



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



Bishop Edgar
da Cunha

DEACON UPDATE

THE STORY OF FOOLISH LOVERS



It's wonderful to love someone but not if they don't love you back! Our pilgrimage of lent has now unfolded into the spring of Easter hope. In truth the journey we travel never ends but is the forever narrative of an eternal love story. But all love stories demand a partnership of hearts willingly shared. The nature of the unique friendship of love demands a personal RSVP.

We have heard of that demand in the direct question posed to Peter and to each believer "Do you love me?" It is a persistent question asked three (3) times, and in fact asked thousands of times along our personal history. The question of love is posed by spouses, children, friends, and is most dramatically asked by the Samaritan we may encounter along the road. Love is a partnership received, given and shared with an RSVP that is extended not only to the one you love but to all you are called to love "feed my sheep"!

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As we have been reminded by Pope Francis love is messy and the smell of the sheep can be distracting and one just might seek better company. The words of an old song may ring true "only fools fall in love"!

Are you foolish enough to love Jesus? Jesus this itinerant preacher, this rebel rouser from a backwater town, the one who creates such turmoil with those of authority, are you such a fool to follow him? Are you truly willing to abandon all that you've worked for so hard and say yes to one whose throne is a hill on Calvary? Are you so foolish to believe that there is life beyond the tombs of doubt, fear, anxiety and hatred? And do you really believe that you can only find the true treasure of life in giving rather than taking, in self-donation rather than self-satisfaction?

"Do you love me"? Will you see my face in every one you meet? Will you hear my word and the love story of my love poured out in a world that so often only speaks the language of self-service and gain? Will you dare to speak the language of my love as my imperfect and wounded healer?

"Will you love like me?"

Will we love Him back? What will our RSVP be? I pray for a "fool's heart! In His Love!

Fr. Bob Oliveira

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL ACTIVE DEACONS

DEACON ANNUAL REPORT OVER DUE

Active deacons in the Diocese of Fall River are required to attend an annual retreat, meet with a Spiritual Director, as well as completing the CEU report each year.

Effective January, 2023, all active deacons are asked to complete an Deacon Annual Report by the end of January each year.

This report requests a copy of your CEU Report (which you can attach to the report form) as well as information on your annual retreat and the name of your spiritual director.

Please submit this report. NOW OVERDUE

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deacon Frank.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The link to the report may be copied below or may be found on the Deacon Portal section of the website.

<https://diocesefr.wufoo.com/forms/annual-deacon-report/>

FUNERAL POLICY FOR DEACONS

Although not required, it is strongly suggested that each deacon of the diocese should have on file in the Diaconate Office a completed form setting forth his choices and wishes in the arrangement of his wake and funeral at his death.

The form may be found in the DEACON PORTAL of our website under Reports and Forms.

<http://frpermanentdiaconate.com/portal/deaconreports.html>

DEACON COUNCIL UPDATE

We welcome Deacon David Boucher and Deacon Kevin Gingras to the Deacon Council. We also extend our gratitude to Deacon Robert Craig for his service to the Diaconate Community as part of the Council.

DEANERY MEETINGS

Thank you to Deacon Gene Sasseville and other members of the Deanery, who have given so much of their time and talent to gather members of the Fall River/New Bedford Deanery on a regular basis. And thank you to Deacon David Harum for his efforts in revitalizing the Taunton/Attleboro Deanery.

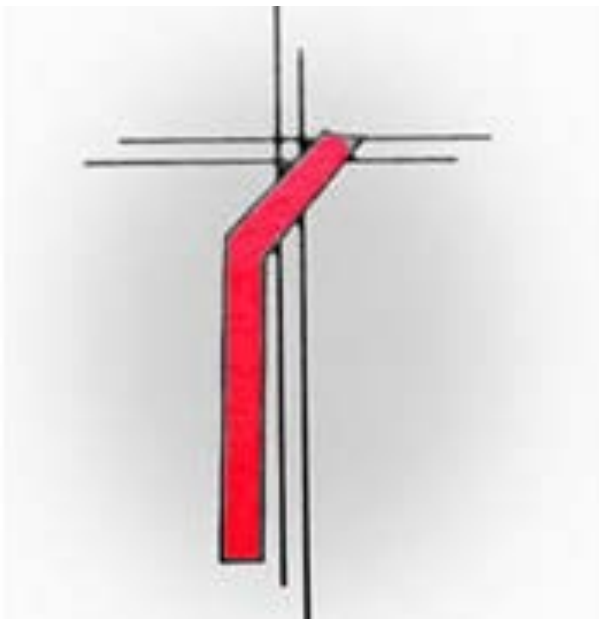
It is our hope that our fellow brothers from the other Deanery areas will do the same and work to gather our brothers and sisters in Christ on a regular basis, for fellowship, prayer and ongoing formation.

If you can assist those working to re-energize the Cape Cod Deanery, please reach out to Fr Bob or Dcn Frank.



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Convocation 2023



Deacons and Spouses

June 24, 2023

HolyTrinity Parish
951 Stafford Road, Fall River, MA

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Diaconal Ordination

May 20, 2023
Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption

Presbyteral Ordination June 3, 2023

Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption

Convocation for Deacons and Spouses

June 24, 2023
Holy Trinity Parish Hall
Fall River, Ma

Deacon Retreat 2023

September 29-October 1, 2023
LaSalette Retreat Center

Couples Retreat 2024

August 16-18, 2024
LaSalette Retreat Center

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

Birthdays

APRIL

Brendan Brides 4
Peter Cote 15
Kevin Gingras 14
David Harum 29
William Hays 16
Robert Lemay 25
David Murphy 16
Gary Porter 1
Eugene Sasseville 27

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
- Deacon Albino Pires
- Lorraine Cipriano, wife of Deacon Tony Cipriano

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

Father Robert Oliveira - frboboliveira@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Deacon Frank Lucca - deaconfranklucca@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Diocesan Co-Directors

Deacon Joseph McGinley - deaconjosephmcginley@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Deacon Advocate

Jackie Collins - office@frpermanentdiaconate.com

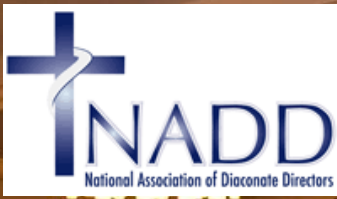
Administrative Assistant

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SAVE THE DATE REGISTRATION OPENS IN MAY

NADD REGION 1 ASSEMBLY 2023

November 3 - 4, 2023

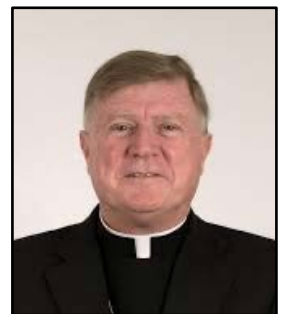
**Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center
Southbridge, MA**



**Allison
Gingras**



**Monsignor James
Moroney**



**Bishop
Robert McManus**

