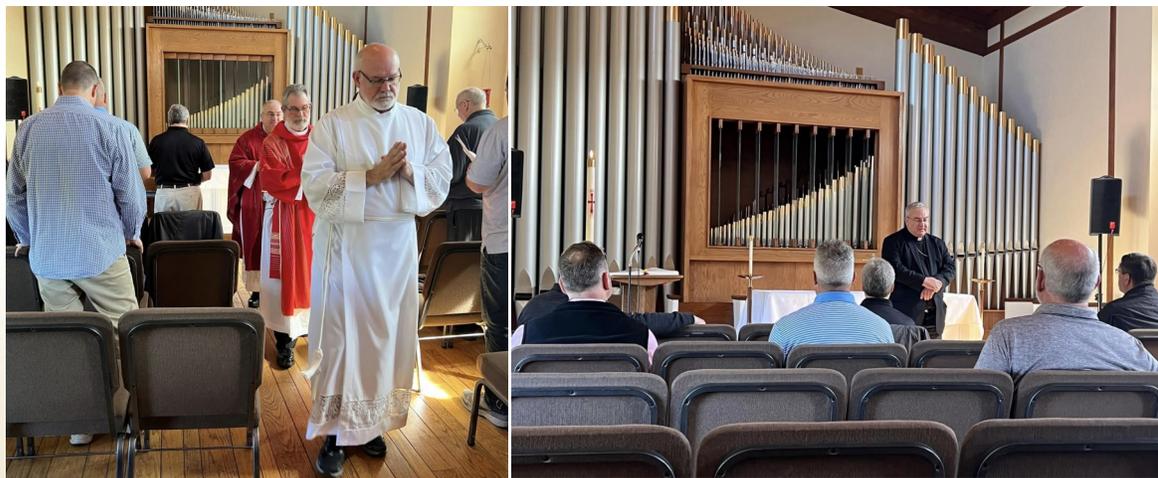


THE *Belleville Deacon*

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS | DIACONATE FORMATION | DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



Recently, those to be ordained deacons for the Diocese of Belleville and Diocese of Springfield/Cape, MO, attended a weeklong retreat at Toddhall Retreat Center, in Columbia, Illinois. Bishop McGovern celebrated the opening day Mass. Following Mass he addressed them and shared his thoughts on being ordained permanent deacons.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reverend Steven M. Pautler



"Dearly beloved, let us pray that God the all-powerful Father will mercifully pour out the grace of his blessing on this, his servant, whom in his kindness he raises to the sacred Order of the Diaconate."

(Rite of Ordination of a Deacon)

With great joy, I share with you that fourteen men will be ordained permanent deacons, on Saturday, June 3, 2023. Please continue your prayers for the following called to Holy Orders...

- Mr. Jay Fowler - St. Anthony, Beckemeyer
- Mr. Brad Haar - St. George, New Baden
- Mr. James Keepes - St. Mary, Mt. Carmel
- Mr. Anthony Kellerman - Sacred Heart, DuQuoin
- Mr. Daniel Kimutis - St. Clare, O'Fallon
- Mr. Daniel Laquet - St. Mary, Centralia
- Mr. Douglas Lugge - Cathedral of St. Peter
- Mr. David Mills - St. Edward, Fairfield
- Mr. David Miskell - SS Peter and Paul, Waterloo
- Mr. William Mueller - St. James, Millstadt
- Mr. Leonard Ratajczyk - St. Clare, O'Fallon
- Mr. Thomas Ritzheimer - St. Mary, Trenton
- Mr. Fred Sterns - St. Ann, Nashville
- Mr. Justin Wolfslau - St. George, New Baden

The Ordination Mass is open to everyone. You are encouraged to send representatives from your parish community to pray with our bishop, priests, deacons and religious as we welcome these men into the Sacred Order of Deacon. Their joy is our joy. Deacons remind us that the Church is called to serve the poor and marginalized in our midst.

Let us pray, "May every Gospel virtue abound in him: Unfeigned love, concern for the sick and poor, unassuming authority, the purity of innocence and the observance of spiritual discipline."

(Rite of Ordination of a Deacon)

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)

THE BELLEVILLE DEACON COMMUNITY PREPARED TO WELCOME THE NEWLY ORDAINED INTO THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF THE PERMANENT DEACON

"The principal function of the deacon, therefore, is to collaborate with the bishop and the priests in exercise of a ministry which is not of their own wisdom but of the Word of God, calling all to conversion and holiness." - Congregation for the Clergy, Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons, no. 23

The Belleville Deacon community will welcome the newly ordained Deacons during ordination with the Fraternal Kiss. Please vest in your **Diocesan Stole and Dalmatic** in the Cathedral Undercroft.

Follow the directions of the Master of Ceremony concerning your placement in the procession, seating, and participation in the ordination. You are encouraged to attend the Holy Hour for Vocations on Friday, June 2, 2023, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Additional information will be sent from the Diocesan Office, so watch your email inbox. Please plan to attend and show your support for your brothers in Christ.

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MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Each of the newly ordained deacons will return to their parishes and exercise their ministerial faculties given to them by the bishop. Most parishes are planning a Mass of Thanksgiving and reception for their newly ordained Deacon. Keeping with tradition, a man called to the priesthood celebrates a First Mass. Deacons do not—but they may commemorate the first time they assist the priest, as the Deacon of the Mass. We have been praying with these men and you are invited to continue that prayer with them. If priests or deacons would like to join a particular newly ordained deacon for their Mass of Thanksgiving, please contact him or his pastor so arrangements can be made.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Patti Warner



As I write this article, my last, on a beautiful spring day, such a flutter of feelings overwhelm me. I am going to retire, effective May 31.

During this transition as I look back on my years at the diocese, I can only be grateful and feel absolutely blessed, particularly for the last 20 years in deacon formation. I have had the privilege to walk through formation with 28 wonderful deacons and their equally fabulous wives. With this year's ordination that number becomes 42!! When we include our friends from the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau who have studied with us, that adds another 12. Praise God! We built community, enjoyed many good times, and held each other in our hearts when the times were sometimes not so good at all. We learned so much, and flourished and grew in our shared faith. Who could ever imagine a more rewarding ministry? Not me!

So, to the Class of 2028 . . . my only regret is that I won't be able to cultivate a relationship with you. In my very preliminary interactions with you, you are already delightful. I know an exciting future lies ahead. Bishop McGovern, Father Steve, Father Michael, Deacons Tom and Doug, my successor, and many others—especially in the diaconal community—will take good care of you.

To the Class of 2008 (my favorite), and 2013 (really my favorite), and 2018 (very favorite), and 2023 (you guessed it – FAVE!), I will treasure your friendship always. I know you will continue your beautiful servant work and see the face of Jesus in those around you. A list of people to thank would be endless, so I will simply thank everyone connected with St. Meinrad and the deacon program, and all of my dear fellow employees in the diocese. You have all been so good to me and I treasure all of you.

Peace!

DEACONS, ARE YOU GOING TO N.D.I.C.E. THIS YEAR?

National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education to be held in Fairview Heights, July 16th - 19th

Every summer for a long time now, the National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) has hosted a conference for deacons and their wives. What started in the mid-70s as three-day event in Collegetown soon grew into a bigger gathering at Notre Dame, and then moved to Xavier University. COVID interrupted this summer gathering for a year or two, but now N.D.I.C.E. is roaring back.

This year's meetings will be held on July 16-19 in our diocese at Holy Trinity Parish in Fairview Heights. The theme is **Christ: the Gift of Himself in the Eucharist**. For additional information please contact Deacon John Fridley, fridleyj@ezeeweb.com or visit the N.D.I.C.E. website at: <https://ndice.net/>

ELEVEN MEN BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY TO BE ASPIRANTS

Next step will be psychological evaluations

We had an outstanding interest from men across the Diocese who were discerning the Permanent Diaconate, and thank you so much for your inquiry. We are excited to announce that eleven men have begun their next step. Following their psychological evaluations, they will be interviewed by a select group of priests, deacons, religious and lay persons. The panel will then submit their recommendations to Bishop McGovern. Towards the end of July the Deacon For-

mation Class of 2028 will be announced. Your prayers are needed and requested for all men and women who are discerning a vocation.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Reverend Michaelsami Arockiam



Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

I had an opportunity to say the Holy Mass and deliver a homily on Jn. 6:35-40 at the canonical retreat of the Deacons 2023 on April 26, 2023. I am repeating a part of the homily: The gospel portrays how Jesus, i.e., the Son in the human nature, lived. He speaks of "not to

do my own will but the will of him who sent me" (v38). The Son in the human nature with his body and soul did indeed have freedom to choose and execute his own will produced in his human soul: if he so chooses he can execute his own will, not the Father's will. Thus he can perceive in himself in a given instance the conflict between his own will and the will of the Father (Gal.5:16-17). But being the Divine Person, the Son he is, he did only what the Son does, i.e., the Divine will. He sacrificed his own will arising from his human nature. Rather, he brought his soul and body to serve him in executing the Father's will. The sacrifices in his life in the human nature invite us who serve His Priesthood at the altar, to sacrifice our own will for the sake of achieving the Father's will for universal salvation. It is the sacrifices in our life, small and great, that bring our ministry to completion. For St. Ignatius of Antioch (+107AD), desired his martyrdom because he knew that it would bring perfection and completion to his ministry.

May the Good Shepherd who has called us to serve enrich our lives so that we make this unbelieving world that is accessible to us, to believe, to eat, to behold the Son and believe in Him for its own salvation. God bless.

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR OF DEACONS

Deacon Thomas and Dawn Helfrich



Last month we wrote about the application review process and the waiting, waiting, waiting... For some, that waiting ends in disappointment; they have not been asked to move forward with a vocation to the diaconate. For others, it is a joy; they have been asked to move forward with discernment to

a vocation to the diaconate.

Discernment is not just an application process, but an ongoing process that some would say will continue for the rest of your life, all the way from before deciding to apply to enter deacon formation, until the day you die; a life of discernment for the individuals involved (husbands, wives, and their families), for the parish, and the diocese. We put our trust in the Lord with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and we trust in the process of discernment, even though the outcome may not be what we wanted, or when we wanted it, we trust in the process.

For those being asked to move forward with the application process, discernment of a vocation to the diaconate continues all the way up to the time the Bishop calls you to orders. And even after ordination, you will continue to discern your role as a deacon in the parish, your community, the diocese, and perhaps even nationally with some of the national deacon associations, institutes, and conferences.

June 3rd	Dan Laquet	4:00 p.m.	St. Mary, Centralia
June 3rd	Jim Keepees	5:00 p.m.	St. Mary, Mt. Carmel
June 4th	Brad Haar	8:00 a.m.	St. George, New Baden
June 4th	Justin Wolfslau	8:00 a.m.	St. George, New Baden
June 4th	Len Ratajczyk	8:30 a.m.	St. Clare, O'Fallon
June 4th	Bill Mueller	9:00 a.m.	St. James, Millstadt
June 4th	Jay Fowler	9:30 a.m.	St. Anthony Beckemeyer
June 4th	Tom Ritzheimer	9:30 a.m.	St. Mary, Trenton
June 4th	David Miskell	10:00 a.m.	SS Peter and Paul, Waterloo
June 4th	Dan Kimutis	10:30 a.m.	St. Clare, O'Fallon
June 4th	Doug Lugge	10:30 a.m.	Cathedral, of St. Peter, Belleville
June 4th	David Mills	10:30 a.m.	St. Edward, Fairfield
June 4th	Fred Sterns	10:30 a.m.	St. Ann, Nashville
June 16th	Tony Kelleman	TBD	Sacred Heart, DuQuoin
June 11th	Kevin Henderson	9:00 a.m.	*Sacred Heart, Poplar Bluff, MO
TBD	Tony Peters	TBD	Springfield/Cape Diocese

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)
- _____ Promoter (250)
- _____ Advocate (100)
- _____ Partner (50)
- _____ Patron \$ _____