

# THE *Belleville Deacon*

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS | DIACONATE FORMATION | DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



**CLASS OF 2023, INSTITUTED AS ACOLYTES.** The journey to being ordained a deacon is a long one. When a man begins his five-year formal formation, it seems like forever. But as in any journey, there are goals to achieve. Beginning year one as an aspirant it isn't long before they are accepted as a candidate, followed by Institution as Lector. The final step before deacon ordination is Institution as an acolyte. Members of our parish are called to be Lectors and Altar Servers (acolyte) but those seeking deacon or priestly ordination are installed to those ministries." "Acolyte" derives from a Greek term, akolouthos, which means "server," "companion," or "follower." In the Roman Catholic Church, a person is installed in the ministry of Acolyte in order to assist the deacon and the priest in liturgical celebrations, especially the Eucharistic Liturgy.

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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT Reverend Steven M. Pautler

There is a beautiful quote that I wanted to share with you, which shares the sacrificial nature of and nature of Christ. We often only think of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, but His sacrificial giving started years before the cross! It reminds us that we are called to serve in the name of the slain lamb.

*"The Life came down, that He might be slain; the Bread came down, that He might hunger; the Way came down, that He might be wearied in the way; the Fountain came down, that He might thirst."*

– Augustine of Hippo

The Permanent Deacon, assumes the Sacramental Ordination, to be a public sign to the world that the Church is really and truly "servant." The Deacon is called to speak in the name of that Church. He is called by his community to serve that community and anyone in need. His motivation is not to be just a part of another social agency. Rather, his motivation is to know the Heart of God and to be that Heart of God for God's people.

It seems like we just held our first "Come and See," presentation and now we are at the end. During the four sessions offered throughout the Diocese of Belleville, thirty-one men and their wives attended to pray, discern and learn more about the Permanent Deacon. I want to express my thanks to the Pastors, who encouraged worthy men to attend, the presentation team, and our four parishes who stepped forward and served as host.

If you or someone you are familiar with missed out on the presentation, you may still apply for admission to the Aspirancy. For those discerning, talk to your pastor, your wife and family. This may be the time that God's has a special mission for you, as a Permanent Deacon.

Joining us for the application process, January 28, 2023 will be the Director of Permanent Deacon Formation, for St. Meinrad School of Theology, Deacon Ron Pirau. Deacon Ron will answer any questions you may have about the Formation Program. Mark your calendars now.



Deacon Ron Pirau

## PERMANENT DEACON APPLICATION PROCESS TO BEGIN SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2023



The formal application process for men interested in becoming aspirants for the Permanent Deacon Formation Class has been scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2023. Prospective aspirants and their wives are asked to gather at the lower level of The Cathedral of St. Peter, (Undercroft - South Entrance) 200 W. Harrison Street, Belleville, IL 62220 at 10:00 a.m.

Those desiring to be considered **must** complete the formal application and return it to the Vocation Office. Applications must be returned to the Diocesan Vocation Office by March 4, 2023.

In the event that your schedule doesn't permit you to attend, please contact the Vocation Office to schedule a time with a member of the formation team to review the application process.



## Important Dates For Deacon Aspirants/Inquirers

Deacon Aspirants Application Process Begins  
Saturday, January 28, 2023  
Cathedral of St. Peter Undercroft  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Deadline for Aspirant Application  
Diocesan Vocation Office  
Saturday, March 4, 2023

Deacon Aspirant Candidates  
meet with Bishop McGovern  
March 2023 - May 2023

### For Deacon Candidates (In Formation) Class of 2023

Formation Session  
January 13th - January 15th  
Cathedral of St. Peter (Undercroft)

Formation Session  
February 10th - February 12th  
Cathedral of St. Peter (Undercroft)

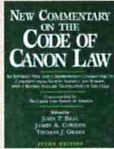
Formation Session  
March 10th - March 12th  
Cathedral of St. Peter (Undercroft)

Canonical Retreat  
Monday, April 24th – Friday, April 28th, 2023  
Toddhall Retreat Center, Columbia, IL

Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons  
Saturday, June 3rd, 2023  
Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville, IL  
10:30 a.m.

### For Aspirants, Candidates and For the Ordained Deacon

## Suggested Reading List



PREPARING FOR DEACON  
ASPIRANCY, ORDINATION  
AND FOR REVIEW

[https://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic\\_lib4cann998-165\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic_lib4cann998-165_en.html)

A LITURGICAL PREPARATION  
AID FOR THE SEASON OF  
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



[https://fdlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/LP\\_Advent\\_Christmas\\_2022.pdf](https://fdlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/LP_Advent_Christmas_2022.pdf)



SAINT MEINRAD  
RESOURCES AND  
PERMANENT DEACON  
FORMATION.

<https://www.saintmeinrad.edu/permanent-deacons/contact-us/>



You can register directly: <https://www.shsst.edu/PreachingConf/>

## Join the Deacon Community

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Pastoral Center Building #6

12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us for an Informal Reception, for social, and refreshments. **Everyone is welcomed!** Discerning candidates this is a great opportunity to meet the Belleville Deacons and their families.

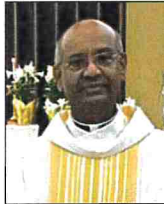


Submitted by: Deacon Tom Helfrich, Coordinator of Deacons

On October 2 – 3, 2023 the Belleville diocese permanent deacons and their wives gathered for our annual retreat at St. Meinrad in southern Indiana (aka the 'holy hill'). Fr. Sal Gonzalez, OMI was our presenter and the retreat topic was 'Do This in Remembrance of Me' (i.e. The Eucharist). As we are journeying on the Eucharistic Revival in the US, this retreat gave us an opportunity to reflect upon all the different ways that we encounter and share the Eucharist/Communion in our ministry and in our day to day lives, some of which I had not even thought of. Our 2023 retreat for the Belleville diocese deacons and their spouses will be Sept 8, 9, 10 at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belleville, IL.

### MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Reverend Michaelsami Arockiam



I am glad that "the Come and See" program for potential candidates for the Diaconate ministry is complete. Many young and enthusiastic men have chosen to think about the ministry and hopefully offer themselves to enter the formation. They exhibit all godly signs that they

are called to the ministry: almost all of them are involved in some ministries or other in their native parishes and communities. I could meet at least 19 men with their wives in this program (as I could not attend the Come and See at Mt. Vernon and at Olney). Rev. Father Cornelius Kuipers of great memory, who was a Mill Hill Missionary from London and my professor in the seminary days, used tell us that the number of vocations in a Diocese or a region, is fixed not only by the quantity of works in the Vineyard of the Lord but also by the candidates' understanding of what the vocation is. He used to say that it is God's gift to be received and nurtured. As long as it is God's gift, then, I counsel all the aspirants to be prayerful that the

Father may give this gift and include you among those who serve His Son's Priesthood. Hope to see you all when the program starts! God bless.

### MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Patti Warner



It is a very nostalgic time for me as the year 2022 comes to a close. I am reflecting on my years of working in deacon formation. When the deacon candidates are ordained next June, I will have "walked the walk" with 4 deacon formation classes, with ordinations in 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2023. What a privilege these years have been for me! Our diocese will have added 43 deacons (one of whom later became priest) to our ranks between the years 2008 and 2023. And now, we are looking ahead at the opportunity to meet new friends who will become the Class of 2028. In our Come and See travels, we have met many delightful people. We look ahead now to getting to know you even better.

In the meantime, I wish you all the best in your discernment, and hope for a most blessed Advent and Christmas. We will see you Saturday, January 28, 2023 in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Peter. Peace!

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

## Annual Preaching Conference

January 3rd - 5th 2023

