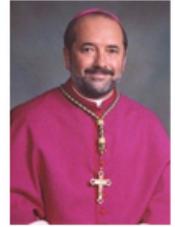




DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER
OFFICE OF THE
**PERMANENT
DIACONATE**



Bishop Edgar
da Cunha

DEACON UPDATE

10th Diaconate Class installed to the Order of Acolyte



The Call for Freedom: From and For



We begin our summer break with a declaration of freedom. Children and teachers happily rejoice in the sunshine of re-creative days. The business of work stands still for a few days as batteries are recharged after fulfilling the demands of a busy schedule. July 4th is our grand celebration, fireworks, hot dogs and burgers, freedom from our pledge of staying clear from fast food temptations. And our greatest memory of freedom is colored in red, white and blue, as we remember both the gift and sacrifice that won that freedom for us. The names of freedom written on our monuments and are inscribed in the hearts and lives of many who sacrifice so much to insure that the treasure of freedom continues to be celebrated.

After years of pandemic concerns, this year has been a particularly significant opportunity to herald our hopes of liberty.

In the Gospel account Jesus speaks of our freedom as sons and daughters. Ultimately freedom from the slavery of sin and death is the great liberation we celebrate. But for the disciple freedom is more than a freedom “**from**” some moment of captivity.

The chains of fear, anxiety, anger and discontent are prison walls that hold many captive. In our own day we have seen the expansion of the viruses of war, civil unrest and the infection of evil by mass shootings and acts of terrorism in hometowns

Freedom is more than “from, freedom is a action “**for**”. In the Gospel vision, to act with true liberty is to live freedom’s call by breaking the bonds of fear, anxiety, anger and discontent. To act with freedom is to extend our hands and hearts in care for each other, hands extended in mercy, reconciliation and peace. Gospel freedom is the action of giving and serving the needs of others.

Often I walk in the veteran’s memorial park in the City of Fall River, MA. A recent addition to the memorial park is a replica of the Vietnam War Memorial. Fifty-Eight thousand names of men and women who served the call of freedom are written on those granite tablets. In the words inscribed on another monument in honor of those who served: “All gave much, some gave all”! Freedom carries a price, the price of giving all. For the believer that price is the banner of the Cross of Christ who in freedom, frees by giving all.

Freedom is not a virtual reality. Liberty is the flesh and blood of giving all. Virtual worlds can bring us to the height of a mountain top, engage us in battle with mighty warriors, all from the comfort and shelter of our living rooms. There is no such thing as virtual reality. The freedom of discipleship is the gift of true presence, the treasure of being there in a flesh and blood way.

May we walk the pathways of liberty encouraged by the companionship of the true presence of “being there” in freedom for each other!

In His Love!
Fr. Bob Oliveira

NEXT DEACON CLASS - INFO NIGHTS

INFO NIGHTS

A series of information nights have been held this year. The final info session will be held on Sunday, August 14, 2022 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm - in-person at Holy Trinity Parish in Fall River, Ma.

Registration is required and may be completed on our website - fallriverdeacons.com

OTHER DETAILS

Aspirancy begins in September 2022. Academic classes begin in September 2023.

Complete details, including Info Night dates, Aspirancy session dates and applications are available on our website at fallriverdeacons.com.

THE WIVES' CORNER

This month's contributor is Allison Gingras



How's Your Beam Awareness?

I consider myself an expert splinter detector, while my beam awareness could use some serious improvement. Spending far too much time finger-pointing instead of recognizing while I'm pointing out someone else's faults, there are three fingers aimed right back at me. In 2021, the Holy Spirit nudged my heart to examine my "beam" behaviors. During my time in Adoration, I would ask the Lord to (gently) reveal where the eradications should begin? To my surprise, my prayer revealed two areas—swearing and the telling of 'little white lies.'

The first step, bring these behaviors to the Sacrament of Reconciliation—the sacrament of healing—so the Lord might shine His much-needed grace upon them. With a mortal sin, Confession restores grace lost in sin. In venial sins, this beautiful sacrament increases grace, empowering you toward making necessary changes—toward a conversion of heart.

Let's start with the swearing and St. Paul's thoughts on our words. "No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear" (Ephesians 4:29, NAB). My father worked in a factory, and his ability to weave cuss words into every part of speech was truly an art form. After my reversion back to the Catholic Church in 2005, I removed using the Lord's name in vain from my vocabulary; however, I still clung to a few sentence enhancers. Surely I could control when they made their appearance. While out with some new friends, I let one of those bad boys slip. This experience revealed I had far less control than I thought, and this was not the impression I wanted to make.

I invoked the intercession of my Guardian Angel as I worked through eradicating these words from my vocabulary, especially when doing live radio, giving a presentation, or speaking with my Bishop (whom I work with).

Now about those little lies, I told to keep from getting in trouble, being embarrassed, or hurting someone's feelings. It seemed harmless enough. Some were partial truths, a bending of the facts, and it wasn't hurting anyone. We think those falsehoods go undetected but guess what? They do not and can seriously tarnish your reputation. Sadly, this realization came from experiencing this in a close relationship in my life. Trust is hard to earn, easy to lose, and even more difficult to regain.

Once I experienced this from the receiving end, I vowed always to be truthful, no matter how difficult the situation. As we read in Titus, being trustworthy is an essential virtue in our quest for holiness and heaven, "in the hope of eternal life that God, who does not lie, promised before time began" (Titus 1:2). To intentionally deceive people, even with the tiniest untruth, whether we see it that way or not, never represents a life rooted in Christ.

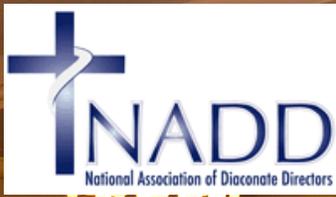
So please, a word of advice, if you don't want the whole unbridled, yet spoken in love, truth, please don't ask me if that pair of pants look good on you.

CALLING ALL DEACONS - SHARE YOUR MINISTRY

We'd like to feature articles by our deacons in this newsletter each month. If you would like to share a brief reflection or description of a particular ministry that you are involved in, please let us know and we'll set aside some space for you.

DEACON MANUAL

The Deacon Manual was distributed at the Convocation. If you did not attend the Convocation, we will be mailing a copy to you. Please review the manual at your earliest opportunity.



Discount of \$100 per couple or \$50 for individual for all Fall River Deacons, Candidates and spouses.

The Soul of Diaconal Ministry: Union with Christ

Registration Now Open
www.nadd1assembly.org

NADD REGION 1 ASSEMBLY 2022

November 11-12, 2022

Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center
Southbridge, MA



Deacon
Dominic Cerrato



Father
Paul Schenck



Deacon
Art Miller



SAVE THE DATES!

We will continue to publish dates as soon as they are available as requested by the Wive's Council. At their suggestion, please cut this out and place on your refrigerator so you won't miss these important events!

CEU Reports Due
Overdue at this point

Pre-Ordination Retreat
March 6-10, 2023
LaSalette Retreat Center

Deacon Retreat
September 30-Oct 2, 2022
LaSalette Retreat Center
Attleboro, MA

Diaconal Ordination
May 20, 2023
Cathedral of St Mary of the
Assumption

Advent Day of Reflection
November 19, 2022
Holy Trinity Parish
Fall River, MA

***All in person dates are tentative and depend
on the Covid-19 situation at the time.*

Birthdays

JULY

Richard Bisson 25
John Branco 6
Richard Gundlach 13
Jesse Martins 5
Donald Massoud 7
Richard Murphy 30
Thomas Palanza 17
Arthur LaChance 15

Prayer Requests

- Marie Guy - wife of Deacon Mike Guy
- Janice Fitzpatrick wife of Deacon John Fitzpatrick
- Marissa, daughter of Deacon David Boucher
- Michael Wojcik
- William Bazzinotti, the father in law of Candidate Lenny Guyette
- John Barron, close friend of candidate Joe Martinho

In Memoria

Patry Lukac, wife of Deacon Ted Lukac

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
FALLRIVERDEACONS.COM**

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DEACON RETREAT 2022

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCT 2, 2022



LaSalette Center for Christian Living
947 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703
508-222-8530

Register Today

www.fallriverdeacons.com

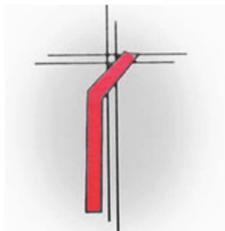
This will be the only retreat sponsored by the Permanent Diaconate Office this year for deacons and deacon candidates.

A reminder that an annual retreat is required for all active deacons in the diocese.

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
ON OUR WEBSITE!**

Two Upcoming Webinars - Save the Dates!

DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER



OFFICE OF THE

**PERMANENT
DIACONATE**

WEBINAR SERIES

HOSPICE CARE

With **John Rider**, Chaplain/Bereavement Coordinator

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

6:30 PM - Evening Prayer

7:00 PM - Webinar



**NADD 1
WEBINAR SERIES**

AUGUST WEBINAR

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

With Joe Patrnick and Fr. Bill Brown

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

7:00 pm online



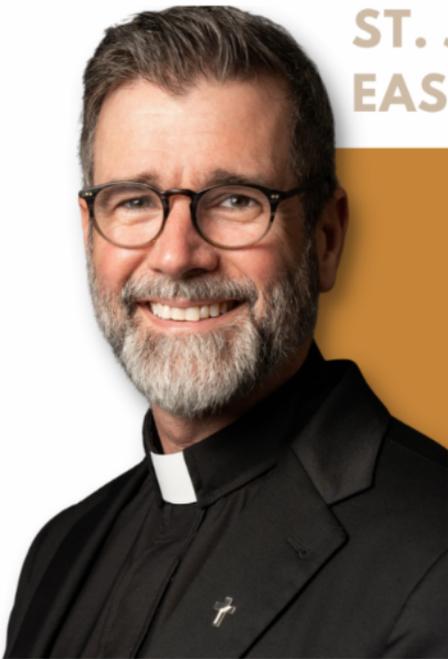
PARISH LEADER

CONVOCAATION

SEPTEMBER 10TH 2022

ST. JOHN NEUMANN
EAST FREETOWN, MA

9:00AM TO 2:00PM



DCN. BOB RICE, PHD

Deacon Bob Rice is a husband, father of seven, permanent deacon for the Diocese of Steubenville, and Professor of Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is a highly sought after international speaker, a popular podcaster, established author, and masterful musician. His over 30 years of ministerial experience coupled with his academic pedigree, and his love for Catholicism makes him a well of knowledge for parisher leaders and lay evangelists.

You can find out more about him at deaconbobrice.com

FREE ADMISSION

FOR ALL DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER
REGISTRANTS
BEFORE AUGUST 19th 2022
(\$20.00 after cut-off date)

For non-diocesan attendees:
\$30 per person

WITH BISHOP DA CUNHA

"Regardless of where you may be in your journey of faith, I ask you to come forward and allow the Lord to use you as his instrument. Say yes to God's call to bear witness to him!"

-Bishop da Cunha



Deacons, please consider attending and please share this information with those other leaders in your parish.

**ANNUAL FALL RIVER
DIACONATE**

Family Gathering

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 - 2:00 - 5:00 PM



St Patrick's Parish
82 High Street, Wareham

Pot Luck Meal -
Refreshments - Games - Fellowship

**We will arrange transportation for all
retired deacons and widows*

***Given the ability to socially gather safely at that time.*

**All Deacons are invited
Active, Retired, Widows, Candidates and their Families**