

# THE *Belleville Deacon*

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS | DIACONATE FORMATION | DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



Over the past few weeks, Bishop McGovern has been meeting with members of the Deacon Formation Class of 2023, and their wives, in preparation for Holy Orders, June 3, 2023. (Pictured above) The Class of 2023 gathers with Bishop McGovern following the Ministry of Acolyte at the Cathedral of St. Peter, this past November. More information will be available in the May issue.

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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reverend Steven M. Pautler



***"Most Reverend Father, holy Mother Church asks you to ordain these men, our brothers, to the responsibility of diaconate."***  
(Rite of Ordination of Deacons)

A great day of joy is approaching for the people of the Diocese of Belleville, the ordination day of the

Class of 2023. The men who are called to Holy Orders have been formally preparing for this day for six years, and it can be said—their entire lives. The Order of Deacons will greatly increase in size for Belleville following their ordination. I ask that over these next two months you include these men to be ordained in your prayers.

Ordination to the Priesthood or Diaconate is a time for the people of the diocese to come together in prayer and to welcome men who answered God's call. We are blessed that our Cathedral Church can accommodate so many and I encourage you to ask members of your parishes to attend. Ordination is an opportunity to invite men considering becoming a priest or deacon to witness first hand the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Church.

***"...it is not only WHAT a deacon does, but WHO a deacon is, that is important."*** (USCCB)

In some cases, deacons exercise their ministry at their home parish. Sometimes, because of special skills and gifts, a deacon is asked to serve outside of their home parish. This is a conversation between the bishop and deacon. To help clarify this question I have included some information found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's webpage. (<http://www.usccb.org>)

*"Whenever a person is ordained, he is to serve the diocesan Church. Deacons are no different in this regard: they are assigned by the bishop to ministries for which the bishop perceives a great need, and for which the deacon may have special gifts or talents. Most often, this will be within a parish set-*

*ting, just as most priests serve in a parish. Once assigned to the parish, the deacon and any other clergy assigned to the parish minister under the immediate supervision of the pastor. However, this assignment may be changed at the request of the deacon or the initiative of the bishop."* (USCCB)

You, along with members of parishes are encouraged to join in this joyful celebration of God's love of his people.

**Ordination of Deacons  
Cathedral of St. Peter - Belleville**

**Friday, June 2, 2023**

Holy Hour for Vocations/with Vespers - 5:00 p.m.  
(Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available)  
Blessed Sacrament Chapel

**Saturday, June 3, 2023**

Ordination of Deacons - 10:00 a.m.  
Reception following Ordination - McCormick Center  
(Near the Cathedral)

## BELLEVILLE DIOCESAN DALMATICS.

Unfortunately, we have been notified by our supplier that the material used to craft the diocesan dalmatic (the vestment of the deacon) and chasuble (vestment of the priest) is no longer available. Different options are being explored for future needs. At this time, we are looking for dalmatics that may be used during June 3, 2023, ordination. If you have one you can donate or lend, please contact Patti Warner, 618-722-5043.

## ATTENTION: PRIESTS, DEACONS AND THOSE TO BE ORDAINED

Father Pautler will be meeting with Deacon Ron Pirau, Director of Permanent Deacon Formation Program for St. Meinrad on April 13, 2023. The subject of this meeting is to discuss the future of the formation program. He is asking for your feedback and suggestions to help improve future formation. Please email any comments or suggestions to Father Pautler, thank you. [spautler@diobelle.org](mailto:spautler@diobelle.org)

# Important Dates

## Deacon Formation for the Class of 2023

### Weekend Session

April 14th - April 16th  
Cathedral of St. Peter (Undercroft)

### Canonical Retreat, before Ordination

Monday, April 24th - Friday, April 28th  
Toddhall Retreat Center - Columbia Illinois

### Final Weekend Session

May 12th - May 14th  
Cathedral of St. Peter (Undercroft)

## Ordination of Deacons Cathedral of St. Peter - Belleville

### Friday, June 2, 2023

Cathedral of St. Peter - Rehearsal - 4:00 p.m.  
Holy Hour for Vocations/ with Vespers - 5:00 p.m.  
Bl. Sacrament Chapel - Reconciliation  
Pre-Ordination Reception/Dinner - 6:15 p.m.

### Saturday, June 3, 2023

Bl. Sacrament Chapel Morning Prayer - 9:00 a.m.  
Undercroft - Vesting in Alb - 9:30 a.m.  
Cathedral Nave - Line-up - 9:50 a.m.  
Ordination of Deacons - 10:00 a.m.  
McCormick Center - Reception following Ordination

## Important Information for All Permanent Deacons & Candidates

### Deacon Family Outing

For all deacons, candidates and families  
Rend Lake - Shagbark Group Area  
Friday, April 28th - Sunday April 30th

### Meeting with Bishop McGovern

Mandatory Quarterly Meeting (Deacons Only)  
Sunday, April 23, 2023 - 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.  
Sunday, October 8, 2023- 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

### Annual Deacon Retreat

#### Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

Deacons & Spouses  
September 8th - 10th

## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (dates and times to be published in May)

### FOR PASTORS/ADMINISTRATORS

*"The Deacon at the Mass, and beyond,"*

(synopsis) This workshop will place a focus on pastors and administrators who will have a deacon assigned to work in their parish for the first time, or pastors who would like to review the role of the deacon. Open to all priests.

### FOR DEACONS CONTINUING EDUCATION

*"Our Life of Service."*

(synopsis) This workshop can be used to meet your continuing education requirement. It will review the role of the Deacon at Mass, and the parish. Particular focus will be placed on those ordained to the serve the Belleville Diocese. Open to all deacons.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION ALL DEACONS

The Office of Vocations, will be offering deacons opportunities for continuing education beginning quarterly in the Fall of 2023. If you have suggestions for topics please email, Father Pautler.

## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Patti Warner



As the rain falls, the weather warms, and the flowers and trees bloom, the deacon application process also is moving along.

The initial evaluations have been completed, and, as we discussed last month, the next big step is the psycho-social assessment.

Those who have been selected to take this next step have been notified and scheduling is soon to begin.

Our evaluations are conducted by Michael Pollard, LCSW. On his behalf, we will send two documents via email before your appointment. One is short and sweet - a Release of Information form allowing him to share the results of your assessment with the deacon formation team. The other is more involved—a series of questions looking at family of origin history, your marriage history, your sense of self and your habits, your education, and your spirituality. Once that is completed, applicants will contact Michael Pollard directly to make appointments.

Appointments will take place at The Cardinal Rigali Center in St. Louis. While an in-person interview is much preferred, if it causes an undue hardship or scheduling dilemma, an assessment can take place via Zoom if need be. May your Holy Week be truly holy, and your Easter a time of true joy!

## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Reverend Michaelsami Arockiam



Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

Greetings in the Lord! The Holy Week is at hand and we all have some personal devotions to follow along with our participation in the liturgical rituals and celebrations in our parish church. This year, I would like that you read and meditate on the Psalms at the appropriate times suggested. As you read, unite yourself with Jesus who is suffering. Though we remember, enact and celebrate the mysteries of our Salvation in a week time (from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday), particularly in a three day time period (Triduum), we know that our Lord suffered passion in his interior self throughout his life and physical pain from Gethsemane onwards until his death: that "double agony in man for man should undergo." Let us prayerfully recite these Psalms at home remembering that our Lord knew the Psalms very well and he prayed them as he underwent passion to keep his soul and body pure and attentive to the Sacrifice of the everlasting covenant. [Please note that the Psalm number given follows the Greek version of the Old Testament and the Psalm number in parentheses follows the Hebrew version of the Old Testament. The Psalm numbers in parentheses are from The Jerusalem Bible].

The Holy Week:

Monday: Afternoon : Ps.70(71).

Tuesday: At 6pm: Ps.40(41).

Wednesday: Around 7am: Ps.55(56); Ps.56(57).  
Afternoon Ps.58(59); Ps.142(143).

Thursday: Morning: Ps. 34(35);  
Evening: Ps.25(26); Ps.27(28).

Friday: Early Morning: Ps.107(108);

Morning: Ps.50(51);

Around 11AM: Ps.37(38);

Ps.21(22); Ps.114(116)

Before the sunset: Ps.29(30).

After the sunset: Ps.87(88).

Saturday: Anytime: Ps.15(16); Ps.87(88).

May these Psalms help us unite ourselves with our Lord in His Passion Week.

**God bless. Fr. Michael.**

## MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR OF DEACONS

Deacon Thomas and Dawn Helfrich



Last month we started discussing our personal journey as a couple through discernment to ordination. We introduced you to the tangible and spiritual ways we chose to say "yes" and embark on this lifelong commitment. As ironic as it may be, especially to the men and

women just now completing their five years of formation, making the decision to apply to diaconate formation is possibly the most difficult step, but most will tell you that discernment continues for the duration of the vocation you have chosen. That is not to say any steps along the way are easy; they are not meant to be. Each step along the way is the journey of discernment. After making the decision to move forward with the rigorous application process, the next step was letting our friends, family, and our parish know we had made this decision and then submitting all of the application documents, just as those of you applying to formation have done. Then we waited. But it wasn't long before we moved on to meetings with the psychologist (we must have passed), our doctor, the Formation Board/Committee members, etc. Things were moving along. Then, we waited again. Waiting and the application/interview process was not easy, especially after making this huge decision and being ready to get started. However, we came to learn that every step along the path to acceptance taught us something about ourselves, our faith, and the diaconate program itself. Though the process was somewhat intimidating, our pastor and deacon, the Formation Board members, and friends and family supported us every step of the way and were all focused on making us successful and helping us in any way that they could, something we think is important to remember as you embark on this journey.

## Ordination Class of 2023 Commemorative Keepsake Booklet

As an expression of thanks for answering God's call, a Keepsake Booklet is being planned to be available to all newly ordained deacons and anyone who would like one. It will contain pictures, events, and reflections during their six years of journey towards ordination. The Vocation Office is asking for donations to help offset the cost. Parishes, Organizations, Individuals and Friends who make a donation will have their parish/name/organization included. You can send your donation to:  
**Diocese of Belleville Vocation Office**  
222 South Third Street,  
Belleville, IL 62220

Please detach and return  
to the address provided:

Benefactor (500)

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