

THE *Belleville Deacon*

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS | DIACONATE FORMATION | DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



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Candidates please remember you can find course syllabus, agenda, required books, and other information at St. Meinrad's Student Portal... BLACKBAUD

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reverend Steven M. Pautler

As we transition from summer's warmth into the fall season, it's a time for new beginnings. Vacations have concluded, parish picnics are fond memories, classrooms are sparkling, and summer activities have been neatly packed away for another year. This also marks the exciting start of a new chapter in our vocations journey.

Since the May issue of the Belleville Deacon, the Vocation Office has been diligently preparing for the start of the Class of 2028 as the candidates begin their first year of formation. Before departing in May, they met with the Deacon Formation Committee for exit interviews and had meaningful one-on-one visits with Bishop McGovern. We all know that discernment is a lifelong process, with many steps and windows to open.

This summer, Father Michaelsami Arockiam, our Administrative Assistant Martina Skorch, and I were invited to St. Meinrad Archabbey to meet with the deacon formation team. We had enriching discussions about many aspects of the formation process, including the possibility of beginning an Aspirant Class in the next few years.

As many of you are aware, the formation program involves significant financial commitments, shared between the diocese, deacon candidates' parishes, and the candidates themselves. Factoring in the financial commitment we are presently evaluating when the next formation class will begin.

I am truly excited to join the Class of 2028 and their families for the Rite of Admission to Candidacy on November 9, 2024. This significant step marks their formal declaration of intent to prepare for Holy Orders through prayer, study, reflection, and discernment.

This issue of the Belleville Deacon is packed with valuable information about the diaconate. Remember, your prayers for vocations in our diocese remain essential. We need priests, deacons, and religious to continue our mission in Southern Illinois. Together, let us support one another in this sacred calling. May God bless each of you as we continue to build a vibrant and faith-filled community.



On June 1, 2024, the Diocese of Belleville celebrated a momentous occasion as Levi James was ordained to the sacred order of deacon at the Cathedral of St. Peter. This significant event gathered priests, deacons, Levi's family, friends, parishioners, and the faithful, marking an important milestone for both Levi and the entire diocese.

The Cathedral of St. Peter, with its grandeur and spiritual significance, provided a fitting backdrop for the ordination ceremony. As the congregation filled the pews, the atmosphere was one of reverence and anticipation. The ordination Mass, led by Bishop Michael McGovern, was a beautiful and solemn liturgy that highlighted the sacredness of the diaconate.

As Deacon Levi continues his journey to the priesthood, he carries with him the prayers and support of a loving community. His ordination is not only a personal milestone but also a moment of renewal and hope for the Church.

Deacon Aspirants to receive The Rite of Admission to Candidacy November 9, 2024

You are cordially invited to attend the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for the men in formation to become permanent deacons for the Diocese of Belleville. This significant event will take place during the 4:00 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter on November 9, 2024. Please mark your calendars and join us in celebrating this important step in their journey to become permanent deacons.

The Rite has public character and ecclesial significance. Enrollment among the candidates for Holy Orders is a first official recognition of the positive signs of the vocation to the diaconate, which must be confirmed in the subsequent years of formation.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Reverend Michaelsami Arockiam

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus, Greetings! Let the spirit of the National Eucharistic Congress and of the Emmaus Days in our Diocese of Belleville continue!

The multiplication of loaves proves that Jesus has the power to multiply any food for any number of people at any time (place) and give it in a physical or in a spiritual manner he chooses. In other words, he reveals his personal life with his Father in the one indivisible divine nature. Having revealed, he does not give right away “the true bread” the crowd wishes to have “always” (Jn.6:34). Rather, he requires them that they first accept that he is “the true bread,” “the bread of God,” “the bread of life,” “the bread from heaven,” and finally, “the living bread” that has come down from heaven (vv 33,42,50,51).

For Jesus, their acceptance is important before he proceeds to give them “the true bread.” But the crowd did not accept that he is so. Whereas we Catholics accept, recognize, adore and honor him that he is so. And we do that precisely when we go for our “holy hour.” We give him first our faith or our recognition of him which he seeks. It is the Lord who, receiving our faith, recognition and adoration, invites us to bring him to the condition of “bread of life” at the Holy Mass by priests serving His High Priesthood, and “eat and drink” for our sanctification and salvation.

I pray that these few words inspire and increase in us our love for Christ Jesus in the Eucharist in the Tabernacles and in our parish churches. God bless.

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR OF DEACONS

Deacon Thomas and Dawn Helfrich



Welcome back everyone, hope you had a restful break and are ready to launch this first full year of academics as we in our country also launch the 3rd year of our National Eucharistic Revival, the Year of Going Out on Mission which was launched at the conclusion of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress (NEC) in Indianapolis in July. Three deacons from our diocese attended NEC and joined 60,000 pilgrims from around the country for 5 days of insightful and

inspiring presentations, and we worshipped, praised, and adored Jesus every morning and evening; the music and liturgies were over the top.

Here are a couple comments I heard from our parishioners who attended the NEC: ‘Wow, just wow. I’ve never been so proud to be a Catholic’ and ‘I am so overwhelmed (don’t know the word for it). I do know it was what I needed’ and ‘We sure have been blessed beyond measure’ and ‘it was great experiencing this profound Congress ...’ and “So blessed to share this historic moment ...”. For me it was one of those ‘mountaintop’ experiences that I have not had since my 5 day canonical retreat with the men that I was ordained with in 2011. In his closing remarks, Bishop Andrew Cozzens reminded us that “What you received as gift, you must give as gift” referring to the Eucharist; and he said something along the lines of ‘We have just experienced a taste of heaven’.

Thanks to EWTN, using this QR code, you can watch and/or listen to many of the talks, presentations, witness talks, liturgies, etc. online. These include Fr. Mike Schmitz, Bishop Robert Barron, Jonathan Roumie, Sister Josephine Garrett, and Chris Stefanick, just to name a few. And don’t forget to mark your calendars for the 11th NEC in 2033 and for another National Eucharistic Procession from Indianapolis to Los Angeles in 2025 (probably summer).



MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Ms. Martina Skorch, Administrative Assistant

My name is Martina Skorch, and I am the new administrative assistant for the Office of Vocations and Deacon Formation since April 2024. In my role, I get to assist our deacon formation weekends. So far, I have met many wonderful people and have felt very welcomed by everyone.

A little about me: I’m originally from Scheller and call the four parishes of Perry County home. I went to college for radiology and have previously worked in healthcare. Last year, I be-

came the youth minister for my local parishes and loved it so much that I decided to start working for the Church full-time. I am also involved in PSR and young adult ministry. My hope is that everyone comes to know the great love that Jesus has for them! I want to thank everyone for being so helpful and welcoming as I transitioned into my new role.

I look forward to continue assisting the deacon formation program and seeing what the future holds for it!

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE ASPIRIANTS

To help aspirants become better acquainted with the deacon family, deacons and their spouses are invited to join them for lunch at 12:00 p.m. or dinner at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, support, and prayer. The group meets every 2nd full weekend of each month. If you would like to participate in the September Formation, please contact Martina in the vocation office by Monday, September 9, 2024, at 618-722-5043. To help with the costs a \$10.00 donation is requested but not required.

GENERAL INSTRUCTION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL (GIRM)

November 27, 2011, marked a significant date in the liturgical life of the Church in the United States as the Roman Missal, Third Edition, was introduced and put into use for the celebration of the Eucharist. This brings to conclusion the work of more than ten years of research, translation, preparation, and study. The implementation of the new translation of the prayers of the Mass is probably the most significant change in the liturgy since the introduction of the novus ordo Missal of Pope Paul VI in 1969.

Deacons and aspirants should have access to a copy of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) for reference, as it provides essential guidelines and instructions for the celebration of the Mass. Having this resource on hand helps ensure that all liturgical practices are conducted with reverence and in accordance with Church teachings. You can purchase a copy at most Catholic bookstores or on Amazon.



A Catholic experience unlike any other!

By: Deacon Dan Laquet

To the world, I'm sure our National Eucharistic Congress was not viewed as an earth-shaking event. There weren't any breaking headlines, no political candidates stumping for office, and no Olympic records being broken. It was, in simple terms, a great gathering of faith-filled people, filled with joy to be together with fellow Catholics, excited to pray together, to worship God together, and to be uplifted and encouraged in their faith by each other and many of the most respected voices in the Catholic church today. It was an incredible and deeply moving experience.

For those of us in attendance, it was a spiritually enriching event, and if we listened to the words and challenges that we were presented with by the many wonderful speakers and homilists, it should be life-altering too. The main focus of the Eucharistic Revival initiative started by the Catholic Bishops in the U.S. is to bring the Eucharist to the forefront of our faith, making it the center of our lives where it belongs. A recurrent theme throughout the Congress sessions was that the Eucharist is the "source and summit of our faith" as Vatican II documents declared. It provides us with strength to live out our faith each day in a world that seems to value faith less and less. As Gloria Purvis, one of the keynote speakers reminded us, the Eucharist also brings unity. The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist will fill our hearts with the love of Jesus when we receive it, leaving no room for hatred, racism, or indifference to the poor.

It would be hard to list all the special moments that occurred during the Congress, but there are two that I believe deeply touched everyone in attendance, and those at home who watched. The opening Revival session was wonderful! The Eucharistic Pilgrims, who made the treks across the country from north, south, east, and west, carrying the Eucharist with them, were introduced and welcomed with great enthusiasm. They entered the stadium carrying pictures of the saints that their pilgrimage routes were named after. This was followed by a Eucharistic Procession and then began a period of Eucharistic Adoration, during which the presence of the Holy Spirit was very evident. The lights were turned off and 2 spotlights illuminated the monstrance and Eucharist. The reverence, love, and devotion displayed during this time made many of us emotional. There were upwards of 45,000 people in Lucas Oil Stadium, and you could

have heard a pin drop. At one point, a ray of sunlight came through one of the upper windows in the stadium and shone directly on the monstrance. I'm sure there are those who would say that was a coincidence, but in my mind, God was saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."

The second event that touched many of us was the Eucharistic Procession through downtown Indianapolis. There were an estimated 60,000 people lining the mile long path of the procession that ended at the Indiana War Memorial Park with a period of song, prayer, and adoration. Over 4,000 religious brothers and sisters, seminarians, deacons, priests, bishops, and cardinals led the procession, followed by the faithful who joined in as the Eucharist passed them. It was a moment in time that I will always cherish. I never thought that I would ever see such a blessed event in our country again. It had been 83 years since the last National Eucharistic Congress took place in the U.S. and it was long overdue.

I would strongly encourage everyone to watch and listen to as much of the content of the Congress as you can. It is available on the EWTN website, The National Eucharistic Congress website, and the Relevant Radio website. Every presentation, revival session, and mass were filled with moments that will inspire and uplift you in your faith journey. Bishop Robert Baron in his keynote address at the last revival session made a point that really struck home with me. He said that there are 70 million Catholics in the U.S., roughly 25% of the population. If we were all to live our lives in the radical and dramatic way that Jesus modeled for us, and calls us to do, by loving, encouraging, and uplifting each other we would change our country in a way none of us could imagine. Will you accept that challenge? Together we can make that change happen!



Diocese of Belleville Emmaus Days

By: Deacon Corby Valentine

As I was preparing a homily for the 21st Sunday in OT, I was reminded of the perfect timing of the Emmaus Days event in early July, and our gospel readings from John 6, the Bread of Life discourse, which we were reading for the past five weeks. We were able to make the gospel real by walking with Jesus, who is the Bread of Life at the Emmaus Days event.

I want to thank the deacons and wives and all the other individuals and organizations who helped in any way to make the Emmaus Days event enjoyable

and successful. This was truly a historical event for our diocese as well as our nation. We estimate that there were 1800+ people in attendance at one point or another. It's hard to gauge or determine the impact this event had on any of the participants. I have received many responses from individuals who truly enjoyed it and did feel Jesus' presence in the procession and adoration service.

The tile art hanging from the Millennial Spire railing, featured artwork from children all over our diocese, and was a hit. Nancy Nuernberger, came up with this idea to engage children and families to creatively display their thoughts about the Eucharist, Jesus, and the mass, did a great job with this project. I was so busy with logistical things during the event at the Shrine, that I did not have the chance to sit back and enjoy the moment. On Monday the 8th however, I did get to enjoy taking some of the Eucharistic Pilgrims with the Blessed Sacrament to the Poor Clare's Monastery for an adoration service. These cloistered Sisters thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the fact that they got to be part of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, and Jesus made a special stop at their Monastery.



NDICE Conference was well received

The 2024 Conference at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Fairview Heights, IL, themed "Being the Eucharist for All," concluded with remarkable success, embodying the spirit of unity and devotion that the Eucharist represents. The conference, held from July 22-24, 2024, was carefully planned to avoid conflicting with the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, which took place from July 17-21, 2024. This adjustment in scheduling, moving the start of our conference to Monday, July 22, allowed participants to fully engage in both significant events without overlapping commitments.

The organizing committee took great care in reviewing feedback from the 2023 conference, using the comments and suggestions to enhance this year's experience. One of the key adjustments was the introduction of a "meet and greet" event on Sunday evening, July 21, at a local restaurant near the Fairview Heights Drury Inn. This event provided an informal setting for early arrivals to connect and set the tone for the conference.

In response to suggestions for more local engagement, we introduced an optional tour of significant religious sites in the Diocese of Belleville. Participants had the opportunity to visit St. Peter's Cathedral and the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows on the morning of Monday, July 22. This tour was well-received, allowing attendees to deepen their spiritual experience before the conference officially began.

The conference itself kicked off with a 5:00 PM Mass on Monday, July 22, celebrated by Bishop Michael McGovern of the Diocese of Belleville. His homily set a profound tone for the event, focusing on the conference theme and encouraging participants to embody the Eucharist in their daily lives. Bishop McGovern's presence was a significant highlight, adding to the spiritual depth of the gathering.

Throughout the conference, participants engaged in a variety of workshops, discussions, and prayer sessions designed to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist and its call to be a source of unity and service to all. The feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing appreciation for the thoughtful responses to their previous suggestions.



The Blessed Sacrament, held high, radiated hope and reverence as it passed by, with countless pilgrims bowing their heads in prayer. This powerful display of faith brought the community together, a testament to the enduring presence of Christ in the heart of the Church.

Important Dates

**Belleville Deacon Community
Annual Deacon Retreat**
September 6 - 8, 2024
Kings House at the Shrine



The Deacon Aspirant Class gathered for their annual retreat at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows on August 10, 2024. Reverend Michaelsami Arockiam led the retreat, focusing on the theme, "The Deacon and Scripture." Throughout the day, the men engaged in prayer, reflection, commentary, and the celebration of Holy Mass.

Meeting with Bishop McGovern (Deacons only)
Attire is deacon clerics (grey shirt, vest, rabat, etc. with white tab and dark slacks).

October 27, 2024 - 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Cathedral of St. Peter, Undercroft

Rite of Admission to Candidacy
November 9, 2024 - 4:00 p.m.
Cathedral of St. Peter

**Top preaching takeaways
from the National Eucharistic Congress**

"The link below has over 80 videos from the NEC, including presentations and talks. The prayer by Bishop Cozzens is video #49, and Gloria Purvis' talk is video #19. and Cardinal Tagle at the closing Mass on July 21. Enjoy!"

NEC preaching Link:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/top-preaching-takeaways-from-the-national-eucharistic/id1320295636?i=1000663471089>

JOHN S. AND VIRGINIA MARTEN LECTURE IN HOMILETICS ST. MEINRAD SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, BEDE THEATER - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2024



WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR DEACONS AND ASPIRIANTS

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology will host the annual John S. and Virginia Marten Lecture in Homiletics on Wednesday, October 2, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time in St. Bede Theater. Fr. David Scotchie, D. Min., will present on "Getting Started in the Preaching Life," discussing three virtues that shape preachers and offering practical tips for beginning this journey.

Fr. David, ordained in 1993 for the Diocese of Orlando, currently serves as pastor of Nativity Catholic Church in Longwood, FL, and teaches homiletics. The lecture is made possible by an endowment from the John S. Marten family of Indianapolis. Parking is available behind St. Bede Hall and in the Guest House and student lots. For lodging availability please contact St. Meinrad Archabbey at: 812-357-6611.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS AND DEACON ASPIRIANTS

SEMINARIANS	DEACON ASPIRIANTS - BELLEVILLE/SPRINGFIELD CAPE	
Deacon Levi James	Tom Braun & Betsy Amoroso	Timothy & Joan Taylor
Mr. Casmir Cozzi	James & Chelsea Burris	Gary & Dorothy Zwilling
Mr. Terry Marmion	Jeffrey & Jennifer Craig	Brian & Barbara Bauknecht
Mr. Greg Kassen	Nathan & Carrie Higerson	Bob & Lori Janota
Mr. Kyle Kellerman	Douglas & Cynthia Kuhl	Jim & Holly McCleary
	Matthew & Angela Lees	Brad & Emily Stroder
	Andy & Cheryl Orlet	Ron & Linda Yates
	William & Judith Reholz	

Date	Days	Course Title	Lecturer
Belleville 2028 (Meets 2nd weekend of each month)			
Sep-24	13-15	Church History	Dcn. Patrick Donahue
Oct-24	11-13	Church History	Dcn. Patrick Donahue
Nov-24	8-10	Intro to Scripture	Kevin Perrotta
Dec-24	13-15	Intro to Scripture	Kevin Perrotta
Jan-25	10-12	Ministry of Deacon	Dcn. John McGregor
Feb-25	14-16	Fundamental Theology	Brad Peper
Mar-25	14-16	Fundamental Theology	Brad Peper
Apr-25	11-13	Old Testament	Dcn. Anthony Cassaneto
May-25	9-11	Old Testament	Dcn. Anthony Cassaneto
Jun-25	13-15	Spirituality	NOT ASSIGNED

Date	Seminar Topic	Presenter
Ordained Deacons & Wives contact Martina 722-5043		
Sep-24	14th	Belleville Church History
Oct-24	12th	Springfield - Cape Church History
Nov-24	9th	Intro to the Lectionary and Ordo
Dec-24	14th	Candidates & Deacon's Gathering
Jan-25	11th	Intro to the Roman Missal
Feb-25	15th	Intro to the Deacon at Mass
Mar-25	15th	Ministry to the Sick & Aged
Apr-25	12th	Prison Ministry
May-25	10th	Deacon & Proclamation of the Word
Jun-25	14th	Deacon & Leading Marian Devotion