September often brings us back to familiar rhythms—parish programs resume, formation begins again, calendars fill, and ministry seems to gather momentum. In the midst of all that activity, it's worth remembering something very simple: before the Lord calls us to do anything for Him, He calls us to remain with Him. Our ministry is always meant to flow from that relationship.

This issue of The Herald offers several opportunities to return to that center. You'll find new reflections and resources intended not simply to inform our diaconal ministry, but to deepen the interior life from which that ministry must flow. I've also included my latest podcast, along with materials for formation and ongoing diaconal life that I hope will be helpful as we enter another busy season of parish and family life.

Deacon Dom

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.

“

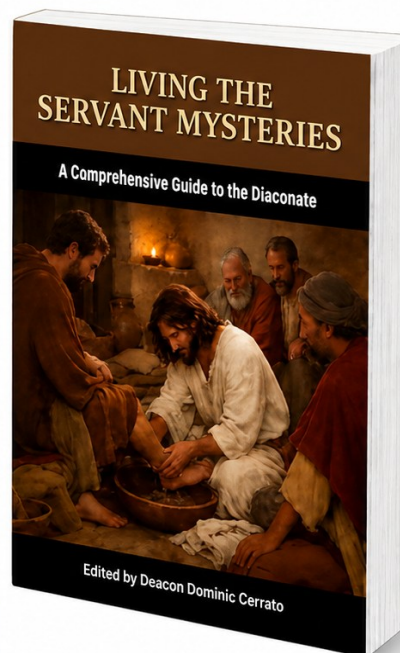
Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant... for the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.

— 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.



18

IN-DEPTH
CHAPTERS



12

EXPERT
CONTRIBUTORS



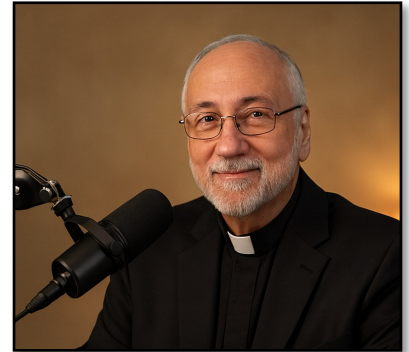
FAITHFUL TO
THE MAGISTERIUM
OF THE CHURCH

Learn More

Video Podcasts

The Cost of the Diaconate When Service Becomes Sacrifice

In this episode of Living the Servant Mysteries, we confront a truth every deacon eventually discovers: service can cost us. Ministry can wound, disappoint, exhaust, and even leave us wondering whether what we do matters at all. But the diaconate is not defined by activity; it is rooted in communion with Christ the Servant. From the basin of Holy Thursday to Gethsemane, Calvary, and finally the empty tomb, this reflection explores how suffering offered to Christ can become sacrifice, how wounds can become places of grace, and how even the hardest moments of ministry can draw the deacon more deeply into the mystery of the One he was ordained to serve. This reflection will help you see the diaconate—and indeed the vocation of every Christian—with renewed eyes, recognizing that authentic greatness in the Church is always found in humble service.

[View Podcast](#)

Short Reflections

Meditations on Christ the Servant

Latest Reflection: *Called to Teach, Sanctify, and Serve*

The diaconate is not defined first by what a deacon does, but by who he has been configured to become in Christ. Through ordination, the deacon receives an indelible sacramental character and is configured to Christ the Servant. From this identity flow the three *munera* (gifts) of teaching, sanctifying, and governing, expressed in a distinctively diaconal way through the ministries of Word, Liturgy, and Charity. These dimensions belong together: the deacon proclaims the Gospel, serves the Church's sacramental life, and exercises pastoral care and charity, especially toward those most in need. The pattern is relationship, identity, and mission: communion with Christ the Servant shapes the deacon's identity, and that identity becomes visible in a life of service.

[Read the Reflections](#)

Be a Part of Our Ministry

Special Prayer Appeal

Diaconal Ministries is entirely self-supported and receives no financial assistance from any diocese, parish, or organization. In the past, voluntary donations helped defray some of the costs of this ministry. Although we have made clear that Diaconal Ministries operates independently, we have been asked to discontinue such appeals because, as the ministry of an ordained deacon, a request for financial support could be perceived as coming from the local diocese.

Out of respect for that concern, I ask instead for your prayers—that the Lord will provide what is needed for Diaconal Ministries to continue its work in service to Christ and His Church. Thanks.

Deacon Dom





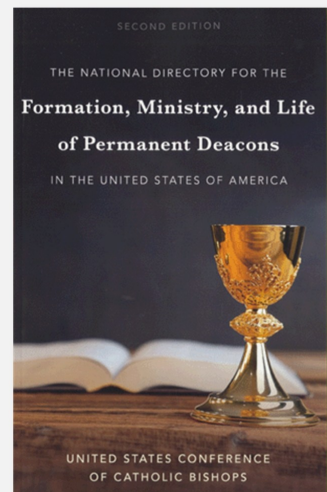
The diaconate is not shaped by preference or circumstance, but by the mind of the Church. The National Directory establishes the normative vision for the diaconate, guiding its formation, and mission so that deacons are better prepared to serve the Church.



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:

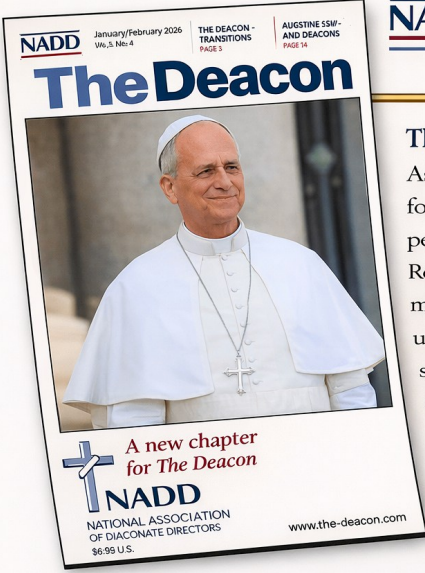
- A structured evaluation of your formation and ministry.
- A complete gap analysis.
- A concrete actionable strategic plan
- Confidence that your diaconate reflects the Church's vision

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.



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