



# ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Diaconate



## The Deacon Memo December, 2023

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,  
good will toward men.”**



*And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”*

*Luke 2: 6-14*

### RADIATE CHRIST

Dear Deacon Brothers, Men in Formation, Wives and Widows,

During this most holy time of year, my prayer for all of you and your families is one of peace and happiness in the Lord. Your ministry shines the light of Christ into the lives of all of God's people to whom you provide your ministry. In large and small ways, you too bring "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" by the love you show and the care you provide. May God bless all of you for your selfless charity given each day the year. May the new year bring you joy, good health and abundant blessings.

Your Brother in Christ,

*Mark*

## **Annual Reports Are Due by January 31**

Annual reports for the year 2023 for all "Active" status deacons are due to the Office of the Diaconate by January 31, 2024. The link to the online report can be found on the Secure Login section of the Diaconate pages of the Archdiocesan website. [Please click this link](#) to go to the Secure Login page. The password to enter the page is DEACONCOMMUNITY in all capital letters. Once in the Secure Login area, click on the Continuing Formation Report box and fill out the form. It will be e-mailed directly to the Office and a copy will also be sent to you.

Remember, **to be in Good Standing** in the Archdiocese, each Active status deacon must submit an annual report, complete 10 hours of Continuing Formation each year, attend a retreat yearly, and be current with quarterly bulletins in the SafeParish system. Senior Status deacons are not required to submit an annual report, complete continuing formation or attend a retreat, but must be current in SafeParish.

## **Very Good Commentary on *Fiducia Supplicans***




No doubt, you all have heard news reports and social media commentary over the highly controversial Declaration *Fiducia Supplicans* (*On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings*) issued on Monday, December 18 concerning the possibility of blessing same sex unions and other irregular situations. Hopefully you

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have read the text for yourself ([available here](#)). The Chancellor's Office issued a statement on Tuesday, December 19. (If you did not receive it, please let me know.)

On Wednesday, December 20, I heard a very good assessment of the implications of the document by Fr. Phillip-Michael Tangorra, a canon lawyer, on the SonRise Morning Show on our very own Sacred Heart Catholic Radio AM 740 & 910. It is perhaps the clearest commentary I've heard or read on this declaration. I am providing a link to the [SonRise Morning Show Dec 20, 2023](#) archive of that discussion here. When you are on the Spotify page, click the "Play"  button and forward to the 1:07:35 mark to begin Fr. Tangorra's comments. It goes to approximately 1:16:25.

Incidentally, Fr. Phillip-Michael Tangorra **will be the Retreat Master** for our Maria Stein Deacon Retreat on Oct 4-6, 2024 based on his book *"Holiness and Living the Sacramental Life"*. Registration for the retreat will be out in a few months.

## **Welcome Deacon Matthew Wisniewski**

Archbishop Dennis Schnurr has granted faculties for diaconal ministry to Deacon Matthew Wisniewski. Deacon Matthew is from the Archdiocese of Detroit, ordained October 5, 2013. He and his wife Antonia moved from Detroit to Cincinnati recently due to new job assignments. He was granted faculties to minister in Cincinnati from Archbishop Schnurr on December 13. He is living in the Tri-County area around Sharonville. He has been assigned to the Tri-County Catholics Family of Parishes (South-1). The Archdiocese and the deacon community welcome Deacon Matthew and Antonia and look forward to seeing you at future deacon events!

## **Ordination Dates for 2024**

Since there was a typo in last month's information about the two ordination Masses for 2024, I wanted to provide it again (correctly!) for you. Both will be at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. 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 27, 2024 11:00 a.m.
Priest Ordination	May 18, 2024 11:00 a.m.

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## **Continuing Formation - "Dying, Death and Beyond: A Catholic Response"**

The Offices of the Diaconate, Catholic Cemeteries, Respect Life Ministry, and Divine Worship & Sacraments are sponsoring a workshop March 14-16, 2024 "DYING, DEATH, AND BEYOND: A CATHOLIC RESPONSE". Fr. Stephen Wilbrecht, CSC will lead us in reflection upon our baptismal call to accompany the bereaved. In addition, this workshop will provide opportunities for continuing education on celebrating the funeral liturgy well, helping parishioners pre-plan their funeral liturgies, and making end of life decisions. There are several workshops over those three days; you do not need to attend all. More detailed information about the workshop [can be found at this link](#). Registration information will be communicated in early 2024.



### **Necrology - January**

January 4, 2008	Deacon Arthur Runnels	Ordained 9/26/76
January 5, 1997	Juanita McCormick	
January 5, 2001	Mary Borgerding	
January 6, 2022	Mary Miller	
January 8, 1995	Deacon Paul Hagedorn	Ordained 9/26/76
January 9, 1991	Martha Brunner	
January 11, 2018	Deacon Thomas Strodbeck	Ordained 9/26/98
January 11, 2022	Jeanie Cain	
January 12, 2007	Deacon Raymond Blum	Ordained 12/10/72
January 12, 2021	Janet Geraci	
January 14, 2019	Gail Convery	
January 15, 1986	Deacon August Hehemann, Jr.	Ordained 9/25/76
January 15, 2018	Mary Strodbeck	
January 19, 2009	Deacon Robert Correale	Ordained 9/26/98
January 20, 1983	Deacon Ervin Henderson, Jr.	Ordained 7/3/82
January 24, 1972	Deacon Alphonso Herman	Ordained 8/2/71



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## This Month's Humor ...



### **And a bonus Christmas gift ...**

Click here for a humorous rendition of [Handel's Messiah Hallelujah Chorus](#) done by a group of silent "monks"!

### **Office of the Diaconate**

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