



El Diácono



April 2024

A Newsletter for the Deacons of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Issue 45E

HE APPEARED TO CEPHAS,
AND THEN TO
THE TWELVE.
AFTER THAT,
HE APPEARED
TO MORE THAN
FIVE
HUNDRED
OF THE
BROTHERS
AND SISTERS
AT THE
SAME TIME.



1 Corinthians 15:5-6, NJV



From the Desk of the Director

Happy Easter!

The fight is over. The victory is won!

This past Lent was such an inspiration for me. Especially in watching our elect and candidates prepare to receive the sacraments. It was good to see so many of you at the celebration of the Rites of Election and Continuing Conversion. It was even more gratifying to see so many people embracing the Catholic Faith. The three celebrations at St. Jude Thaddeus, Sacred Heart (Clovis) and at the Cathedral, were all standing room only! Watching the joy and anticipation grow throughout the season for those preparing to receive sacraments is inspiring – and that includes those preparing for Confirmation and First Eucharist.



Our celebration of the Resurrection reminds us, perhaps more this year than ever, of our need for hope and of our need for each other. The death and resurrection of our Lord brought the disciples together and enflamed their faith in amazing ways. May our “reliving” of this event in our own lives and in our Church inspire us to a greater sense of community and enflame our hearts with a passion to serve our brothers and sisters. May it fill us with hope!

And we have lots to look forward to this year!

Perhaps the greatest news in the deacon community is that our annual retreat is back! Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, will be leading us on a spiritual journey under the theme “Re-Building Diaconia.” The retreat will be held on September 6-8 at the Marriot Pyramid. Look for registration information very soon. The retreat team is actively working on the program to make this a meaningful experience. Thanks to all of you who are working on this. If you would like to get on board with the committee, it’s not too late. Just let me know!

But that’s not all!

We will also have an in-service this August with Deacon Jay Cormier, professor of homiletics at St. Anselm College in New Hampshire. He is the author of “The Deacon’s Ministry of the Word” (Liturgical Press, 2016). Save the date: Sunday, August 18 (2:30-5:30pm) at a location to be determined.

Finally, we will be starting a new formation “cohort” with an anticipated ordination in 2030. While we have a growing list of potential Aspirants, you will see an active effort on getting the word out this summer and fall in a call for vocations. The role of our deacons and their families is crucial for encouraging vocations. I am grateful for the efforts of many of you in mentoring those in formation.

May this Easter season continue to build hope in your hearts. Despite the crosses we bear – we know that God has a plan for us for new life – in our personal lives, our families, our parishes, archdiocese and for the whole world.

Dcn. Keith



St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church.

Feast Day—April 29

Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire. Proclaim the truth and do not be silent through fear. Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring.

Catherine of Siena

We will be celebrating the feasts of several of the Apostles over the next three months:



Apostles

April 25—St. Mark the Evangelist

May 3—Sts. Philip and James

May 14—St. Matthias

June 11—St. Barnabas

June 29—Sts. Peter and Paul



The glory of God is a human being fully alive; and to be alive consists in beholding God.

~ Irenaeus of Lyons

AZ QUOTES

St. Irenaeus

May 28



Rebuild My Church Update



The Rebuild my Church Core Team continues their work in building a pastoral plan for the Archdiocese which will be customized for each deanery. In fact, the deaneries will be the focal point of much of the “rebuilding” activity. Your support for this process is critical so please support the work of your respective deans in this effort.

Note that the data you offered at the convocation and at other events has been submitted to the Rebuild My Church Core Team for evaluation.

Stay tuned for more information as the process progresses.

Last fall a task force recommended a formation process and program for forming and assigning Parish Directors (PDs) formerly known as Parish Life Coordinators (PLCs). While there is no current need for PDs in the Archdiocese, it is anticipated that there will soon be a shortage of priests to serve as pastors. Fr. Glenn Jones (Vicar for Clergy) has asked for a list of deacons who might be interested in pursuing a ministry as a Parish Director. These positions are normally full-time and demanding, but also fulfilling.



If you would like to be placed on a list of those interested in this ministry, please complete a simple on-line form at this link: <https://form.jotform.com/kdavis5430/parish-director-interest-form>
This is not an application, but the list will be used to invite deacons to apply for formation as a PD. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Keith at the Deacon Office.

Deacon In-service on Homiletics



A homiletics In-service for deacons will be held on Sunday, August 18th from 2:30 to 5:30pm. Dcn. Jay Cormier of St. Anslem College has been invited to offer our community some guidance on preaching. Details to follow.

Chaplains at Presbyterian Hospitals

Looking for a meaningful extraparochial ministry assignment? Presbyterian Hospitals in Albuquerque, especially Rust Hospital on the West Side and Kaseman Hospital in the Heights, is looking for deacons to serve as volunteer chaplain assistants. These deacons will minister to all patients, but especially Catholics, in need of spiritual comfort. If you are interested, contact:



Tilia Giron (Rust) – tgiron2@phs.org
Donnel Miller-Mutia – dmillermu@phs.org



Serving with Humility

The second chapter of St. Paul's letter to the Philippians is incredibly rich. Perhaps the most recognized verses are the canticle prayed on Sunday Evening Prayer I – "Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at." (Vs. 6-11) This beautiful ode to the mystery of the incarnation demonstrates a profound admiration for the humility of our Lord and how we are called to emulate it. Indeed, St. Paul states in verse 3: *Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.*" Now St. Paul's message is for all Christians, of course. But as deacons, who are called to be the icon of Jesus the Servant, this message is even more poignant. How are we to live our lives as deacons so that others will know that they are called to humility? It is a challenge for each and every one of us.

It is a constant source of reflection for us through our call to Holy Orders and to obedience – how can I put the needs of others ahead of my own? How can I lead others to live the same way?

This is the key to serving as a deacon – to living a life of servant leadership. May the grace of our ordination enable us to live as Christ has called us.





Deacon Formation Report

It's hard to believe that the current cohort of deacon candidates will be ordained just over a year from now! Their installation into the Ministry of Acolyte will take place on Thursday, September 19th at 6pm. It will be held at Queen of Heaven Church in Albuquerque, and you are all welcome to attend and support these men on their journey. The last year of their formation focuses on their liturgical service of assisting at the Altar and presiding at sacraments and funerals. They will also complete a homiletics practicum.

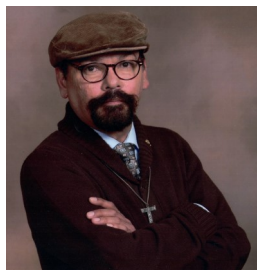
The 2028 Cohort will enter their second year of Aspirancy this fall with the hope of being accepted into Candidacy in 2025. They continue to focus on their spiritual growth but will also engage in deeper theological study.

The 2030 Cohort is starting to form. While they are year away from making formal application, their discernment is on-going. If you know of a man who you feel would make a good deacon, please encourage him, and discuss it with your pastor.

Promotional materials are being developed to assist you in reaching out to potential candidates. They will be sent to the parishes this summer.

DEACON MENTOR COUPLES NEEDED!

Mentors are needed for the growing number of men (and their spouses) in formation. We are looking for deacons and their wives to provide mentoring for up to three couples from your deanery. Training is provided. The time commitment is about two to three hours per month for this very rewarding ministry. You must have at least three years of ordination experience to qualify. Check with Dcn. Doug Feery, Deacon Mentor Coordinator at dopayfee@gmail.com.



Abraham Placencio, Deacon Candidate

Abraham Placencio, a member of the 2025 cohort of Deacon Candidates, passed away on March 11, 2024. He was sponsored by Immaculate Conception Parish, Albuquerque. His funeral was held at that parish on March 22. Please keep him in your prayers. He will be greatly missed.

2025 Deacon
Candidates
and their Wives





Save the date!

September 6-8, 2024

ASF Deacon Retreat

Location:

Marriott Pyramid Hotel

5151 San Francisco Road NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109



Rebuilding Diakonia

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12

“Come away to a deserted place . . . and rest a while” (Mark 6:30)

Jesus invites you and me to get away from the craziness of life to enjoy a time of rest. Remember the two elements of an invitation? We have a choice and we are wanted. Wow! Jesus extends to us an invitation to be with Him because He wants to spend time with us. He doesn't guilt us or force us in any way. He simply requests, “Come away with me for a while. I would like to spend some time with you.”

Deacons and wives come join us for this Retreat



Deacon Personnel Board Survey

The Deacon Personnel Board is conducting a survey of all the deacons in the archdiocese. If you have not already completed the survey, please do so right away. It can be accessed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

The data from the survey will be used to update the Deacon Database and to provide information the Board needs in making decisions regarding deacon assignments.



Retreat Sponsors and Donors Needed

As you can imagine, inflation has made hosting a major event like a retreat very expensive. In order to keep the cost of attending affordable, the Retreat Planning Team is soliciting sponsors and donations. You can find more information about how to sponsor the retreat by [clicking here](#).





2025 is a Jubilee year for Catholics and there is a special pilgrimage planned for deacons this February. The jubilee calls for us to set out on a journey and to cross boundaries. When we travel, we do not only change place physically, but we also change ourselves. Hence, it is important to prepare ourselves well, to plan the route, and learn about the destination. In this sense, the Jubilee pilgrimage begins before the start of the journey itself: the starting point is the decision to set out. The etymology of the word “pilgrimage” is quite telling and has undergone little change in meaning over the years. The word comes from the Latin “per ager,” meaning “across the fields,” or perhaps from “per eger” meaning “border crossing”: both possible origins point to the distinctive aspect of undertaking a journey.

The journey takes place gradually: there are various routes to choose from and places to discover; it is made up of particular sets of circumstances, moments of catechesis, sacred rites and liturgies. Along the way our traveling companions enrich us with new ways of understanding things and fresh perspectives. Stay tuned for more information!

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ,
our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the
blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of
the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will
shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of
Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that
same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for
ever.
Amen



WHAT IS THE PILGRIM'S CARD?

It is a free digital pass bearing the name of the holder, which will be needed to take part in the main Jubilee events and to organise a pilgrimage to the Holy Door.

HOW CAN I OBTAIN THE PILGRIM'S CARD?

The card can only be obtained by signing up at the portal, which will be available on the website register.iubilaeum2025.va/user or via the official Jubilee App for smartphones. After entering the required details, the pilgrim will receive a unique QR code and a personalised account on the app.



St. Stephen Fund



This fund is established according to the Archdioceses of Santa Fe by-laws and constitution. It is an approved fund for the designated purpose of giving financial assistance to Permanent Deacons and/or their wives. The St Stephen Fund is intended to be temporary assistance during a time of crisis or when grave financial need has been identified. Assistance from the fund is intended to be a one-time gift, but under certain circumstances the St Stephen Fund Committee may decide to help on more than one occasion. The Permanent Deacon or widow requesting assistance must complete a Request for Assistance form and send to the St Stephen Fund Committee for review and then forward to the Office of the Director of Deacons for action.

Direct Contributions

You can now make direct contributions to the St Stephen's Fund through the link below.

<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=Twvtgk>

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.



VIRTUS[®] Online

Just a reminder that all deacons must remain in compliance with the Archdiocesan Call to Protect protocols, including keeping current (every five years) with your VIRTUS training. If you are not certain if you are in compliance, you can look it up at the link below, or contact Yolanda at the Deacon Office.

[English Virtus Link](#)

[Spanish Virtus Link](#)

The Office of Deacons would like to thank you for your ministry to the Church, The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and to the many services provided to the people of God and the entire community. May God Bless you abundantly!



Diaconate Information

Director of Deacon Formation: Deacon Keith Davis

Cohort 2025

Current Class size: 14 Candidates
Ordination in 2025



Cohort 2028

Current Class size: 17 Aspirants
Ordination in 2028

Deacon Inservice & Retreat

Deacon Inservice

Homiletics with Dcn. Jay Cormier
 Sunday, August 18, 2—5pm
 Location TBD



Retreat

Sept. 6-8, Marriott Pyramid, ABQ
 With Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
“Rebuilding Diaconia”

Deacon Council Members and Reps

Position:	Primary Member:	Wife:	Alternate :
Santa Fe Deanery:	Deacon Michael Salazar	Vacant	Vacant
Deanery A:	Deacon Dave Little	Vacant	Deacon Albert Dohle
Deanery B:	Deacon Pat Sena	Vacant	Deacon Lou Hernandez
Deanery C:	Deacon Leon Jones	Vacant	Vacant
NE Deanery:	Deacon Chris Torres	Vacant	Deacon Eloy Roybal
NW Deanery:	Deacon Alex Valdez	Vacant	Deacon Chris Gilbert
SE Deanery:	Deacon Paul Benoit	Vacant	Vacant
SW Deanery:	Deacon Chris Martinez	Vacant	Vacant
Other Members:			
Council Chair:	Deacon Mark Marquez		
Council Vice-Chair:	Deacon Ernest Chavez		
Council Secretary:	Darlene Chavez		
Widow Rep	Kathy O’Neal		
Ex-Officio Members	Archbishop John C. Wester		
	Deacon Keith Davis		

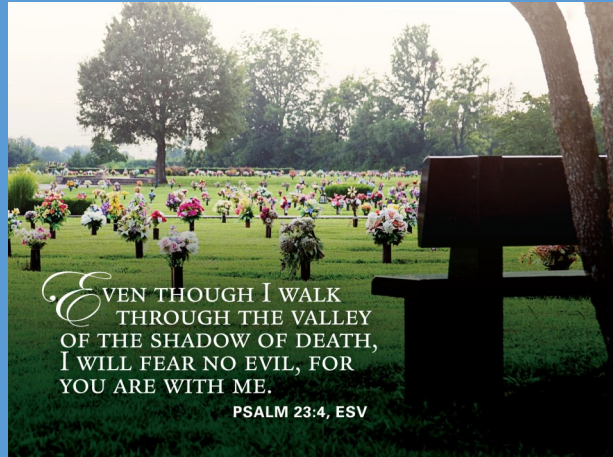


Rest in Peace



Gregorio Henderson

Deacon Gregorio (Greg) Henderson, father of Reverend Augstin Henderson, Pastor of Holy Family/St. Joseph in Roy and Santa Clara in Wagon Mound and its missions, passed on January 18, 2024 in Tucson, AZ. Deacon Henderson was ordained a deacon on July 12, 2003. He served at San Jose in Albuquerque, was a member of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, at Santuario de San Martin de Porres in Albuquerque, and he served in the Diocese of Tucson.



Pray for the Dead

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.
~Amen~

April

- 1 Deacon Robert Stromberg (2003)
- 8 Deacon John O. Leahigh (2001)
- 8 Deacon Gerald Hietpas (2020)
- 13 Deacon Thomas E. Jones (2014)
- 16 Deacon Patrick Cooney (2015)
- 24 Deacon Arsenio Sanchez (2014)
- 25 Deacon Antonio Baca (1990)
- 27 Deacon Harry L. Gogann (2013)
- 28 Deacon Vincente Armijo (1994)

June

- 7 Deacon Victor S. Arquello (1979)
- 7 Deacon James Baca (2018)
- 8 Deacon William Hoefler (2021)
- 8 Deacon Alberto Arquero (2022)
- 12 Deacon Aston Bailey (2013)
- 15 Deacon Antonio Rodriguez (2008)
- 21 Deacon Pete Santiestevan (2016)
- 27 Deacon José Sanchez (1989)

May

- 4 Deacon Alfred Esquibel (2022)
- 5 Deacon Ubaldo Chavez (2013)
- 12 Deacon Charles Lucero (2012)
- 16 Dcn. William Patrick Houlihan (2000)
- 16 Deacon Alton Adams (2019)
- 21 Deacon Alphonse Ballard (2003)
- 26 Deacon Daniel Padilla (1994)
- 26 Deacon Rue White (2005)
- 28 Dcn. Thomas Van Valkenburgh (2022)





ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE

The Catholic Center

ASSIGNMENT MEMO -Monday, February 26, 2024

Archbishop John C. Wester has made the following assignments.

- Effective Saturday, October 7, 2023—Deacon George Valverde has been granted retirement after serving for over 30 years at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Albuquerque.
- Effective Thursday, February 1, 2024 -Deacon Larry Torres, previously assigned at Holy Trinity in Arroyo Seco, has been appointed to diaconal ministry at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe in Taos, under the guidance of the Parish Administrator, Reverend Felice Peter Mgendwa.
- Effective Thursday, February 1, 2024 -Deacon Joey Silva, previously assigned at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe in Taos, has been appointed to diaconal ministry at San Francisco de Asis in Rancho de Taos, under the guidance of the Pastor, Very Reverend Michael Garcia.
- Effective Thursday, February 1, 2024 -Deacon Christopher Martinez, previously assigned at Our Lady of Belen in Belen, has been appointed to diaconal ministry at Immaculate Conception in Tome, under the guidance of the Parish Administrator, Very Reverend Michael Demkovich.
- Effective Thursday, February 1, 2024 -Deacon Dennis Montoya, previously assigned at Sacred Heart in Espanola, has been appointed to diaconal ministry at San Juan Bautista in Ohkay Owingeh, under the guidance of the Pastor, Reverend Nathan Lopez.
- Effective Wednesday, February 14, 2024 -Deacon Harold "Bob" Pullings has been granted retirement after serving over 25 years at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Clovis.
- Effective Friday, March 1, 2024 -Deacon Daniel Kennedy, previously assigned at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe in Pena Blanca and its missions, has been appointed to diaconal ministry at Our Lady of Sorrows in Bernalillo, under the guidance of the Pastor, Reverend Clement Niggel.



Just for Fun!

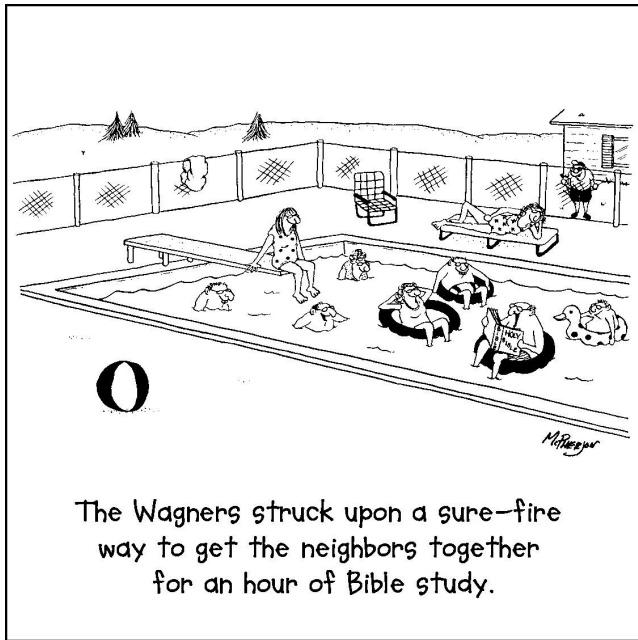


Deacons: Update your contact information. If your personal contact information has changed, please inform the Diaconate Office. This helps facilitate communication between you and the Diaconate Community and the Archdiocese. Phone 505-831-8246 or email the Diaconate Secretary at ylovato@asfnm.org

NOTE

Keep in mind if there is any information you would like to include in the El Diácono Newsletter that would be of interest to the Deacon Community, i.e., special events, accomplishments, ministry work, etc., please inform the Diaconate Office and we will be happy to announce it. With the publication of this newsletter, we will be especially looking for events in the July through September 2024 time frame with a submission deadline of June 10th, 2024 to the Director of the Office of Deacons.

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of the Diaconate
4000 St. Joseph Place, NW
Albuquerque, N.M. 87120



The Wagners struck upon a sure-fire way to get the neighbors together for an hour of Bible study.



"I feel our Outreach Ministry is going a little too far."

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