



BISHOP'S LETTER

**THE SEED IS THE WORD OF
GOD, CHRIST IS THE SOWER.
ALL WHO COME TO HIM WILL
HAVE LIFE FOREVER**

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

The days of summer are upon us. Summer for many signifies a time of rest, a time for family gatherings, a time to enjoy special moments. A particular scene or the smell of freshly cut grass or the moistness of the air can bring about a smile. Jesus tells us that as Christians, we are called to sow the Word of God through, with and in Him, no matter the season.

[**READ MORE**](#)

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FORMATION

We are preparing for our formation retreat August 8-9, 2026. The keynote speaker is Fr. Gilbert Walker, with the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles. We have 18 men and their wives beginning their discernment year in September. Please pray for those in formation and the formation team for a spirit filled formation year.

GOOD NEWS

48% of all active and retired active deacons have turned in their annual forms. Good start... now let's move forward to a great finish!

PARISHES STILL IN NEED OF DEACONS

Several pastors have requested additional deacons be assigned to their parishes. If you feel God may be calling you to one of these parishes, or that God may be letting you know it is time to change parishes, please contact **Deacon Dave** to discuss one or more of these opportunities:

St. Andrew Parish

801 N. Hastings St., Orlando | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

Pastor: Father Leo Hodges

St. Joseph Catholic Church (Winter Haven)

532 Ave. M, NW, Winter Haven | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

Parochial Administrator: Father Glenn Lopez

St. Paul Parish and School

1330 Sunshine Ave., Leesburg | Needs a deacon (bilingual Spanish/English preferred).

Parochial Administrator: Father Joseph Tran

St. Mary Catholic Church

1136 Seminole Drive, Rockledge | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

Pastor: Father Joseph Shaute

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

861 Maitland Avenue, Altamonte Springs

Pastor: Father Ralph DuWell

As we approach our next Diaconate Ordination, we will begin to review parishes with an abundant number of deacons and thus reassignments will be made. As you can see, several parishes need help. We are ordained to serve the needs of the people of the entire diocese.

Many parishes have experienced pastor changes this summer. It is our role to support our new pastors, parochial administrators, and associates to help them settle smoothly into their new roles. Many parishioners may feel challenges from all of the change. We can be a calm and encouraging presence for all during times of transition. Thank you for all your efforts in this regard.



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, PATHWAYS TO CARE

Learn how to volunteer.

TOURISM

Serving at the **Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe** continues to be a deeply rewarding ministry. The beauty of the liturgy, our collaboration with the Diaconate Formation Program, and the opportunity to accompany pilgrims in prayer and conversation make this service especially meaningful.

As visitation grows, we are having trouble covering all scheduled Mass times. We invite deacons to consider **volunteering**—even once per quarter—to support this important ministry to the thousands who visit the Basilica.

If you would like to be included in the rotation, please contact **Deacon Joe Gassman**.

DIVINE MERCY/FIRST FRIDAYS

We are looking for deacon couples to lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet on First Fridays at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe. For more information, contact **Deacon Joe Gassman**.

MINISTRY TO THE INCARCERATED

If you want to learn more about this ministry, reach out to **Deacon Jimmy Avellan**. If you know of prisons or jails that are underserved, please let us know.



NEW LITURGY OF THE HOURS

With the new Liturgy of the Hours coming out in 2027, the Diocese of Orlando is currently evaluating the availability for large group discounts from each authorized publisher and will share that information once the determination is made.

Get to know the New Liturgy of the Hours - We encourage you to attend this Zoom presentation on July 23rd at 2 p.m.

Save the Date for our next Zoom Presentation "An Overview of the New Liturgy of the Hours" on Thursday July 23rd at 2pm EST. We welcome our speaker Father Paul Turner, who will walk through the changes that are being made with the Liturgy of the Hours. Father Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant'Anselmo in Rome. He is a consultor for the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments and has authored a number of books on the liturgy.

Please use the link below to register for the zoom presentation to receive the presentation link.

Meeting Registration - Zoom

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Great Resource for Mental Health Webinars

Mindspringhealth.org

SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

JULY CALENDAR

San Damiano- Everyday Leadership with Deacon Joe Gassman

Thursday, July 9, 2026 | 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

As United States marks its 250th anniversary, we celebrate 250 years of history, innovation, leadership, and unity. This historic milestone invites us to reflect on our shared past that formed this great nation

[View Event](#)

Life In The Eucharist Retreat with Father George Dunne, SSS

*Fri, Jul 10, 2026 | 4:30 P.M. **through** Sun, Jul 12, 2026 | 1 P.M.*

This retreat offers a unique opportunity to encounter Christ in the Eucharist in a deeper and more personal way. Come and allow the Lord to renew your heart, strengthen your faith, and draw you more fully into His abiding presence.

[View Event](#)

Fill Your Cup: Divine Mercy In the Second Greatest Story Ever Told Video Series by Father Michael Gaitley (PART 2)

Thursday, July 23, 2026 | 7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

In this powerful 10-part video series, Father Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina Kowalska, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Our Lady of Fátima, the witness of St. Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope John Paul II. Featuring the cinematic artistry of the Augustine Institute, the vast panorama of God's work of mercy unfolds as a story to be experienced.

[View Event](#)

Come to the Fountain Healing Prayer

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 | 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

All are invited to join the Servants of the Pierced Heart of Jesus and Mary to pray the rosary and other prayers to our Blessed Mother.

[View Event](#)



FDLC

Two publishers have been chosen to print the four volumes of the Liturgy of the Hours – Ascension Press and Word on Fire.

- The publishers have announced that they will begin accepting pre-orders on July 1, 2026.
- The volumes will be released gradually.
- The first volume to ship will be Volume II – Lent and Easter seasons.
- Each volume will be shipped approximately one month before its permitted first use date.
- It is anticipated that digital and one volume editions will be available by the first Sunday of Advent 2028.
- Mandatory use for the revised translation of the Liturgy of the Hours is the first Sunday of Advent 2028.

LECTOR WORKSHOP

With Lydia Britton

Saturday, June 13 | 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

St. Stephen Catholic Church | Winter Springs, FL

- **8:30 A.M.** | Mass
- **9 A.M.** | Breakfast
- **9:30 A.M.** | Workshop

2026 EMHC WORKSHOPS

EMHC Coordinators or Liturgy Directors ONLY:

Please fill out our EMHC Formation Workshop Host Application to schedule a workshop for the Spring 2026 season. *Please note these workshops are for new EMHCs and are open to the whole deanery.*

Those looking to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion can apply this Fall. EMHC Candidates must register for a workshop online via Eventbrite. A completed Petition for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion with the pastor's signature must be sent to the Office of Liturgy. **Click here to visit EMHC webpage and register.**

St. Timothy, Lady Lake (N)

July 11, 2026

St. Isaac Jogues, Orlando (C)

July 11, 2026 (English & Spanish)

Basilica of St. Paul, Daytona Beach (E)

July 18, 2026

Basilica of St. Paul, Daytona Beach (E)

July 25, 2026 (Spanish only)

St. Mary of the Lakes, Eustis (N)

August 22, 2026

Resurrection, Lakeland (W)

August 8, 2026

Epiphany, Port Orange (E)

August 29, 2026

Annunciation, Altamonte Springs (CN)

September 19th, 2026

Nativity, Longwood (CN)

October 10, 2026 (English & Spanish)

Resurrection, Lakeland (W)

October 24, 2026

St. Stephen, Winter Springs (CN)

November 8, 2026

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS

Join us for the 50th anniversary of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians in 2026! This year's theme, "Forever We Will Sing," takes its inspiration from Psalm 89. NPM's work to foster the art of musical liturgy has shaped Catholic worship since the Second Vatican Council – and our work is not done yet. **Click here to register.**

Join us on July 19-24 at Catholic University of America for 4 days of:

- Plenum Addresses – Breakouts
- Networking Opportunities – Community
- Special Events – National Awards – Exhibits



" Deacons continue to bring a spirit of renewal and encouragement to the missionary ministry of the church"... says Archbishop Hicks

JUNE 22, 2026 | WASHINGTON – The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has released its annual survey, ***A Portrait of the Permanent Diaconate in 2025: A Study for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops***. Since 2005, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University has conducted this survey, which provides important statistics and forecasting trends on the state of the permanent diaconate in the Church in the United States.

"Deacons continue to bring a spirit of renewal and encouragement to the missionary ministry of the Church through their service in the liturgy and works of charity expressed in everyday life," said Archbishop Ronald A. Hicks, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. "With nearly 15,000 active deacons in ministry in 2025, the permanent diaconate plays a vital role in bringing the Gospel to life through their witness as icons of Christ the Servant. With their primary duty of service in the Church being to proclaim the Gospel, preach, and perform charitable works, deacons serve a unique and vital ministry in the life of the Church. This annual survey is an opportunity for our faithful to recognize the work of the diaconate, pray for our deacons, and discern if they are called to such ministry themselves."

The survey utilized contact information from the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD) and was sent to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in the Latin and Eastern Rite (arch)dioceses and eparchies. In total, CARA received responses from 143 of the 185 (arch) dioceses/eparchies whose bishops are members of the USCCB and have an active Office of Deacons, for a 77% response rate.

The full survey conducted by CARA may be accessed [here](#).

Happy Birthday

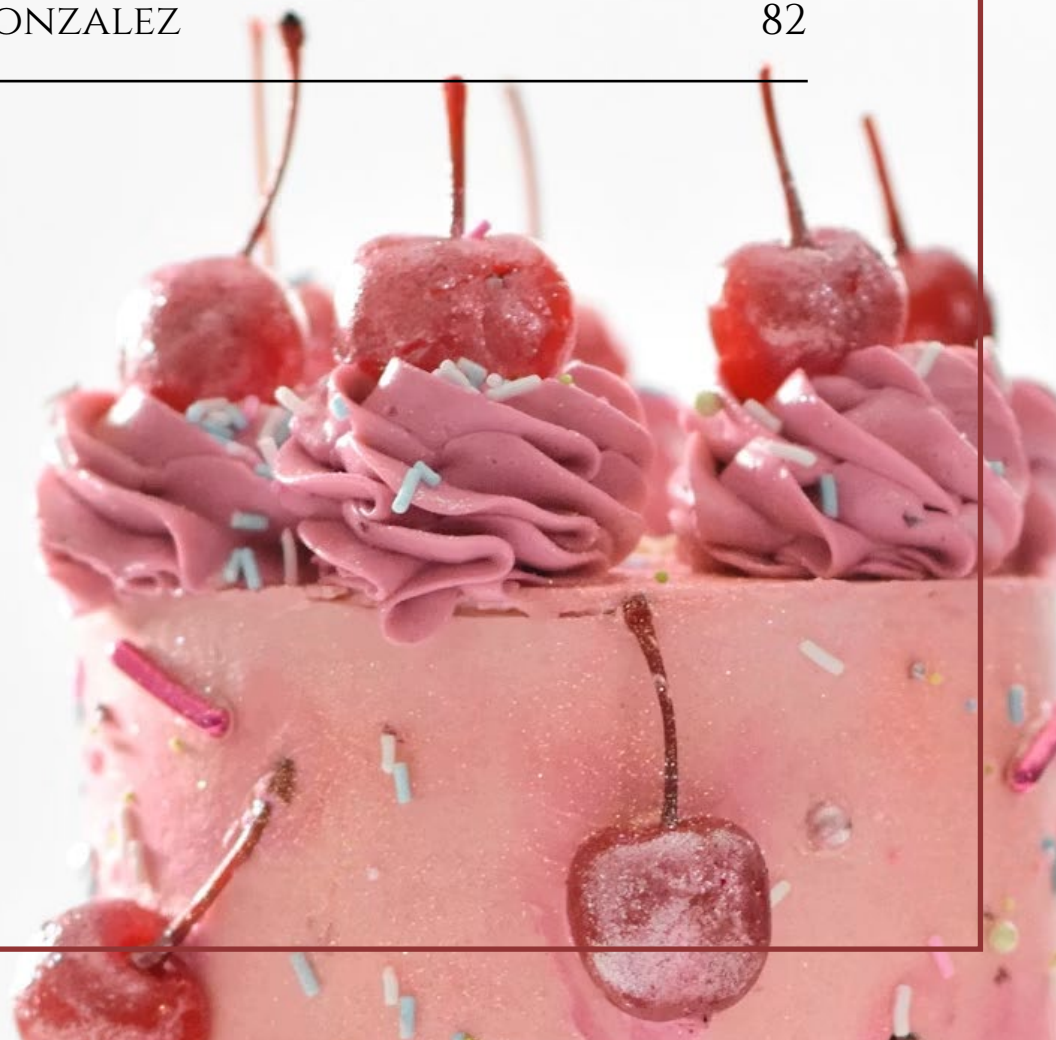
DEACON OSWALDO RAMOS	87
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DEACON DAVID SANDBURG	86
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DEACON JOHN HOWELL	84
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DEACON BILL CASTELLANE	82
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DEACON JOSÉ GONZALEZ	82
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IN REMEMBRANCE

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO
THEM, O LORD, AND MAY
PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON
THEM. MAY THEIR SOULS AND
THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL
DEPARTED THROUGH THE
MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE.

AMEN.



Memorial Mass

SPANISH FRIDAY, JULY 17
ENGLISH - FRIDAY, JULY 31

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD CHAPEL
SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

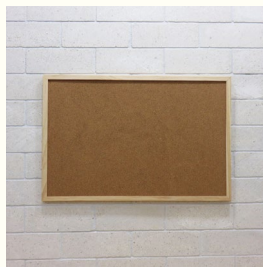
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LITURGICAL CORNER



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES FOR DEACONS
JULY 2026 | VOL 48