



El Diácono



January 2025 A Newsletter for the Deacons of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Issue 48E



**NEW
YEAR**

New Beginnings



From the Desk of the Director

Happy New Year!

In one sense, of course, this greeting is a bit tardy. The liturgical New Year happened on December 1. Either way, this is a season of new beginnings; a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. 2025 holds a great deal of promise as 14 deacon candidates from eleven parishes representing all seven deaneries will be ordained. That will take place on **June 14 at 9am** (the earlier time is due to a wedding that afternoon at the Cathedral).



This year we will have an in-service on **Saturday, March 29** with Sr. Ginger Downey OLMV. The topic will be the deacon's role as a presider with a special focus on the new rites for Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass. Sr. Ginger gave a similar presentation to the 2025 Candidates, and it was well received. I think you will find her quite engaging and helpful to your ministry at the altar. And don't forget to send in your Continuing Education Report (see page 13).

The retreat team is hard at work putting together plans for this fall (the date is TBD). The hope is to have a retreat like what we had this past year. If you have some ideas and want to contribute, please let me know and I will get you involved.

At our retreat in September, the community voted to overhaul the Constitution of the Deacon Council. Representatives from the Deaneries are working to reconfigure this important consultative body and hope to have it all put together before we gather for retreat.

The Personnel Board is working on revamping the deacon retirement policies as well as making a better distribution of deacons in our parishes. As you know, we have an aging diaconate as well as many parishes that are underserved by diaconal ministry.

As one cohort of candidates is ordained, another is entering candidacy and still another, Aspirancy. There are currently 16 Aspirants being vetted for Candidacy and an unknown number of men working on their applications to be admitted into deacon formation. Their deadline is March 31. If you know of a man who would make a good candidate, present him to your pastor and have him contact the Deacon Office.

On a final note, I want you to know how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve you and work with you in building the Kingdom. So many of you (deacons and wives) have given generously of your time both for the deacon community and for those in formation. Thank you for being the servants you were called to be!

Peace,

Dcn. Keith Davis



Deacon Council Update

By Dcn. Ed Leyba, Representative from Deanery A (St. Thomas Aquinas, Rio Rancho)

Brother Deacons,

We recognize the incredible gifts God has blessed you with and understand how full your lives are. Yet, we have an exciting opportunity to serve together in a meaningful way! As we work to rebuild the Diaconal Council of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, we need dedicated deacons who can offer a few hours each month to address the needs of our brother deacons and their families. This vital ministry helps us grow stronger in our mission to lead others to an encounter with Christ.



Please prayerfully discern if God may be calling you to this important service. Additionally, if you know a fellow deacon who might be well-suited for this ministry, we welcome your nominations. Together, we can make a difference!

Please complete the Deacon Council Nomination Form: <https://form.jotform.com/kdavis5430/deacon-council-nomination-form>

Nominations are being accepted through January 27.



The Deacon Office is looking for help in ensuring that the materials from the office are translated into Spanish effectively. If you are bilingual and have an hour or two per month to review newsletters and other published materials produced by the Deacon Office, please contact Dcn. Keith at the Deacon Office.

Ordination Date Set

Fourteen Deacon Candidates are preparing to be ordained into the Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 14th at 9am. The ordination will take place at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe.

Deacons are invited to attend and vest.





Deacon In-service

The Deacon as Presider

Plus: The new Rite of Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside of Mass

Saturday

March 29

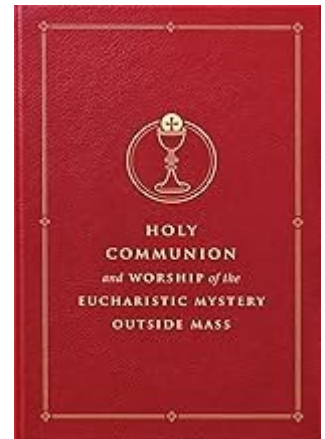
8:30am to 3:30pm

(Lunch included)

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

4020 Lomas Blvd. NE

Albuquerque



Sr. Ginger Downey, OLVM, is a member of the Congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, commonly known as Victory Noll Sisters. She has been a member of the congregation since 1986 and served in elected leadership for ten years, from 2012-2022.



Sr. Ginger has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Wyoming and a master's degree in theology, emphasis in liturgical studies, from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota. She has served in all levels of parish and Diocesan liturgical ministry, including the Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Phoenix.

Even during her time in leadership Sr. Ginger continued to work in the liturgical world as a presenter for conferences, coordinator of liturgy for Congregational meetings and served as liturgist for the annual conference for Conference of Major Superiors of Men. In January 2024, Sr. Ginger became the Director of the Office of Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Phoenix. In her current position she also serves as a member of the Liturgical Commission for the Diocese.

Register online: <https://form.jotform.com/kdavis5430/deacon-inservice>

Or call Yolanda at 505-831-8246



Solemnities, Feasts and Memorials

January through March

- January 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
- January 2 St. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors
- January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
- January 5 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
- January 12 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
- January 17 St. Anthony, Abbot
- January 20 St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr
- January 21 St. Agnes, Martyr
- January 23 St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne, Cope, Virgin
- January 24 St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor
- January 25 Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
- January 28 St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor
- January 31 St. John Bosco, Priest
- February 2 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord
- February 3 St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
- February 5 St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
- February 6 St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
- February 8 St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
- February 14 St. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop
- February 17 Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
- February 21 St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor
- February 22 Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
- February 27 St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor
- March 3 St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin
- March 5 Ash Wednesday
- March 8 St. John of God, Religious
- March 17 St. Patrick, Bishop
- March 18 St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor
- March 19 Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- March 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord





Deacon Candidates of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, 2024

FOLLOW HIS Example

Steve Garcia
Queen of Heavens, ABO

Tyler Cole
Nativity of the BVM, ABO

Arthur Trujillo
OLO Guadalupe, Perilla

Francisco Martinez
St. Jude Thaddeus, ABO

Emilio Brizal
OLO Someros, LV

Bryan Hufstater
Prince of Peace, ABO

Guadalupe Soos
Sacred Heart, Clovis

Buck Sanchez
Nativity of the BVM, ABO

Anthony Martinez
OLO Guadalupe, Taos

Francisco Rodriguez
Sacred Heart, Clovis

Ricardo Mancas
OLO Someros, LV

Jeff McCarthy
Crato Rey, SF

Is God calling You?
Deacon Formation:
<http://santafedeacons.net/formation.htm>

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Deacon Formation:
<http://santafedeacons.net/formation.htm>

Applications for New Cohort Now Being Accepted!

In order to maintain our deacon community and provide ordained men to serve as deacons in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, the Deacon Formation Office plans to start a new cohort of deacon candidates every two years. Applications are now being accepted for the 2030 cohort. If you know of a man who you feel might make a good deacon, please discuss it with your pastor and, with his approval, encourage him in his vocation. A good place to start is to send him to the Deacon website: <http://santafedeacons.net/index.htm/files/Becoming%20a%20Deacon.pdf>

The next information meeting will be held at the Deacon Office on January 25 (and streamed via Zoom).

They can register online at this web site: <https://form.jotform.com/kdavis5430/inquirercontact>



Mentors are needed for the growing number of men (and their spouses) in formation. We are looking for deacons and their wives to provide mentoring for up to three couples from your deanery. Training is provided. The time commitment is about two to three hours per month for this very rewarding ministry. You must have at least three years of ordination experience to qualify. Check with Dcn. Doug Feery, Deacon Mentor Coordinator at dopayfee@gmail.com.



Rebuild My Church Update

The Rebuild my Church Core Team continues their work in building a pastoral plan for the Archdiocese which will be customized for each deanery. In fact, the deaneries are the focal point of much of the “rebuilding” activity. Their efforts will wrap up this March. In fact, some of the deaneries have already submitted their reports. A ninth deanery was created for this process. It is comprised of the offices at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center.

Your support for this process is critical so please assist the work of your respective deans in this effort. And please pray for its success!

The five reflection themes for the Rebuild My Church initiative came from the synodal process held last year.

- a. Education and Formation
- b. The Role of Women
- c. The Life of the Spirit
- d. Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue and Events, and
- e. Cultivating a culture of synodality that emphasizes listening and understanding.

Stay tuned for more information as the process progresses.

Rebuild My Church Prayer

Most High glorious
God enlighten the
Darkness of my heart.
Give me Lord,
A correct faith,
A certain hope,
A perfect charity,
Sense and knowledge,
So that I may carry out
Your holy and true
Command.



St. Francis of Assisi Prayer Before the Crucifix



What is a Jubilee Year?



“Jubilee” is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the *yobel*, the ram's horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: a Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an “extra” year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it wasn't easy to organise, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of

creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus' mission in this way: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,” (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a “Holy Year,” since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been “extraordinary” Holy Years: for example, in 1933 Pope Pius XI chose to commemorate the 1900th anniversary of the Redemption, and in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy as an extraordinary jubilee. The way in which Jubilee Years are marked has also changed through the centuries: originally the Holy Year consisted of a pilgrimage to the Roman Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, later other signs were added, such as the Holy Door. By participating in the Holy Year, one is granted a plenary indulgence. For more info go to: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Franciscus



St. Stephen Fund



This fund is established according to the Archdioceses of Santa Fe by-laws and constitution. It is an approved fund for the designated purpose of giving financial assistance to Permanent Deacons and/or their wives. The St Stephen Fund is intended to be temporary assistance during a time of crisis or when grave financial need has been identified. Assistance from the fund is intended to be a one-time gift, but under certain circumstances the St Stephen Fund Committee may decide to help on more than one occasion. The Permanent Deacon or widow requesting assistance must complete a Request for Assistance form and send to the St Stephen Fund Committee for review and then forward to the Office of the Director of Deacons for action.

Direct Contributions

You can now make direct contributions to the St Stephen's Fund through the link below.

<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=Twwtgk>

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.



VIRTUS[®]Online

Just a reminder that all deacons must remain in compliance with the Archdiocesan Call to Protect protocols, including keeping current (every five years) with your VIRTUS training. If you are not certain if you are in compliance, you can look it up at the link below, or contact Yolanda at the Deacon Office.

[English Virtus Link](#)

[Spanish Virtus Link](#)

The Office of Deacons would like to thank you for your ministry to the Church, The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and to the many services provided to the people of God and the entire community. May God Bless you abundantly!



Diaconate Information

Cohort 2025

Current Class size: 14 Candidates

Ordination: June 14, 2025



Cohort 2028

Current Class size: 16 Aspirants

Ordination in 2028

Next Deacon In-Service

The Deacon as Presider

March 29, 2025



Upcoming Archdiocesan Liturgical Events

Sanctity of Life Mass, Tuesday, January 28, Noon at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Santa Fe

OCIA Trainings

- Saturday, January 18, 10am—3pm Cathedral Basilica—Crispin Hall
- Sunday, February 2, 10am—3pm Our Lady of Guadalupe—Emmaus Center, Clovis

Register by emailing Gabriel Gabaldon, Interim Director of the Office of Worship at ggabaldon@asfnm.org

Ash Wednesday—March 5

Rites of Election:

- Thursday, March 6, 6pm at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Albuquerque
- Saturday, March 8, 1pm at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Clovis
- Sunday, March 9, 3pm at The Cathedral Basilica in Santa Fe

Chrism Mass: Thursday, April 10 at 5pm at the Cathedral Basilica in Santa Fe



Rest in Peace

Pray for the Dead

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. ~Amen~

December

- 3 Dcn. Macedon Montoya 2004
Dcn. Merce Villareal 2012
- 4 Dcn. Lynn Bower 1995
Dcn. Tony Porto 2011
- 14 Dcn. Alfonso Montoya 1999
- 15 Dcn. Robert Aragon 2017
- 18 Dcn. Juan Miguel Rodriguez 2021
- 19 Dcn. Eluid David Esquibel 1992
- 22 Dcn. Hugh Hackett 2010
- 24 Dcn. Charles Bates 1999
- 27 Dcn. Andrew Lopez 2021
- 29 Dcn. Manuel A. Gallegos 2013

January

- 3 Dcn. Fabian Garcia 2005
Dcn. Desiderio Luna 2011
- 4 Dcn. Gilbert Valverde 2012
- 5 Dcn. Diego Herrera 2021
- 11 Dcn. Robert Paiz 2003

- 18 Dcn. Gregorio Henderson 2024
- 19 Dcn. Juan Andy Dimas 2023
- 20 Dcn. Alexander Elsberg 2011
- 30 Dcn. Esequiel Torres 2007
Dcn. Benjamin Lopez 2008

February

- 1 Dcn. Frank Lovato 2005
- 7 Dcn. Donald Bruckner 2016
- 9 Dcn. Alberto Sandoval 2006
- 10 Dcn. Salvador Nuñez 1997
- 13 Dcn. John H. Tourville 2004
- 14 Dcn. Oswaldo Montoya 1999
- 25 Dcn. Robert Contreras 2015
- 26 Dcn. John Patrick Kneafsey 2006
Dcn. Patrick DeLozier 2016
- 26 Dcn. Alfred Gilbert 2006

March

- 1 Dcn. Joe Black 2003
- 18 Dcn. Robert Villarreal 2018
- 19 Dcn. Raymond Gonzales 2000
- 22 Dcn. Alfred McLane 2014
- 25 Dcn. Julian Padilla 2005
- 29 Dcn. Raymond J. Bouffard 1997
- 31 Dcn. Rene Greivel 2020

Note: The memorials listed are
found in the Ordo for Region XIII.



**BUT WE DO NOT WANT YOU
TO BE UNINFORMED,**

brothers, about those who are asleep, that you
may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13, ESV



Update your Continuing Education for 2024

Deacons are required to submit an annual report on their continuing education hours. We have created a simple form for you to complete: <https://form.jotform.com/kdavis5430/continuing-education-report-form> or you may use the form located in Appendix E of the Deacon Policy Manual.

Each permanent deacon who is granted faculties to function within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe is expected to complete a minimum of **forty hours** of continuing education each year. Hours of continuing education are determined on the basis of clock time actually spent in attending formal classes, lectures, seminars, and workshops on academic subjects related to the personal development of the deacon as an ordained minister. In individual cases where remote location and great distance are a hardship, a deacon may devise a plan for acquiring the equivalent amount of continuing education by alternative means such as a self-study, correspondence courses and directed reading. This plan must be discussed with the deacon's pastor/supervisor and then submitted to the Director of the Office of Deacons. The educational portions of such gatherings as: In-Service Training Day(s), the annual weekend retreat for deacons and their wives, monthly deanery meetings and regional conferences of permanent deacons count toward the forty hours required yearly. The deacon must be specific when referencing the use of books (i.e., title, author and subject), videos or television programs (i.e., speakers name and subject).

Annually, in January, each permanent deacon is required to submit, in writing, a report of continuing education received over the preceding twelve-month period. Failure to comply may ultimately lead to a suspension of faculties.





Just for Fun!



Deacons: Update your contact information. If your personal contact information has changed, please inform the Diaconate Office. This helps facilitate communication between you, the Diaconate Community and the Archdiocese. Phone 505-831-8246 or email the Diaconate Secretary at ylovato@asfnm.org

NOTE

Keep in mind if there is any information you would like to include in the El Diácono Newsletter that would be of interest to the Deacon Community, i.e., special events, accomplishments, ministry work, etc., please inform the Diaconate Office and we will be happy to announce it. With the publication of this newsletter, we will be especially looking for events in the April through June 2025 time frame with a submission deadline of March 10th, 2025 to the Director of the Office of Deacons.



**Advertising Spaces available:
Contact the Diaconate Office if
you would like to Advertise
your business here.**



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querque
Chocglitzandcream.com
505-898-4589

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