

THE *Belleville Deacon*

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS | DIACONATE FORMATION | DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

Vatican announces motto of jubilee Year 2025: *'Pilgrims of Hope'*



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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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Pope Francis inaugurates the Jubilee of Mercy in 2015 with the opening of the Holy Door

Pope Francis has approved the motto for the 2025 Jubilee Year: "Pilgrims of Hope." Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, highlighted the importance of preparing thoroughly for the event, which will focus on key themes from the Pope's pontificate—pilgrimage and hope.

With major organizational tasks underway, Fisichella emphasized the need for a strong preparatory phase to ensure smooth operations for the large number of pilgrims expected. He confirmed that collaboration with Rome's municipal authorities, the Lazio Region, and the Italian government is progressing well, aiming to accommodate visitors safely and efficiently.

The Jubilee Year, a special time of grace offering plenary indulgences, will begin just before Christmas in 2025, with the Pope opening the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, followed by the opening of Holy Doors at the other papal basilicas.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reverend Steven M. Pautler

With the academic year for the aspirants beginning, the vocation office has become busy scheduling visiting faculty, coordinating seminars, and making sure everything runs like clockwork. Marina has been a true gift; she is so dedicated and makes my responsibilities so much easier.

I had the opportunity to spend my Friday evening at the Deacons' retreat on September 6th, as they gathered at the King's House at the Shrine. It was great catching up with everyone and hearing what's going on. I particularly enjoyed my time with "Den Mother" Patti Warner, as she is affectionately known, and with the retreat director, Deacon Steve Kramer, and his wife Jeri. All three of them were a big support as I transitioned from a Permanent Deacon to a Priest. Patti was the Assistant Director of Deacon Formation when I became a candidate in 2004.

It is during these years of formation and discernment that we realize there are so many dedicated people who, without even knowing, guide so many along their vocation journey. Deacon Steve and Jeri are from Milwaukee, and they became my trusted friends. As Director of Homiletics at SHSST, Deacon Steve had this unique way of drawing you into his homilies. Thank you to the Deacons for allowing me to spend some time with them. I know the retreat was a wonderful experience.

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

Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Deacons will take place during the 4:00 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter on November 9, 2024. Please mark your calendars.

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.

This moment marks a pivotal step in the journey toward ordained ministry. It represents the Church's formal acceptance of the candidates' intention to pursue Holy Orders and their commitment to serve God's people. Through this Rite, the community is invited to witness and support these men as they take on greater responsibilities in their formation. It is also an opportunity for the candidates to publicly affirm their desire to dedicate themselves to the diaconate, a ministry of service that reflects Christ's mission of love.





MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR OF DEACONS

Deacon Tom and Dawn Helfrich

On the first weekend of September about 40 deacons and spouses gathered at Kings House (KH) at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows for our annual spiritual retreat. The theme was 'The Word of God Leads us to Eucharist' and our retreat was led by Deacon Steve Kramer, Director of Homiletics and Associate Professor of Pastoral Studies at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. Deacon Steve did a great job of leading us through sessions on: the connection between the Shema and the diaconate; the medicine of immortality – going out on mission; the life of Eucharistic spirituality and contemplation; and, reflection on Mathew 28:16-20 and the connection to the ministry of mission to share the gift of our Eucharistic Lord.

The weather that weekend was spectacular which gave us time to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the Shrine in quiet prayer and reflections, as well as praying the 'Eucharistic & Synodal Way of the Cross' as a group at the Shrine's outdoor stations, and enjoying time together in the evening in the gathering space and around the campfire at the KH Guest House. Stay tuned for details, dates, etc. for our annual spiritual retreat in 2025, we are exploring the possibility of returning to 'the Holy Hill' (i.e. St. Meinrad) in September.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Reverend Michaelsami Arockiam



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

St. Paul calls Christians "slaves of righteousness" (Rom.6:15-19). For him, slavery continues: prior to baptism, one is a slave to sin and unrighteousness, and after baptism, he is a slave to grace and righteousness. The masters are different; but slavery continues. By God's grace, the baptized Christians have become obedient to the form of teaching to which they are entrusted (Rom.6:17).

I want the deacons to pay attention to what St. Paul says in the passive voice: it is not the teaching that is entrusted to the Christians but it is they who are entrusted to the teaching. If the teaching is entrusted to the Christians then individual Christians have liberty to change it; but it is they who are entrusted to it. How perceptive St. Paul was in seeing the truth about Christian living! Therefore Christians are called to recognize the object of which the word speaks in their personal lives and adhere to it to the best of their ability they would receive from the Holy Spirit. Since we are entrusted to the teaching it calls us to take Christian salvation with supreme seriousness, and not to transmit it in our homilies lightheartedly. Our homilies invite our faithful to entrust themselves to the gospel of Christ.



The Deacon community gathered at the King's House, at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, for their annual retreat from September 6th-8th. This special time allowed the deacons and their spouses to step away from the busyness of life and immerse themselves in prayer, reflection, and fellowship. The retreat was led by Deacon Steve Kramer, Director of Recruitment and Homiletics at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology, along with his wife, Jeri. Together, they guided the group through deep discussions on the importance of prayer and the ongoing discernment that is essential to their vocation. The retreat emphasized the need for continuous spiritual growth, both individually and as a community, encouraging the deacons and their spouses to remain rooted in their call to service.

MEMORIAL MASS REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED BROTHER PRIESTS AND DEACONS.

Priests, deacons, and the faithful are solemnly invited to join Bishop McGovern for a *Mass of Remembrance* on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter, as we come together to honor and remember our departed priests and deacons. Their dedicated service to Christ and His Church, and the countless lives they touched through their ministry, remain an enduring legacy of faith. In this sacred liturgy, we lift up our prayers for their eternal rest and give thanks for their selfless devotion to God's people.

Please pray our departed brother deacons.

- 05/30/2024 — Deacon Patrick "Pat" Patterson
- 07/26/2023 — Deacon Ronald Karcher
- 05/20/2022 — Deacon Charles Litteken
- 05/20/2022 — Deacon Charles Speaks
- 08/31/2021 — Deacon Donald Sparling

- 08/18/2020 — Deacon Michael A. Rowland
- 12/18/2018 — Deacon Richard E. Bagby
- 08/30/2016 — Deacon Robert G.H. Lippert
- 12/06/2016 — Deacon Dennis Rickert
- 08/20/2015 — Deacon Robert H. Becker
- 12/09/2013 — Deacon Donald R. Deitz
- 07/04/2011 — Deacon John P. "Jack" Dilley
- 04/02/2010 — Deacon John E. Coates
- 07/24/2010 — Deacon Joseph E. Stock
- 07/09/2009 — Deacon David J. Bigham
- 06/08/2008 — Deacon Jerry Stockmann
- 05/10/2007 — Deacon Robert Kirchgraber
- 06/01/2007 — Deacon James Duff, Sr.
- 01/12/2003 — Deacon Kenneth E. Kronenberger
- 07/06/2003 — Deacon James R. Downen
- 08/22/2002 — Deacon Thomas J. Underwood
- 02/09/2000 — Deacon Linus H. Horcher
- 03/05/2000 — Deacon Paul H. Bruening
- 02/06/1999 — Deacon Dr. Carl J. Hauptmann
- 04/12/1998 — Deacon Leo A. Weilbacher
- 08/05/1998 — Deacon Joseph H. Igel
- 10/23/1998 — Deacon Julius S. Sasawski
- 04/20/1995 — Deacon Robert F. Saunders
- 08/24/1995 — Deacon Walter J. Daut
- 05/23/1993 — Deacon Thomas M. Wagnitz
- 11/21/1992 — Deacon Robert L. Westerfield
- 12/20/1987 — Deacon Otto Faulbaum



Heavenly Father, We thank You for the gift of our priests. As they gather for Convocation from September 30th to October 3rd, bless them with Your grace, strength, and wisdom. Through the intercession of St. John Vianney, patron of priests, guide them in their ministry and renew their spirit in Your service. St. John Vianney, pray for our priests. Amen.

Important Dates

Memorial Mass for Departed Priests & Deacons
November 4, 2024 - 12:10 p.m.
Cathedral of St. Peter

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

<https://www.saintmeinrad.edu/>

The Lecture will be available on St. Meinrad YouTube account for viewing when you have time.



Did you know... St. Francis of Assisi, one of the most revered saints in the Catholic Church, was ordained as a deacon but never became a priest? Despite founding the Franciscan Order and having a profound impact on Christianity, he chose to remain a deacon to emphasize humility and service.

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 this year's lecture, titled "Getting Started in the Preaching Life." Fr. David will explore how preaching is not just a task but a way of life, offering three virtues for forming preachers and practical tips to begin preaching. Father David teaches homiletics at Saint Meinrad's Permanent Deacon Formation Program. This is a great chance for Permanent Deacons and Aspirants to explore the important duty of deacons, preaching. To access the Facebook page and YouTube channel, the link to the left or go to St. Meinrad Webpage. You can receive continuing education credits by attending or viewing online.



WHAT IS THE CLASS OF 2028 DOING?

By Aspirant Tom Braun and Betsy Amoroso

The Peace of Christ be with you! The diaconate class of 2028 completed a demanding philosophy course this past spring, followed by a summer of practical and community-based, faith-building opportunities. July was busy, as some of us attended Emmaus Days at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, while others experienced the National Eucharistic Conference in Indianapolis. Deacons and their wives from all over the country gathered for the 4-day Annual NDICE conference hosted at Holy Trinity in Fairview Heights, IL.

On August 10th, our class reunited for a spiritual retreat at the Kings House in Belleville. There, we shared meals, made time for reflection and prayer, and celebrated the Eucharist. Truly, God's grace was present through the spiritual talks and meditations delivered by our retreat leader, and assistant formation director, Fr. Michaelsami Arockiam. With renewed spirit, we began our new academic year on September 13th, turning our focus to the first 1,000 years of Church history. We are especially grateful for our wives, who actively support our class weekends and community activities and bring energy and enthusiasm to this formation.

A particularly meaningful moment during our September weekend was Fr. Thomas Flach's reflection on the history of the Belleville Diocese. His insights inspired us to reflect on the models of faith in our own lives, filling the room with moving testimonies. Fr. Flach reminded us, "Family is the future of the Church" and that we are not called to a life of privilege, but to a life of service. And finally, he emphasized the sacred call to be fully present to others. May we continue this journey, embracing our call to serve as Christ's hands and feet in the community and the world.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE ASPIRANTS FOR LUNCH AND SOCIAL BEFORE THE AFTERNOON SEMINAR.

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 at 618-722-5043. To help with the costs a \$10.00 donation is requested but not required.



This month, as part of our ongoing history presentations, the theme for our workshop will be "Springfield/Cape Diocesan History." Last month, we had the opportunity to explore the rich heritage of the Diocese of Belleville. Now, we are looking forward to delving into the long and full history of our neighboring diocese.

The Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese has a fascinating past that has significantly shaped our region's spiritual landscape. Learning about its development will enhance our understanding of the broader historical context of the church in our area. We are excited to hear from knowledgeable speakers who will share insights into significant events, influential figures, and the evolution of the church within this diocese. Deacons and their spouses are invited to join the seminar. We ask a free will donation of \$25.00 per couple to cover the presenters travel and expenses. You can get four continuing education hours by attending this seminar.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS AND DEACON ASPIRANTS

SEMINARIANS	DEACON ASPIRANTS - BELLEVILLE/SPRINGFIELD CAPE	
Deacon Levi James	Tom Braun & Betsy Amoroso	Timothy & Joan Taylor
Mr. Casimir Cozzi	James & Chelsea Burriss	Gary & Dorothy Zwilling
Mr. Terry Marmion	Jeffrey & Jennifer Craig	Brian & Barbara Bauknecht
Mr. Greg Kassen	Nathan & Carrie Higgerson	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