



BISHOP'S LETTER

PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP FOCUS ON GOD

My Beloved People of God,

St. Paul marvelously speaks to the people about God with the depth of great love through, with and in God. He tells us about three divine attributes, riches, wisdom and knowledge; all within God's realm and so difficult for us to comprehend because we think from the earth and not from the heavens. As God created the sky and the earth and all within it, so we are His majesty comes not from the secular idea of royalty, but the majesty of Divine Love. This is His offering to each one of us, all our days.

[READ MORE](#)

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COUPLES RETREATS

We have the dates for 2027 couples retreats at San Pedro Spiritual Development Center.

JANUARY 22-24 LED BY FATHER GREG CLEVELAND, OMV



Father Greg Cleveland, OMV, is a native of Chicago and graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in business administration. After working as a marketing manager for a Midwestern railroad company, he followed God's call to priesthood in 1987, joined the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, and attended Our Lady of Grace Seminary and St. John's School of Theology in Boston.

After completing an M.Div. in Theology and an M.A. in Spiritual Theology, he was ordained a priest in 1995. His first assignment was to St. Andrew's Parish in Avenel, New Jersey, where he worked especially with the poor, disabled and imprisoned. He obtained certification in spiritual direction from the Center for Spiritual Development in New York City and returned to Boston to work seven years in seminary formation as rector and novice master.

Father Greg then served as executive director of the **Lanteri Center for Ignatian Spirituality** in Denver, Colorado, where he offered spiritual direction and retreats while teaching training programs in these ministries. Currently, he is the Retreat Master at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center** in Venice, Florida.

He is the author of *Awakening Love: An Ignatian Retreat with the Song of Songs*, *Beholding Beauty: Mary and the Song of Songs*, and *Beloved Lover: The Priesthood in the Song of Songs*.

ADDITIONAL COUPLES RETREATS DATES

February 19 -21, 2026

March 5 - 7, 2026 led by Father Anthony Aarons

April 23-25, 2026 (Spanish)

We are finalizing these retreat masters. As soon as San Pedro is ready to take your reservations, we will send the link to register for one of the 2027 retreats.



LITURGICAL NOTE

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF A PRIEST

Recently a local parish was faced with the issue of a scheduled priest not showing up for their Sunday anticipatory Mass on Saturday. These occurrences should be extremely rare, but it is good to revisit the process to follow in these cases. First, the default decision should not be to immediately determine that a Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Communion should be offered in the place of Mass. Per existing diocesan procedures and USCCB instructions, the following steps should be taken:

1. Make every attempt to reach the missing priest by phone, even if this means a delay in the scheduled Mass time.
2. If the priest cannot be reached, call your pastor to determine next steps.
3. Per diocesan policy any use of the ritual for Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest must receive permission from the Bishop or one of the Vicar General. (The pastor will have their numbers.) **Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest.**
4. If this option is to be used, an announcement must be made before the liturgy begins advising that this is not a Mass, and the congregation must be informed of other Mass times available at either your parish or neighboring parishes. Time must be given for congregants to exercise their choice to attend elsewhere before the liturgy begins.
5. The presider's chair should be left empty in these liturgies to draw attention to the fact that this is not a Mass.
6. An additional intercession should be added (if one does not already exist) for an increase in vocations to the priesthood.
7. The Director of Deacons should be notified soon after the liturgy is completed.

Again, these occurrences should be very rare, but it is important to understand the proper steps to be taken in these moments. Thank you for your service to your faith community.

2026 DIACONATE CONVOCATION

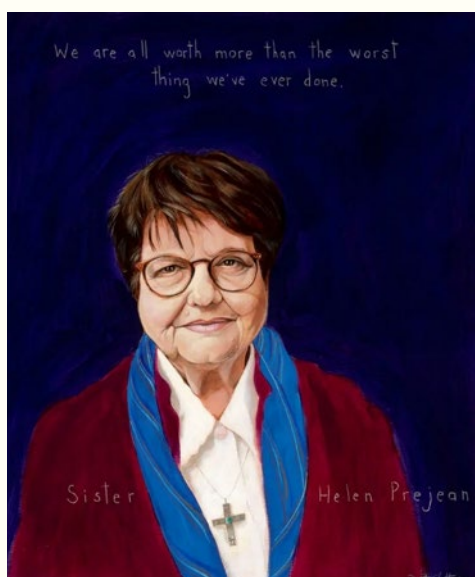
You must register for Convocation. Please use this link:

2026 Diaconate Convocation Registration

If you will be attending our Convocation Social on Friday, October 2, 2026, **please register here.**

All reservations MUST be in by September 18, 2026.

*Please remember attending Convocation is a requirement. To be excused, please email **Jennifer Kuhn**. We will submit it to Bishop Noonan and let you know if he approves.*



Our Keynote Speaker for our annual convocation will be **Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ**, who is a leading advocate for the abolition of the death penalty. She is known for her best-selling book, *Dead Man Walking* (1993) based on her experiences with two convicts on death row whom she served as spiritual adviser before their executions. In her book, she explored the effects of the death penalty on everyone involved. In 2019 she wrote a memoir titled *River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey*. In it she talks about her spiritual journey leading her to engage in social justice work. Don't miss this opportunity to hear this wise and powerful speaker and to spend time reconnecting with our diocesan diaconal community.

LAST CALL: LITURGY OF THE HOURS

GROUP DISCOUNTED ORDER THROUGH DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

Jennifer will send you an invoice and payments should be made to the Office of Worship. Each volume will be received as it is printed, and will be distributed to purchasers through deanery meetings, formation weekends, Chrism Mass, ordinations, Convocation, or other community gatherings. Orders must be placed by September 30, 2026, to take advantage of this offer.

Click here to pre-order



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 Dr., Rockledge | Needs a bilingual English/Spanish deacon.

Parochial Administrator: Father Joseph Shaute

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

861 Maitland Ave., Altamonte Springs

Pastor: Father Ralph DuWell



WE'RE HIRING

Emmaus Community Coordinator

Diocese of Orlando Winter Park, FL

Secretariat for Leadership and Parish Life

The Emmaus Community Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of maintenance, cleaning, food service, and laundry services for the Diocese of Orlando Independent Living Community for Retired Priests (Emmaus) ensuring that the residence maintains cleanliness, health and safety standards. Develops and tracks community budget, coordinates with preventative maintenance tasks, cleaning and cooking services, and related administrative tasks.

[Click Here to view the Job Posting.](#)

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

“... in prison and you visited me.” (MT 25:36)

For those interested in volunteering at any of the Florida Department of Correction sites:

[Click here to learn more and apply](#)

If you want to learn more about this ministry, especially about the good work already being done at the Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC) in Orlando, please reach out to **Deacon Jimmy Avellan**. If you know of prisons or jails that are under-served, please let us know.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Great Resource for Mental Health Webinars

[Mindspringhealth.org](https://mindspringhealth.org)

SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

First Saturdays Devotion with the Blessed Virgin: Led by Father Sinclair Cushmore

Saturday, September, 2026 | 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Join us for a reflection on Our Blessed Mother. This event is being held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe!

[View Event](#)

San Damiano Senior Day- Fulton Sheen: A Pivotal Player in Catholic Evangelization

Thursday, September 10, 2026 | 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

As we celebrate his upcoming beatification in September, join us for an episode of Bishop Robert Barron's Pivotal Players series exploring the life, ministry, and enduring influence of Fulton Sheen.

[View Event](#)

Eucharistic Cenacle

Friday, September 11, 2026 | 7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Join the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary for Mass, Adoration, Praise and Worship and Prayer!

[View Event](#)

VIVET- Youth and Young Adult Formation & Adoration

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 | 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

All youth and young adults are invited to join the Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary for Adoration, Praise, Worship, and Prayer!

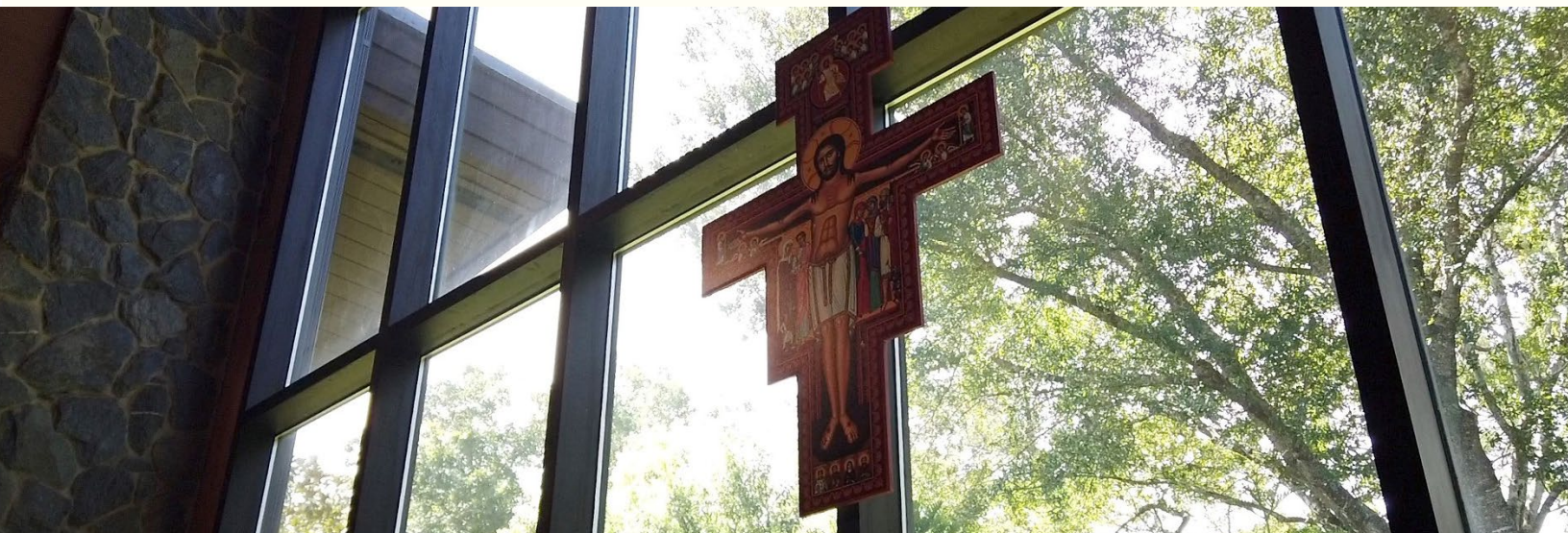
[View Event](#)

Come & Rest: A Mental Health Retreat

Friday, September 18, 2026 | 4 P.M. through Sunday, September 20, 2026 | 12 P.M.

Come and Rest is a retreat for those carrying heavy hearts, walking through difficult seasons, or searching for hope and meaning in the midst of suffering.

[View Event](#)



SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Fill Your Cup- History of the Catholic Church

Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 7 P.M. through Friday, September 25, 2026 | 9 P.M.

Learn about the Catholic Church through the centuries.

[View Event](#)

Franciscan Weekend Retreat - The Stories of St. Francis: Encounters That Transformed A Life

Friday, October 2, 2026 | 4 P.M. through Sunday, October 4, 2026 | 11 A.M.

In this Jubilee Year of St. Francis, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, we invite you to join us for a special weekend of prayer, reflection, and celebration as we honor the life and enduring witness of one of the Church's most beloved saints.

[View Event](#)

Transitus of St. Francis

Saturday, October 3, 2026 | 7 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Please join the Secular Franciscan Community at San Pedro for this celebration of St. Francis' passage from life to death.

[View Event](#)

LITURGICAL UPDATES

2028 Liturgical Calendar

The 2028 USCCB Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America is available for download [here](#).

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Resources can be found [here](#).

FDLC

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

- 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.

ANNUAL SEASONAL RESOURCES

The **2027 (Year B) Publications** are now available for purchase. All parishes have the opportunity to order these publications and receive a 30% discount through the Office of Worship. Order forms must be completed and mailed to the Office of Worship, along with a check made payable to the "Diocese of Orlando". All payments and order forms must be postmarked no later than **Friday, September 25, 2026** for processing. Please note that one order per parish is permitted.

Please email [Kathleen Elbert](#) for the order form.

2026-2027 DIOCESAN CHOIR

If you would like more information about joining the Diocesan Choir for future liturgies, please email [David McIntyre](#).

STEP ONLINE COURSES

The McGrath Institute for Church Life registration for the 2026-2027 STEP Online Courses is now available. Courses in Catholic doctrine, education, Christian life, church history, liturgy, and scripture will be available in August.

Online courses range between four and eight weeks long, with most being six weeks in length. Students read texts and watch video lessons before posting weekly assignments, sharing reflections in discussion forums, and participating in real-time online discussions with classmates. Space is limited. Register early to guarantee enrollment. [View the STEP Comprehensive Calendar of Courses.](#)

NPM

We are thrilled to announce the **Music Ministry Leadership Track** through The Essentials of Catholic Liturgy, offered in partnership between Liturgy Training Publications (LTP) and NPM. The Music Ministry Leadership Track offers additional formation and may be taken independently by past participants who wish to deepen their skills.

Topics for music ministers will include:

- Selecting Music for the Mass, Rites, Devotions, and Liturgy of the Hours
- Creating worship aids
- Copyright licensing
- Choir rehearsal preparation
- Administrative skills like developing a budget and working with clergy

NPM members save \$50 when registering for the Music Ministry leadership track. [Register here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Liturgical Boot Camp

October 17, 2026 | Annunciation Catholic Church, Altamonte Springs

For coordinators, directors, and liturgical planners.

Planning the Seasons

November 14, 2026 | St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, Altamonte Springs

Art and environment for Lent.

Planning the Seasons

January 16, 2027 | St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, St. Cloud

Proclaiming the Palm Sunday and Good Friday Passions.



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 2027 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 Worship. **Click here to visit EMHC webpage and register.**

Annunciation, Altamonte Springs (CN)

September 19, 2026

Nativity, Longwood (CN)

October 10, 2026 (English & Spanish)

St. Theresa, Belleview (N)

October 10, 2026

Nativity, Longwood (CN)

October 10, 2026 (English & Spanish)

Resurrection, Lakeland (W)

October 24, 2026

St. Stephen, Winter Springs (CN)

November 7, 2026

Happy Birthday

DEACON JACINTO ORTIZ	90
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DEACON PETER DIGIUSEPPE	86
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DEACON CARL ORBON	84
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DEACON RAFAEL GONZALEZ	84
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DEACON JOSE SERRANO	83
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DEACON WALT PRICE	83
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DEACON DANA MCCARTHY	82
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DEACON JOSE NAVEO	80
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DEACON ERIC MAKOID	80
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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, SEPTEMBER 18TH

ENGLISH - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD CHAPEL
SAN PEDRO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

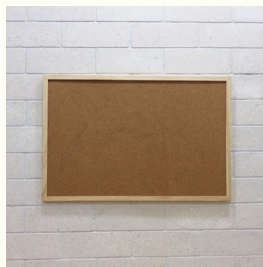
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LITURGICAL CORNER



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