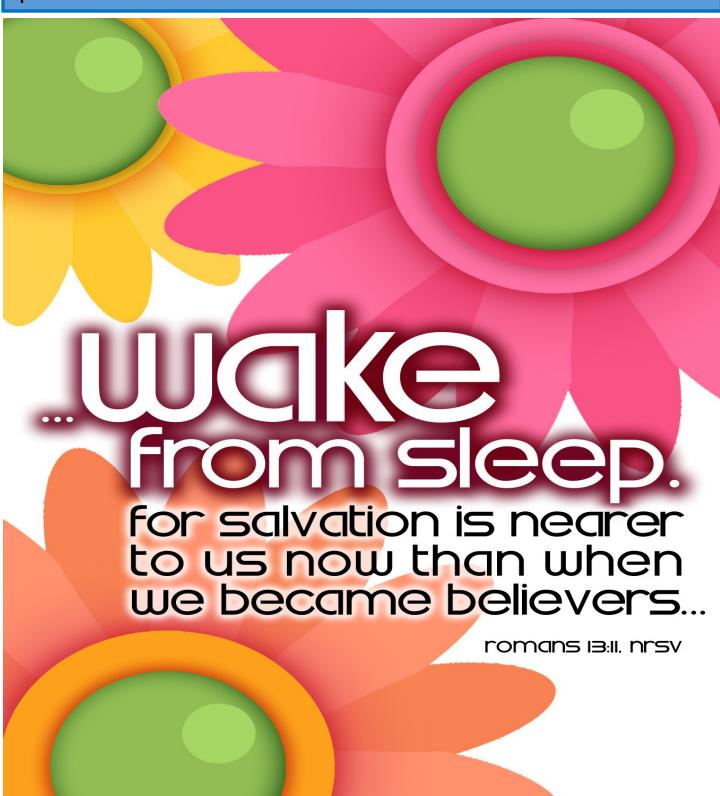


## El Diácono



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

Issue 49E





#### From the Desk of the Director

What an amazing year! There are so many great things happening in our Church and I pray that your faith and your ministry will benefit from them.

#### Jubilee year

A small contingent from the Archdiocese of the deacon community made a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee of Deacons in February. See the article on <u>pages 8 & 9</u> for a recap. Needless to say, it was an incredible event.

Archbishop Wester has designated eight churches in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe as pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee year. Here is a list of the parishes and their Jubilee Mass schedules:

Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe – Jubilee Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 9am.

Shrine of the Little Flower – St. Therese of the Infant Jesus, ABQ – Jubilee Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 10am.

Shrine of St. Bernadette, ABQ- Jubilee Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 9:30am.

St. Augustine and Shrine to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Isleta Pueblo – Jubilee Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 10am.

San Felipe de Neri, ABQ – Jubilee Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 11am.

St. Gertrude the Great, Mora – Jubilee Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 11am.

Santuario de Chimayo Holy Family – Jubilee Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, Noon.

St. Rose of Lima, Santa Rosa – Jubilee Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 9am.

San Miguel, Socorro – Jubilee Mass: 1st Sunday, 10am.



#### **Rebuild My Church Initiative**

This year will bring to a conclusion – or a beginning? – the Rebuild My Church Initiative. With a new pastoral plan, the parishes, deaneries and Archdiocese will have a solid direction for the foreseeable future. Plans are being finalized now and more details will be available in the next issue of El Diácono. See <u>page 7</u> for an update.

#### **Deacon Council**

This is a rebuilding year as well for the Deacon Council. You might remember that the community voted in some changes to the way the council is structured. We have our deanery representatives in place and are working at recruiting at-large members and officers. Deacon Pat Sena has stepped forward as our interim Council Chair.

See the <u>next page</u> for details.

#### **Deacon Retreat**

The 2025 Deacon Retreat committee has been working hard. We have a great venue and our retreat presenter will be Dcn. Scott Dodge, Director of Deacons for the Diocese of Salt Lake City. The theme will coincide with the Jubilee Year theme of Hope—Esperanza! If you know of an organization that would like to help sponsor the retreat, please contact me.

See page 4 for more information about the retreat.

#### **Other News**

Congratulations to Deacon Doug Feery on his being named a CRS Global Fellow (page 13). The Tribunal is looking for help from our deacon community (page 14).



#### **Deacon Council Update**

The Deacon Council, as you know, is rebuilding—slowly but surely. All the deanery representatives are in place and we are currently looking to fill the at large positions as well as the officers. Our hope is to have those filled by May and have a fully functioning council ready to be commissioned at the Deacon Community Retreat in September.

Roster of Deacon Representatives to the Deacon Council

Santa Fe Deanery Deacon Michael Salazar (San Isidro, Santa Fe)

Albuquerque A Deanery Deacon Ed Leyba (St. Thomas Aquinas, Rio Rancho)

Albuquerque B Deanery Deacon Lou Hernandez (St. Charles Borromeo, ABQ)

Albuquerque C Deanery Deacon Leon Jones (Ascencion, ABQ)

Northwest Deanery Deacon Alex Valdez (Sacred Heart, Espanola)

Northeast Deanery Deacon Chris Torres (Immaculate Conception, Las Vegas)

Southwest Deanery Deacon Chris Martinez (Immaculate Conception, Tome)

Southeast Deanery Deacon Paul Benoit (St. Helen, Portales)



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.

+ + ORDINATION

Deacons are invited to attend and vest.



## 2025 Deacon Community Retreat

"Esperanza"

## **Deacon Scott Dodge**

**Director of Deacons** 

Diocese of Salt Lake City

# Sheraton Airport in Albuquerque September 26-28



#### Register online at:

https://form.jotform.com/kdavis5430/2025-diaconate-retreat

\$625 per couple if you register before August 1

See the registration form for all rates.



#### Solemnities, Feasts and Memorials

#### **April through June**

#### April

- 2 St. Francis of Paola, Hermit
- 4 St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor
- 5 St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest
- 7 St. John Baptist de la Salle, Priest
- 11St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr
- 13 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
- 17Holy Thursday
- 18Good Friday
- 19Holy Saturday
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 28St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr
- 28 St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priet
- 29St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor
- 30St. Pius V, Pope

#### May

- 1 St. Joseph the Worker
- 2 St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor
- 3 Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
- 10St. John of Avila, Priest and Doctor And St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
- 12Sts. Nereus, Achilleus and Pancras, Martyrs
- 13Our Lady of Fatima
- 14St. Matthias, Apostle
- 15St. Isadore
- 20St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
- 21St. Christopher Magellanes, Priest and Companions, Martyrs
- 26St. Philip Neri, Priest
- 27St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
- 31 Feast pf the Visitation

#### June

- 1 Solemnity of the Ascension
- 2 Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs
- 3 St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
- 5 St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
- 6 St. Norbert, Bishop
- 8 Solemnity of Pentecost
- 9 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
- 11St. Barnabas, Apostle
- 13St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor
- 15 Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
- 19St. Romould, Abbot
- 21St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious
- 22Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ
- 24Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- 27Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 28Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 29Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul







#### **Change of Venue**

Some Deacon formation classes will be moving to a new host home—St. John XXIII parish has offered to hold the classes for Candidacy I at the parish one weekend per month. Due to expansion of St. Pius X school, facilities are becoming harder to come by on the campus. That said, the new cohort of Aspirants will meet in the Deacon Office classroom on the second floor of Lourdes Hall.

#### **New Course**

The Deacon Formation Curriculum and Policy Board added a new course in philosophy for the first year of Candidacy. While the Aspirants were exposed to a bit of Thomas Aquinas' philosophy, this will be a more concerted effort in helping them understand the philosophical underpinnings of theology.

#### **New Cohort**

A new cohort will be formed this fall with an anticipated ordination in 2030. While over 60 men have inquired about deacon formation, as of this printing, only 8 have submitted applications. The deadline is March 31. Watch for an update in July

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 <a href="dopay-fee@gmail.com">dopay-fee@gmail.com</a>.



#### **Rebuild My Church Update**

By Michelle Montez, Executive Director, Pastoral Ministries Division and Co-chair of the Rebuild My Church Initiative

The *Rebuild My Church Initiative* continues with great collaboration between deans, deanery representatives and parishioners, who are currently articulating draft plans for their deaneries. With continued guidance from the Leadership Roundtable representatives, eight Deanery Teams have conducted listening sessions to surface needs and name priorities, articulate goals and objectives, and develop specific action plans. Draft plans are due to the Archdiocese in April with a projected date for promulgation of a Final Pastoral Plan by Archbishop Wester on October 1.

Next steps in the process include:

The ASF Core Planning team (considered the unofficial nineth deanery) will be busy over the next few months reviewing the submitted deanery drafts as well as writing a mission statement, vision statement and pastoral plan for the Pastoral Center staff. Thanks to Deacon Keith Davis, who recently accepted the invitation to be co-chair with Fr. Glennon Jones.

Deanery Check-ins with the Leadership Roundtable representative, Fr. Kevin Kennedy, will take place at 6:30p, March 25 via Zoom.

#### **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



#### Deacons participate

#### In The Jubilee of Deacons at Saint Peter's Basilica



A Year For Hope

By Dcn. Dennis and DeeDee Montoya, San Juan Bautista, OhKay Owingeh

## Archdiocese of Santa Fe Deacons Travel to Rome

Deacons from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and their wives spent three days in Rome in February 2025, joining 4,000 other "servants" for the 2025 Jubilee of Hope. Our group joined a group of deacons and their wives from San Diego.

Deacons from various countries, including the United States, France, Brazil, India, Cameroon, and Australia, traveled to Rome for the Jubilee pilgrimage.

#### **Holy Doors**

The Deacon Group visited six of the seven pilgrim churches in Rome, four of which contained Holy Doors. As the group walked through the Holy Doors at Saint Peter's Basilica, Father Chris Hallada (Our Lady of Guadalupe) prayed and guided us through the doors to fully understand their significance. Many group members had tears running down their cheeks as we proceeded through the Doors.

On Sunday, 4,000 Deacons participated in the Mass, which also included the ordination of some permanent deacons. Pope Francis did not attend due to his recent illness but was held in prayer throughout the service. Although Pope Francis was not present to lead the service, the experience was overwhelming. What Mass at the Vatican could not be? We were so grateful to be there and to participate in the celebration. The sea of white Dalmatics was breathtaking, providing a vision and an experience that will not be forgotten.

#### **Holy Year 2025 Jubilee Logo**

The Logo shows four stylized figures representing humanity from all four corners of the earth. They each embrace one another, indicating the solidarity and brotherhood that must unite people. The first figure is clinging to the Cross. The underlying waves are choppy, indicating that the pilgrimage of life is not always on calm waters.

Personal circumstances and world events often call for a greater sense of hope. The lower part of the Cross is elongated, turning into an anchor (a metaphor for hope) that dominates the movement of the waves.

The image shows that the pilgrim's journey is not individual but communal.

#### **Pope Francis Jubilee Quote**

"Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to hesitation and doubt. Often, we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic, and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope."



Archdiocese of Santa Fe Deacons

Ready for Sunday Mass

wearing their stoles given to them by the Vatican

#### El Diácono: A Newsletter for the Deacons of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe



Jubilee of Deacons, continued from previous page

#### **Future Deacons**

The Deacon Group also included a Deacon Candidate and his wife, and another Candidate who will be ordained on June 14, 2025. We also had one Aspirant in our group. The two Candidates were blessed to witness an ordination in Rome and pray about the Holy Orders they will receive soon. The Deacon's wives and Father Chris were able to give the future Deacons and the future Deacon's wife a play-by-play as the ordination progressed.

#### Other Sites

In addition to visiting Saint Peter's Basilica, the Deacon Group toured the Vatican Museums, the Basilica of Saint Mary Major (Holy Door), the Basilica of Saint John in Lateran (Holy Door), and the holy stairs while in Rome (Holy Door).

The Deacon group then moved on to Assisi, Siena, and Orvieto. Each area is unique and holds special blessings.

#### **Additional Door**

In addition to the four Holy Doors, the Deacon Group walked through one additional door. It was the door of unity within our group. We experienced bonds and friendships that will be valued and cherished forever. Everyone in the group shared and lived as a Diaconate family. It was a joy to share ministry stories and parish duties. Wives shared their experiences with the future Deacon's wife. The laughter, tears, support, life experiences, and joy were immeasurable.

#### Special Thanks

Thank you to Dcn. Keith, Dcn. Andy and Father Chris for arranging this 2025 Jubilee pilgrimage. Also, thank you to our Tour Manager Sonia (wakie, wakie), and Holy Land Travel for a blessed pilgrimage!





#### 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 then 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=Tvwtgk

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** 

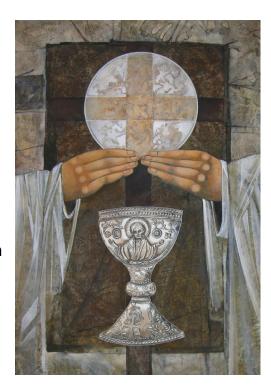
Ordination in 2028



# Deacon Retreat September 26-28 Sheraton Airport, Albuquerque

#### **Upcoming Archdiocesan Liturgical Events**

- Chrism Mass—Thursday, April 10th at 5pm at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis in Santa Fe
- Transitional Diaconate Ordination, Thursday, June 5, 10am. Location?
- Priesthood Ordination, Saturday, June 7, 10am at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis in Santa Fe.
- Permanent Diaconate Ordination, Saturday, June 14, 9am at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis 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~

#### April

- 8 John O. Leahigh (2001)
- 9 Gerald Hietpas (2020)
- 13 Thomas Jones (2014)
- 16 Patrick Cooney (2015)
- 24 Arsenio Sanchez (2014)
- 25 Antonio Baca (1990)
- 26 Harry L. Gogann (2013)
- 28 Vincent Armijo (1994)

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

#### May

- 4 Alfred "Edwin" Esquibel (2022)
- 5 Ubaldo Chavez (2013)
- 12 Charles Lucero (2012)
- 16 William Patrick Houlihan (2000) Alton Adams (2019)
- 21 Alphonse Ballard (2003)
- 25 Frank See (2010)
- 26 Daniel Padilla (1994) Rue White (2005)
- 27 Thomas E. Van Valkenburgh (2022)

#### June

- 1 Herold Gallegos (2021)
- 7 Victor S. Arquello (1979) James Baca (2018)
- 8 William Hoefler (2021) Alberto Arquero (2022)
- 12 Aston Bailey (2013)
- 15 Antonio Rodriguez (2008)
- 21 Pete Santiestevan (2016)
- 27 José Sanchez (1989)

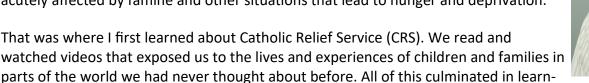




#### **CRS Global Fellows**

By Dcn. Doug Feery, St. John XXIII

While I was in formation preparing for Confirmation, I participated in an event called a 30-Hour Famine. On a Friday, we began a fast at noon and agreed not to eat again until dinner time on Saturday. We met at our parish Friday evening for a youth lock-in to spend the hours of that fast together. While we were there, our formation director led us in growing in awareness and compassion for others who live in parts of the world acutely affected by famine and other situations that lead to hunger and deprivation.



ing about how our outreach can make a difference in their lives and one of the most direct ways was by supporting CRS. Their work has been vital in sustaining communities through famines, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other natural and human caused difficulties. Begun in the 1940's by Catholic Bishops in the U.S. as a way to help World War II survivors and refugees, CRS has become an eminent relief agency inspired by the Gospel to cherish, preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity and justice, and embody Catholic social and moral teaching.

That Lent (which began a few weeks after the 30-Hour Famine event), our Confirmation group led the Operation Rice Bowl campaign at our parish. CRS' signature event, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, has raised millions of dollars that are very efficiently used to directly address human suffering around the world.

After I was ordained, I applied and was accepted as a CRS Global Fellow so that I can do more to contribute to their ministry than collecting change- I want to help make change. I chose to participate in this ministry because I want to help others live out our faith and the Call from the Gospels through active participation in prayer, outreach, and advocacy. Little did I know when I applied to the program last Fall that I would be joining at a time where it has never been more important for people of good will to be engaged in their commitment to serving vulnerable communities overseas than it is right now. The current disruptions to funding, the loss of jobs, and the closing of clinics and resource centers in impoverished communities is a dire threat to the lives of millions. I know that as an individual, I have very little power to effect the change that is needed to alleviate suffering in the world; I also know that the Body of Christ, present IN and AS the Church, has enormous capacity to do just that!

CRS has 75 years of experience in this area, so for me it was an easy choice to become a Global Fellow. I hope that I can be a means through which others can learn about Catholic Social Justice and get connected to effective avenues for enacting those principles. Wildfires generally end when they burn themselves out because they have no new fuel to ignite and spread, so I am hoping that my time and energy can be fuel to keep the fire of compassion and human development burning brightly. Call me if you want to talk more about it:)





#### The Tribunal Ministry in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Very Rev. Ronald F. Walters, O.F.M., J.C.L. Judicial Vicar

As permanent deacons and most often husbands and fathers, a great deal of your ministry will not be just sacramental but will involve working with couples: those who want to marry and those who are married. In some ways, you understand the sacrament of matrimony in ways that many of the Church's presbyters do not. This will be important in your ministry to the people of the parishes to which you are assigned. People will be drawn to you and your ministry because they will be reluctant to approach their pastors for a variety of reasons.

Some of those approaching you will be those who are divorced and remarried. In your parents' and grandparents' young adulthood, divorce and remarriage were culturally the exception to the norm. Today, however, divorce and remarriage are not only acceptable but in some ways normal and expected. Religious practices, beliefs, and moral values which guided the behavior of many of the "boomers" and their parents do not have as much value to the generations of your children and grandchildren. Many of your children's and grandchildren's generations are "nones" (when asked what religion they have, they respond "None"), or they are agnostic at best (the root of the word *agnostic* means to know, and *agnostic* means unknown or skeptical). As they discover faith and respond to it, they find that they need help in ways they never expected, particularly if they are in subsequent more stable and long-term relationships which prevent them from participating fully in the life to which they now feel called.



As permanent deacons, those in such situations will come to you to find out what they must do to celebrate their current marriages and participate in the full life of the Church. This is proof of a true conversion, even if they are not able to express it as such. They are responding to Jesus' invitation to "follow me". As I am certain it was for the apostles, it is not as easy as the Gospels might lead one to believe. They can't simply leave their fishing boats or the tax table or the zealot party behind and follow Jesus.

To be active members of the faithful, their previous marriages have to be examined. Marriage is not private and has never been a private relationship, as intimate as it may be. It has always been external and public. Even before there was written law, the sexual relationship between a man and a woman has been exclusive, perpetual, and open to children, which are three of the four goods of marriage. As Genesis and the Gospels state, the two become one flesh. The Church, which wants to protect and respect such a "God given" relationship must determine who is married to whom, i.e., it must determine what God has joined together and what man has put asunder. Because marriage is a public matter, it has never been enough for civil law to determine this for those who are Catholic.



The tribunal is the judicial branch of the Church. Its job is to apply the law when asked, particularly in situations where Catholics need answers to questions that are not easily answered. The bulk of the work of the tribunal is the determination of the validity of a marital relationship. However, those who are trained in this area of law, are few. In the past, this area of study has been primarily the area of ordained presbyters. Since the new Code of Canon Law was approved in 1983, this area of study is open to not just presbyters, but to deacons and the laity as well.

The Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe needs your help. We would love to have permanent deacons who hold canon law degrees, but we understand that many of you are older and have long been away from collegiate level studies. If you would like to pursue studies in canon law, please contact the tribunal. If, how-ever, you would like to help, we need people who can act as advocates for those involved in cases before the tribunal, or those who are willing to study cases and offer advice to a judge (assessors). These two

"offices" of the tribunal do not require a degree in canon law. If you have training in psychology and civil law, particularly regarding "divorce", we would like to have your help. But even if you do not have training in those areas of study, your experience of marriage can assist a judge. Those who are judges in the tribunal will train you in the specific area of canon law related to the sacrament of matrimony so that you can be effective in guiding those involved in cases or in offering advice to a judge.

Looking back on such a failed, very intimate, and personal relationship of a marriage that ended in divorce can be very upsetting for some, particularly remembering the pain and suffering that was expe-rienced. Your compassion and assistance in that area is a way that you, as a Catholic and a married person, support those who have been married. It is also a way that you assist someone trying to return to the Lord. It is a ministry that is unsung, and often unrealized by many in the Church because it is so intimate and confidential. It is nevertheless invaluable to those who make this difficult journey of conversion. It is a ministry of compassion. Although the corporal and spiritual works of mercy do not list "assisting the divorced and remarried", it is certainly "comfort the sorrowful" or "counsel the doubtful".



Among the many challenges and possible ministries you consider as a permanent deacon, please consider the ministry of assisting in the work of the tribunal.

Fr. Ron can be reached at rwalters@asfnm.org or 505.831.8177



#### **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

N O T E 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 June through September 2025 time frame with a submission deadline of June10th, 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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