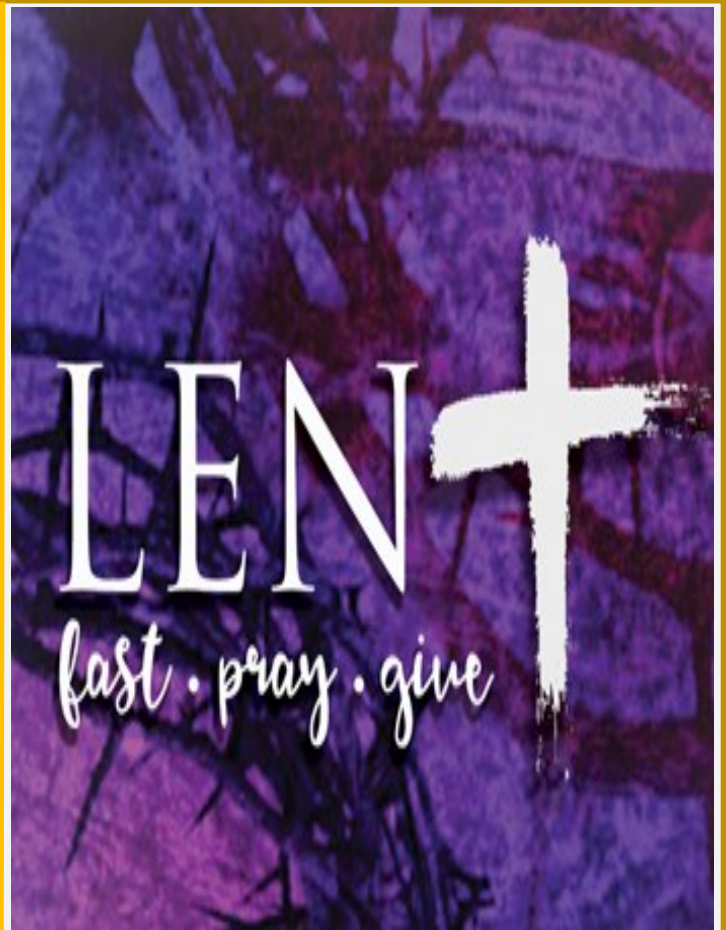




# El Diácono



January 2022 A Newsletter for the Deacons of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Issue 37



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

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## That Prickly Conscience

BY

Very Rev. Glenn Jones

We have many sayings about conscience, such as “My conscience is clear,” or “I don’t want that on my conscience.” Conscience is an interesting concept, but what is it?

Merriam-Webster defines conscience as “*the sense or consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one’s own conduct, intentions, or character together with a feeling of obligation to do right or be good.*” But that definition, of course, begs the question: “*What are the right and the good?*”

In very broad philosophical concept, the “right and the good” are those things which are beneficial and constructive, while the wrong and the bad are those which are harmful and destructive. In Christian theology, God not only teaches the right and the good, but HE IS the right and the good — all good, all righteousness — and the Christian believes that the more closely he lives in accord with God’s will expressed in scripture and in the movement of the Holy Spirit, the better and more righteous he is.

Temptations against conscience are common to all men and women; our baser carnal nature struggles against the knowledge of the good. St. Paul addresses this when he writes: “. . . *The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would*” (Galatians 5:17). Yet our comradery in common struggle strengthens us for the challenge, knowing that saints, too, wrestle with weakness, as even Paul admits in agonized self-accusation: “*I do not understand my own actions . . . For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do . . . For I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*” Yet Paul also knows where strength and salvation lay, as he concludes: *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!*” (Romans 7: 15-25)

As we enter our latter years, clear conscience becomes dearest of possessions, and we often strive to make up for past faults and failures. How? Built within us seems to be a gut need to confess the wrongs we have done, as we are tormented by memories of our failures against God, justice, morality and our fellow Man . . . bemoaning with Lady Macbeth: “*Out, damned spot!*” Countless times I have given last rites to the agitated dying, and yet after confession of sins long past, the worms plaguing conscience shrivel, and a great calm comes over them as they pass through the eternal portal in long-delayed tranquility. No doubt this is one reason St. James tell us to “*Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed*” (James 5:16).

In the Old Testament, God tells the Chosen People: “*Be holy, as I am holy*” (Leviticus 19:2) . . . and, even more ominously, Jesus tells us: “*You must be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect*” (Matthew 5:48). A lofty goal to be sure — one which we may never fully attain. But the virtue is in striving and in perseverance as we seek to love God and neighbor ever more faithfully. Perhaps it will aid us in our frailty to remember Paul’s assurance that God “. . . *Desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*” (1 Timothy 2:4). So . . . *Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees. . . !*” (Hebrews 12:12), and in that endless pursuit of that pure conscience of which we desperately long, find steadfastness in the knowledge that “*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it*” (1 Corinthians 10:12).



## Solemnity of Mary



**S**olemnity of Mary is part of the Twelve Days of Christmas and this feast is celebrated every year on January 1<sup>ST</sup> in the Roman Catholic Church. It is the eighth day of Christmastide and celebrates Mary's Motherhood. This holy day sometimes gets forgotten amid the New Year celebrations but is one of utmost reverence for Catholics.

Very early in the history of Christianity, Christmas was celebrated on January sixth, along with the Feast of Epiphany. After Christmas started to be celebrated with its own feast on December 25th, the Octave or Eight Days of Christmas took on a new meaning celebrating the Feast of the Mother of God on January 1<sup>ST</sup> became a common tradition in the East and most of the Western Churches. But the Mother of God Feast was never officially established by the Church in the universal calendar and was eventually replaced by the Feast of the Circumcision of Jesus Christ.

When *Novus Ordo Missae* ("New Order of Mass") was introduced, the liturgical calendar was revised and the Feast of the Circumcision was sidelined in favor of restoring the Solemnity of Mary. Once again January 1<sup>ST</sup> was dedicated to the Mother of God ("Theotokos") and this time as a universally celebrated feast.

The Catholic Church has made the Solemnity of Mary a holy day of obligation. This feast reminds Christians of the role Mary played as a Blessed Virgin, which eventually led to their salvation. Remember, the birth of Christ would not have been possible without Mary!

Besides going to Mass on January 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, prepare your own feast and enjoy it with family and friends. And if you want, express your gratitude for the gathering through a prayer:

**"Dear Mother, we love you. We thank you for your promise to help Us in our need. Teach us to find our peace in your Son, Jesus, and Bless us every day of our lives. Help us to build a shrine in our Hearts, a shrine full of trust, hope, and love of Jesus growing Stronger every day. You are our Mother and our inspiration. Hear Our prayers and answer us. Amen "**

## The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord



The feast is also known as "Theophany." It is a feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany which commemorates the coming of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ, and the Wedding at Cana. For centuries the Tridentine Calendar of the Catholic Church had no Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Then Pope Pius XII instituted in 1955 a separate liturgical commemoration of the baptism to be celebrated annually on January 13th.<sup>1</sup> Later Pope John XXIII set the feast as a second-class, and fourteen years later Pope Paul VI set this feast day as the Sunday after January 6 (Epiphany). The feast is notable because it signifies the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms Jesus' identity as the Son of God.<sup>2</sup>

1. Decree "*Lum Nostria Hacetate*" (De rubricis as simpliciores formam redigendis of 22 March 1955, in *Acta Apostolicae Sedis* 47 (1955), pages 218-224, Title II: Changes in the Calendar, 15-16)

2. See Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22



## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Originally known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, this feast is a relatively ancient celebration. The Presentation of the Lord celebrates the presentation of Christ in the temple at Jerusalem on the fortieth day after his birth.

According to Jewish Law, the firstborn male child belonged to God, and the parents had to “buy him back” on the 40th day after birth by offering a sacrifice of a “pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons” (Luke 2:24) in the temple (thus, the “presentation”). On that same day, the mother would be ritually purified (thus, the “purification”).



At first, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord was celebrated on February 14th, forty days after Epiphany because Christmas was not celebrated as its own feast. When the Catholic Church began celebrating Christmas on December 25th, the feast was moved to February 2nd (forty days later).<sup>1</sup>

According to Luke (2:25), when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple, Simeon embraced the Christ Child and said “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your Word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel” (Luke 2: 29-32).

1. ThoughtCo. “*The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.*” Learn Religions, Feb 8, 2021, [learnreligions.com/feast-presentation-of-the-lord-542480](https://www.learnreligions.com/feast-presentation-of-the-lord-542480).

## Martin Luther King Day



Martin Luther King Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the 3rd Monday of January annually. It is a relatively new holiday, celebrating the life and the achievements of Martin Luther King Jr. It is seen as a day to promote equal rights for all Americans, regardless of their backgrounds. In recent years federal legislation has encouraged Americans to give some of their time on this day as volunteers in citizen action groups.

Martin Luther King was an important civil rights activist, a leader in the movement to end segregation in the United States. He advocated non-violent protests and became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In some states this holiday is combined with other “holiday.” For example, in Arizona and New Hampshire, it is combined with “Civil Rights Day; in Idaho it is combined with “Human Rights Day” and in Wyoming, it is “Equality Day.”

Martin Luther King was assassinated in April, 1968. Shortly after his death a campaign was started for his birthday to become a federal holiday. It took a while, but eventually with six million signatures, the bill became law in 1983 and first observed in 1986.



## Presidents' Day



No matter where you put the apostrophe (President's Day, Presidents' Day, or just plain Presidents Day) it is still the Presidents Day, a federal holiday to honor all the United States Presidents. This holiday specifically honors George Washington who led the Continental Army in the American Revolutionary War, president at the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and was the first President of the United States. This holiday is also a tribute to the general who created the first military Badge of Merit for the common soldier. Received on Washington's 200th birthday in 1932, the Purple Heart Medal (with an image of Washington) is now awarded to soldiers who are injured in battle. (Miller, T. Christian, 2010. "A History of the Purple Heart." National Public Radio. Archived July 20, 2017.)

Some states honor presidents with official state holidays that do not fall on the official federal holiday date. For instance, besides celebrating the federal holiday, state law in Massachusetts also directs the governor to issue an annual "Presidents Day" proclamation on Mary 29th (John F. Kennedy's Birthday). In New Mexico, Presidents Day is observed as a state government paid holiday on the Friday following Thanksgiving but also observes the federal holiday on the 3rd Monday in February. (New Mexico Statutes Chapter 12. Miscellaneous Public Affairs § 12-5-2. Legal holidays; designations.)

## Valentine's Day

Valentine's day? Bet not everyone knows that February 14th is also a feast day. Look it up. Saint Valentine of Rome was a priest who cured the blindness of the daughter of his jailer and married Christian roman soldiers (which was totally illegal). His actions angered the Roman emperor and earned him martyrdom. Just before he died, tradition has it that he sent a letter to the jailer's daughter and signed it "Your Valentine" (Yep, it had to start somewhere!).



Today most of us associate Valentine's Day with 'courtly love,' 'romantic notions,' Valentine cards for the sweethearts, and boxes of chocolate candies. But we should be thinking about another track for Valentine's Day — installing love wherever you go. To that end, think of yourself as a "customer" with a problem and you have called a "Customer Support Representative" (CS Rep) for help. It goes like this:

**Customer:** Okay, I think I'm ready to start the install now, but I'm not very technical, so what do I do first?

**CS Rep:** The first step is to open your **HEART**. Have you located your **HEART**?

**Customer:** Yes, I have, but there are several programs running right now. Is it okay to install while they are running?

**CS Rep:** What programs are running?

**Customer:** Let me see . . . I have **PASTHURT.EXE**, **LOWESTEEM.EXE**, **GRUDGE.EXE**, and **RESENTMENT.COM** running right now.

**CS Rep:** No problem. **LOVE** will automatically erase **PASTHURT.EXE** from your current operating system. It may remain in your permanent memory, but it will no longer disrupt other programs. **LOVE** will eventually over-write **LOWESTEEM.EXE** with a module of its own called **HIGHESTEEM.EXE**. However, you have to completely turn off **GRUDGE.EXE** and **RESENTMENT.COM**. Those programs prevent **LOVE** from being properly installed. Can you turn them off?

(Continued on next page)



(continued from previous page):

**Customer:** I don't know how to turn them off. Can you tell me how?

**CS Rep:** My pleasure. Go to your Start menu and invoke **FORGIVENESS.EXE**. Do this as many times as necessary until **GRUDGE.EXE** and **RESENTMENT.COM** have been completely erased.

**Customer:** O.K., I'm done. **LOVE** has started installing itself automatically. Is that normal?

**CS Rep:** Yes, it is. You should receive a message that says it will reinstall for the life of your **HEART**. Do you see that message?

**Customer:** Yes, I do. Is it completely installed?

**CS Rep:** Yes. But remember that you have only the base program. You need to begin connecting to other **HEARTS** in order to get the upgrades.

**Customer:** **OOPs** . . . I have an error message already. What should I do?

**CS Rep:** What does the message say?

**Customer:** It says, "**ERROR 412 — PROGRAM NOT RUN ON INTERNAL COMPONENTS.**" What does that mean?

**CS Rep:** Don't worry, that's a common problem. It means that the **LOVE** program is set up to run on external **HEARTS** but has not yet been run on your **HEART**. It is one of those complicated programming things, but in non-technical terms it means you have to "**LOVE**" your own machine before it can "**LOVE**" others.

**Customer:** So, what should I do?

**CS Rep:** Can you find the directory called "**SELF-ACCEPTANCE**"?

**Customer:** Yes, I Have it.

**CS-Rep:** Excellent, you are getting good at this.

**Customer:** Thanks.

**CS-Rep:** Your Welcome. Now click on the following files and then copy them into the "**MYHEART**" directory: **FORGIVESELF.DOC**, **SELFESTEEM.TXT**, **REALIZEWORTH.TXT** and **GOODNESS.DOC**. The system will overwrite any conflicting files and begin patching any faulty programming. Also, you need to delete **SELFCRITIC.EXE** from all directories, and then empty your recycle bin afterwards to make sure it is completely gone and never comes back.

**Customer:** Got it. Hey! "**MYHEART**" is filling up with really neat files: **SMILE.MPG** is playing on my monitor right now and it shows that **WARMTH.COM**, **PEACE.EXE**, and **CONTENTMENT.COM** are copying themselves all over my **HEART**.

**CS Rep:** Then **LOVE** is installed and running. You should be able to handle it from here. One more thing . . . **LOVE** is freeware. Be sure to give it and its various modules to everybody you meet. They will in turn share it with other peoples and they will return some really neat modules back to you.

**Customer:** I will. Thank you for your help!

**CS Rep:** You're very welcome. It's been my pleasure to bring **LOVE** to your **HEART**.

(Can you guess who the Customer Rep Is? [Hint: his name starts with the letter "**G**."])



## Lent



When Lent arrives, winter has faded and we begin to look for signs of spring and new life. Flowers begin to bloom; leaves start to bud; birds begin to sing and for gardeners, its time for tilling the ground and planting seeds.

The season of Lent is related to spring and all that it evokes in our minds.

The word “Lent,” according to Webster’s College Dictionary, comes from the Old English word “lenctem,” which means to lengthen — specifically to the lengthening of days in the springtime. Like spring in the natural world, the Lenten Season is when we anticipate and prepare for the new life to come. It’s a time to till the soil of our hearts, plant seeds of faith and love, and tend to our heart so that it bears fruit at Easter.

Lent is forty days long. It recalls the time Moses spent on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18), Elijah’s forty days in the desert (1Kings 19:8) and more specifically, Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness (Matthew 4:2). Jesus invites us to join him in the desert during Lent to reflect on our lives and on the lives of His people. Moses, Elijah, and Jesus were especially close to God during their forty days of reflection and prayer. And we too can experience the Lord’s love more deeply as we draw close to Him and reflect on all He has given us in Baptism and as we ask Him to forgive our sins and weaknesses (Vatican II Constitution on Sacred Liturgy, 109).

Every Lent God wants to plant seeds in the garden of the Church and watch the seed spring up. He waits to see new fruit, both in our lives, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities. God wants to see us experience all the grace and power we received when we were baptized.

And God wants to send the Holy Spirit to nourish us every day so that we move toward spiritual maturity. Through the Holy Spirit’s gracious work, we can be transformed into God’s likeness and come to love Him more and more. As we turn to the Holy Spirit in prayer, at Mass, as we read Scripture, or other spiritual writings, God fills us with grace. We experience His love. We know His peace and happiness as we grow in our desire to love the Lord who has been so good to us.

During these lengthening days of spring, let us ask our Father for the grace to mature in our baptism and turn away from sin. He who gives us the spring sunshine will also make the springtime of grace flow more freely. We need only ask, be open, and receive His grace.

*(Extract taken from “Lent, a Time of Transformation God Gives Us the Grace to see Sin and Also to Repent.” <https://wau.org/resources/article/lent-a-time-of-transformation/> Retrieved September 8, 2021)*





**\*\* Mail from God \*\***

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi!

As you got up this morning, I watched you and hoped you would talk to me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday, but I noticed you were busy trying to find the right outfit to put on and wear to work.

I waited again. When you ran around the house getting ready, I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello, but you were too busy. At one point you had to wait fifteen minutes with nothing to do except sit in a chair. Then I saw you spring to your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me, but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip.

I watched as you went to work and I waited patiently all day long. With all your activities I guess you were too busy to say anything to me. I noticed that before lunch you looked around, maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, that is why you didn't bow your head. You glanced three or four tables over and noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate, but you didn't. That's Okay. There is still more time left, and I have hope that you will talk to me, yet you went home and it seems as if you had lots of things to do. After a few of them were done you turned on the TV, I don't know if you like TV or not, just about anything goes there & you spent a lot of time each day in front of it, not thinking about anything — just enjoying the show. I waited patiently again as you watched the TV and ate your meal but again you didn't talk to me. Bedtime . . . I guess you felt too tired. After you said goodnight to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That's Okay because you may not realize that I am always there for you. I've got patience more than you will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well.

I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, prayer or thought or a thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one-sided conversation. Well you are getting up again and once again I will wait with nothing but love for you hoping that today you will give me some time. Have a nice day!

Your friend,

GOD

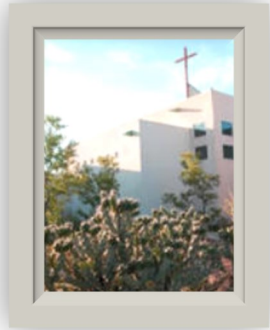
(Note: This "Mail from God" was given to me by Deacon Dick Prentiss, my sponsor to the Diaconate. Deacon John Granato.)







## St Norbert College Master of Theological Studies Program in New Mexico by Deacon Alex Valdez



The State of New Mexico, and in particular the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, are blessed to have the Norbertine Order of Priests, Brothers, and Sisters in our Archdiocese. The Norbertine Community is located on the West Mesa of Albuquerque at the Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey (hereafter Abbey). The Abbey was founded in New Mexico in 1985, initially as a foundation of St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere, Wisconsin, and then in 2012 the foundation was elevated to the status of an Abbey. The Norbertine Order was founded in the year 1121 in Premontre, France by Saint Norbert of Xanten. Since their founding the Norbertines have been committed to community, contemplation and compassionate service.

The Norbertine Order in De Pere established St. Norbert College as a private Catholic liberal arts college in 1898. In 1996 St. Norbert College in De Pere, and the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry, founded through the New Mexico Conference of Churches, collaborated to provide ecumenical graduate theological education at the Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey in Albuquerque.

I am a recent graduate of the Master of Theological Studies from St. Norbert College, having taken my theological studies at the Abbey. I write this article to bring interest to each of my fellow deacons to consider taking advanced courses in theology from St. Norbert and to also consider obtaining a Master's Degree in Theological Studies from St. Norbert. I believe my ministry as an ordained deacon has been enhanced, and my understanding of our Catholic faith deepened as a result of the studies taken through St. Norbert. In addition, I am reminded of the excellent instructors my diaconate formation class (class of 2018) had during our formation. A number of our instructors, including Deacon Keith Davis, Deacon Mike Wesley and Deacon Andy Carrillo have advanced degrees in theology. Deacon Andy is a graduate of the MTS program at the Abbey. There will be a continuing need for additional MTS trained and educated deacons to continue to support the formation of deacons who will serve our Archdiocese in the future. I as that each of you consider enhancing your religious education by obtaining an MTS degree through St. Norbert.

Since 1996, almost sixty men and women have earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies from St. Norbert. I am most impressed with the quality of education offered through St. Norbert. The professors, most of whom call New Mexico home, are well educated (having obtained their Ph.D.'s in Theology) and trained in their disciplines and offer personalized approach to their teaching. The class sizes are usually small, seldom exceeding six students; thus they are also conducive to an interactive educational environment. The learning environment is also enhanced because the Santa Maria de la Vid Abbey sits on 70 acres of the South West Mesa of Albuquerque. The location provides a tranquil location with a modern campus including a beautiful church for spiritual growth and enlightenment and a comprehensive library collection of over 21,000 books which enhances the student's education.

A particular strength of the MTS program is its ecumenical focus on education. The professors and students are from a number of religious and spiritual backgrounds. They bring their knowledge and understanding of their religion to the classroom. I found it important and interesting to learn from other students' understandings as these enhanced by own understanding of our Catholic faith.

The curriculum is challenging, particularly for those who are working and have a young family. However, it is achievable. The Curriculum includes six required core courses, five electives, an integrative colloquium and a these written on a topic of choice of the student and approved by the college. St. Norbert's also offers a certificate of theological competency for those who choose to only complete the core courses as a non-degree student or to a specific course.

For those needing it, generous financial aid is offered through the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, St. Norbert College, and the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry.

For more information about the St. Norbert College Master of Theological Studies program in New Mexico, call the MTS office at 505-873-4399 x229 or contact [christina.spahn@snc.edu](mailto:christina.spahn@snc.edu) or visit the MTS website (<http://www.snc.edu>).



## Diaconate Information

### Director of Deacon Formation: Deacon Keith Davis

Class of 2023

Current Class size: 37  
Currently in Candidacy II



Class of 2025

Current Class size: 17  
Currently in Aspirancy

## Deacon Inservice & Retreat

In-Service:  
TBD:  
In Planning Stage



Retreat:  
TBD:  
In Planning Stage

## Deacon Council Members and Reps

<b>Council Chair:</b>	<b>Deacon Mark Marquez</b>
<b>Council Vice-Chair:</b>	<b>Deacon Ernest Chavez</b>
<b>Council Secretary:</b>	<b>Darlene Chavez</b>
<b>Santa Fe Deanery:</b>	<b>Deacon Enrique Montoya</b>
<b>Deanery A:</b>	<b>Deacon Dave Little</b>
<b>Deanery B:</b>	<b>Deacon Pat Sena</b>
<b>Deanery C:</b>	<b>Deacon Leon Jones</b>
<b>NE Deanery:</b>	<b>Deacon Reyes Sanchez</b>
<b>NW Deanery:</b>	<b>Deacon Chris Gilbert</b>
<b>SE Deanery:</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>SW Deanery:</b>	<b>Deacon Nicolas Keller</b>



Spring is **coming**,  
As winter fades away,  
With the melting snow.

Warm winds are **coming**,  
Cold winds are leaving.  
The air has this taste,  
Of fresh spring air.

All traces of winter drowsiness,  
Gone.



## The Deacon's Corner



**Deacons: Update your contact information. If your personal contact information has changed, please inform the Diaconate Office. This helps facilitate communication between you and the Diaconate Community and the Archdiocese. Phone 505-831-8246 or email the Diaconate Secretary at [ysutton@archdiosf.org](mailto:ysutton@archdiosf.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 2022 time period.**

**Archdiocese of Santa Fe**  
**Office of the Diaconate**  
**4000 St. Joseph Place, NW**  
**Albuquerque, N.M. 87120**



**Have a warm and Blessed Winter — and know that God is always with you!**

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if you would like to Advertise  
your business here.**

