



ARCHDIOCESE OF
CINCINNATI

Office of the Diaconate



The Deacon Memo

November, 2023

It Is Good to Give Thanks



The Prayer at Valley Forge (Arnold Friberg, 1976)

My dear Deacon Brothers, Men in Formation, Wives and Widows,

Have you ever read the text of the Proclamation issued by President George Washington when he promulgated the first Thanksgiving be established on November 26, 1789?

*"Whereas it is the duty of all Nations **to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God**, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly **to implore his protection and favor**-- and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of*

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*the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by **acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God** especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.*

*Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States **to the service of that great and glorious Being**, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then **all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks**--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country..."*

(Source: MountVernon.org)

I added the bold emphasis in this proclamation to highlight President Washington's acknowledgement of God and his insistence on giving thanks to God for the blessings bestowed upon our nation. How reassuring it is to me, in these troubling times in our country, to know that the founders of our nation were men of faith who were not afraid to give God the honor, respect and thanks that He so properly deserves. Imagine if our political leaders were so bold today!

This Thanksgiving, I join you in giving thanks to our God for the abundant blessings He has given to us – our families, our freedom, our ministry, our Church, and countless other blessings. I personally thank each of you and your families for your constant and faithful service in our Lord's work. I pray that God's love will continue to shower you throughout the coming year. May you have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving with your loved ones!

Are You Being Called to Join a Mission Trip?

Some of our deacon brothers have been involved in mission trips and parish twinning relationships for a number of years. Those that have been involved speak of the blessing that these ministries have been. If you feel a call to participate in a mission trip, consider these opportunities.



St. John the Baptist Parish, Harrison

The parish will be taking a delegation led by Deacon Don Meyer to visit their two sister parishes in Soyapango, El Salvador with which we have had a twinning relationship for 20 years. It is a great opportunity to see how a twinning relationship works. We will be there February 1 to 10. The cost is about \$2000 which includes everything, air travel, lodging, meals and transportation. The trip is arranged and sponsored by Crispaz (Christian for Peace in El Salvador). Our faith and friendships grow with these visits, particularly with the families of the 150 children for whom we provide scholarships. Besides the time we spend with them, we will learn about the country and visit sacred sites there including celebrating Mass in the chapel where St. Oscar Romero was assassinated in 1980. We would love to have you join us on the wonderful pilgrimage. Please contact Deacon Don Meyer at 513-235-3430 if you are interested in joining us.

Archdiocesan Mission Office

Expand your and your parish's mission heart, mind, and soul with our Lord's friends near or far! The picture above is a welcome group in Mexico with their twinning partners from the northern part of our archdiocese. Currently there are about 45 parishes in our diocese that are in spiritually fulfilling relationships with parishes in Kentucky, Navajo nation, Central and South America, Caribbean, and Africa. A number of our deacons are already part of these life-giving parish twinning ministries. They would love to have you join them for up-coming trips to their twinning partners or just for a mission visit for a week or longer. The Mission Office offers stipends to help cover travel costs. For more information, contact: Dr. Mike Gable, Mission Office, Archdiocese of Cincinnati, at: mgable@catholicaoc.org, go to our Mission Office webpage at the archdiocesan website, or phone 513-263-6880. God bless your ministries!

Ordination Dates for 2024

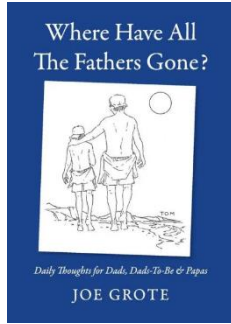
For your planning purposes, the dates for the two Ordination Masses for 2024 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains are below. As always, deacons will be invited to vest and process for both ordinations. Reminder emails will be sent out prior to the ordinations so that you can RSVP.



Transitional Deacon Ordination	April 24, 2024 11:00 a.m.
Priest Ordination	May 18, 2024 11:00 a.m.

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A Book on Fatherhood by Deacon Joe Grote



Deacon Joe Grote, a deacon assigned to the Tri-County Catholics Family of Parishes, has written his first book. "Where Have All the Fathers Gone" is a compilation of 365 Daily thoughts for Dads, Dads-to-be and Papas. There are stories about saints, but most importantly there are messages to ponder about your relationships as husband, father and friend. Each message can be read in thirty to sixty seconds. The book can be ordered at: deaconjoegrote.com.

Retreat Planning for 2024

To allow you to plan for your 2024 retreat, here is the schedule for the retreats offered by the Office of the Diaconate.



St. Meinrad Retreat

- ❖ September 17-19, 2024
- ❖ St. Meinrad Archabbey
- ❖ Retreat Master – Fr. Adrian Burke
- ❖ "The Book of Revelation"
- ❖ RSVP to Deacon Andy Rammel at andy.rammel@gmail.com

Maria Stein Retreat

- ❖ October 4-6, 2024
- ❖ Spiritual Center at Maria Stein
- ❖ Retreat Master - Fr. Philip-Michael Tangorra, S.T.L., J.C.L.
- ❖ "Holiness and Living the Sacramental Life" – based on his book of the same name
- ❖ RSVP to Deacon Mark Machuga at mmachuga@catholicaoc.org (registration form will be distributed closer to the retreat)

Requiescet in pace

Deacon David Klingshirn	Ordained April 24, 2004	Died June 10, 2023
Deacon Jim Woeste	Ordained June 22, 1985	Died June 24, 2023
Deacon John Thamann	Ordained September 26, 1992	Died September 19, 2023



"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual Light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen."

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Necrology - November

November 1, 1998	Deacon Francis Wheelock	Ordained 7/28/79
November 1, 2009	Jean Petrie	
November 2, 1999	Mary Lane Kiley	
November 2, 2016	Deacon Johannes Schade	Ordained 4/30/16
November 3, 2009	Pat Sonnenberg	
November 3, 2018	Deacon Jack Borgerding	Ordained 7/28/79
November 5, 2022	Deacon Bill Petrie	Ordained 9/26/76
November 10, 1994	Deacon Eugene Wabler	Ordained 9/25/76
November 10, 2018	Deacon John Schmiesing	Ordained 9/28/91
November 11, 2022	Deacon Greg Rose	Ordained 4/28/07
November 12, 2002	Deacon Thomas Gargan	Ordained 7/28/79
November 13, 2006	Deacon John Jachimowicz	Ordained 6/25/83
November 16, 2004	Mary Blum	
November 20, 2004	Deacon Charles Briley	Ordained 6/21/86
November 21, 2002	Deacon Eugene Miller	Ordained 6/22/85
November 21, 2004	Deacon Robert Huffman	Ordained 6/25/83
November 29, 1998	Carolyn Wiehe	

Necrology - December

December 4, 2016	Deacon Thomas Huff	Ordained 7/3/82
December 4, 2019	Deacon Kenneth Schnur	Ordained 4/27/13
December 5, 2020	Deacon Ralph Gutman	Ordained 4/27/13
December 6, 2011	Deacon Joseph (Ted) Schmidt	Ordained 7/3/82
December 10, 2011	Deacon Urban Waldbillig	Ordained 7/28/79
December 15, 1995	Deacon James Smith	Ordained 6/25/83
December 16, 2010	Deacon Jack Gould	Ordained 9/26/98
December 23, 2000	Kathleen Gobbi	
December 23, 2019	Rita Marie Bertke	
December 25, 2017	Deacon Raymond Grismer	Ordained 9/26/98



This Month's Humor ...



Office of the Diaconate

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If you need Mark after hours
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Cell Phone 513-324-8873



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