

The Herald

A Newsletter of Diaconal Ministries



Deacon Dominic Cerrato, Ph.D.



Vol. 1-4, June/July 2026

Editor's Corner

Welcome back! Before we begin, let me offer a brief apology for missing our June issue. Over the past several weeks, I have been fully immersed in bringing to publication *Living the Servant Mysteries*, what is, to my knowledge, the first comprehensive textbook devoted to the theology and spirituality of the permanent diaconate (see availability below). It has been a labor of love, and I look forward to sharing more about it in the months ahead.

For those joining us for the first time, welcome to The Herald newsletter. Each month we provide links to a variety of free resources available on the [Diaconal Ministries](#) website, including our monthly video podcast, blog, spiritual reflections, books, presentations, and other materials designed to support deacons, those in formation, clergy, and all who seek to deepen their understanding of Christ the Servant. If you find these resources helpful, I encourage you to invite a friend or fellow deacon to visit the website and subscribe to the newsletter. While a subscription is not required to access these resources, it is the easiest way to stay informed about new content as it becomes available.

Deacon Dom

Subscribe

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.

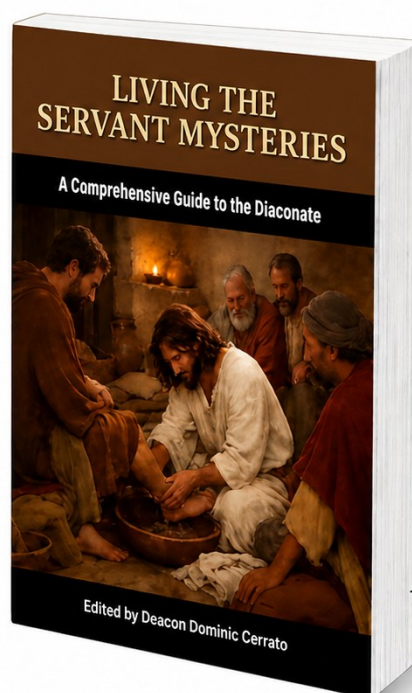
— Mark 10:43-45



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.

Learn More



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IN-DEPTH
CHAPTERS



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EXPERT
CONTRIBUTORS



FAITHFUL TO
THE MAGISTERIUM
OF THE CHURCH

Video Podcasts

More than Numbers

What Growth in the Diaconate May Be Saying to the Church

In this podcast, I invite you to look beyond the remarkable growth of the permanent diaconate since the Second Vatican Council and ask what God may be revealing to the Church through this extraordinary restoration. Together we'll explore how the rapid expansion of the diaconate is not merely a matter of increasing numbers, but a sign of Christ the Servant continuing to shape the Church's mission in our time. My hope is that 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](#)

Dom's Blog

What the SSPX Crisis Can Teach Deacons



The recent actions of the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) have once again drawn attention to the vital relationship between truth, authority, and ecclesial communion within the life of the Church. In this reflection, Deacon Dominic Cerrato moves beyond the headlines to examine the deeper spiritual lessons these events offer those called to the diaconate. Grounded in Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and the theology of Holy Orders, the article explores how a deacon's ministry must always be exercised in humble obedience, fidelity to the Magisterium, and communion with the bishop and the Successor of Peter.

[Visit the Blog](#)

Short Reflections

Meditations on Christ the Servant

Latest Reflection: Stupidity and the Identity of the Diaconate

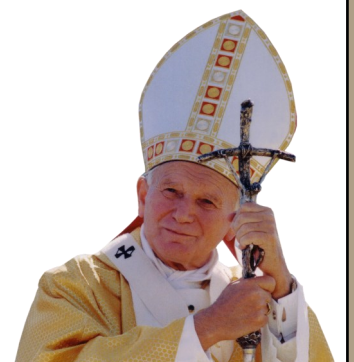
These reflections, drawn from Deacon Dominic's prayer and pastoral experience, offer concise yet penetrating meditations on Christ the Servant and the vocation to serve in His name. Rooted in Scripture and the lived reality of diaconal ministry, they invite a deeper interior life, leading the reader to let communion with the Lord overflow into concrete acts of charity.

[Read the Reflections](#)

Pope John Paul II Address to Permanent Deacons

Ford Auditorium, Detroit, September 19, 1987

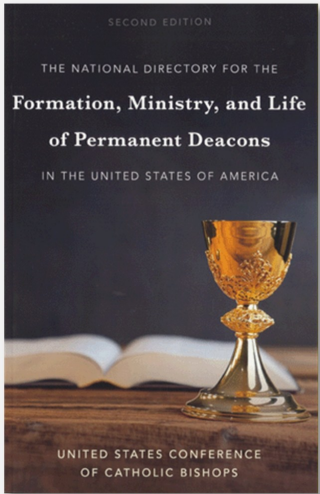
Given the dignity and importance of the permanent diaconate, what is expected of you? As Christians we must not be ashamed to speak of the qualities of a servant to which all believers must aspire, and especially deacons, whose ordination rite describes them as "servants of all". A deacon must be known for fidelity, integrity and obedience, and so it is that fidelity to Christ, moral integrity and obedience to the bishop must mark your lives, as the ordination rite makes clear.

[Learn More](#)

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](#)



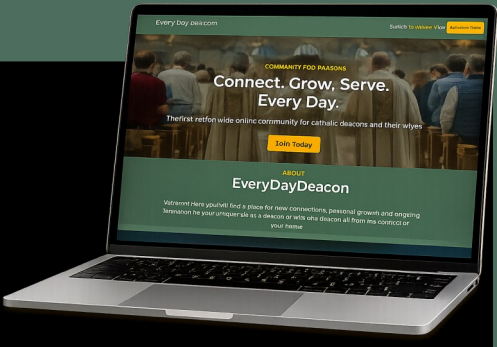
Diaconal Resources

EveryDayDeacon

Strengthen Your Ministry, Deepen Your Calling

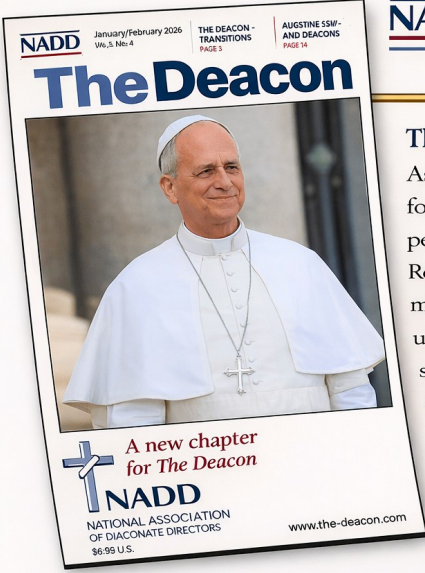
EveryDayDeacon brings Catholic deacons and their wives together in a vibrant online community for ongoing formation, spiritual growth, meaningful discussion, and mutual support. Grow alongside those who understand your vocation.

[Learn More](#)



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](#)

DIACONAL MINISTRIES

Growing in Greater Intimacy
with Christ the Servant



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