



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



Bishop Edgar
da Cunha

DEACON UPDATE

CANDIDATES INSTALLED TO THE ORDER OF LECTOR



Congratulations to our candidates installed to the Order of Lector on June 22, 2021:

Left to Right Back row: Scott Taveira, Shawn Seybert, John O'Brien, Americo Miranda, Bishop, James Adams, Tyrone Gonsalves, Jeremias Carraras, Deacon Frank Lucca - Left to Right Front Row:

Leonard Guyette, Joseph Martinho, Thomas Martin, David Roderick, David Gaspar, Richard Fish, David Laird, Philip Koch

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDANCE



July is the month for celebrating freedom! In this particular year freedom has taken on a profoundly new meaning. Having gone thru the great desert of the pandemic, it truly seems as if we are entering a new promise land. The restraints of masks, distancing, and what seemed like the prisons of home confinements, have now given way to our new normal of living beyond the world of zoom. Once again, we are able to exercise one of our greatest liberties as we celebrate as a family in faith our Eucharistic hope. Not unlike the Jewish community that once was in exile, we enter our promise land.

It is still so tempting to return to mask wearing and distancing. But not the protective masks or distancing we have embraced out of fear of contracting a biological illness, but rather our self-protective and guarded attitudes that give way to the pathogens of fears, anxiety and self-concerns that easily deplete the soul. Masks hide faces and distancing creates the chasm that holds us hostage to isolation and loneliness that leave us as strangers in a foreign land not a land of freedom and promise.

The 4th of July is our nation's declaration of freedom. I celebrate with pride December 23rd as my great day of liberation. Our baptisms vaccinated us in a unique way with the freedom of God's love. We travel in the promise land as beloved sons and daughters of His kingdom. Our declaration of independence is our baptismal certificate that declares our liberation from fear, anxiety and self-interest.

In Christ Jesus we have won the victory over the prisons of sin and death. In the treasures of the cross and empty tomb we know a "forever freedom". May no mask hide our true dignity and may no distancing prevent us from celebrating our solidarity as sons and daughters of Christ's love. Celebrate well your freedom, the freedom of liberated son's and daughters of God.

In Christ's love,
Fr. Bob Oliveira

OFFICE CONTACT

As a reminder, the diaconate office email address is office@frpermanentdiaconate.com. This address is currently available for your use. The verizon email address will no longer work. Please make the change in your address book.

The address remains, Office of the Permanent Diaconate, 121 Mt Pleasant St., New Bedford, Ma 02740 Thank you!

LETTERS OF SUITABILITY FOR TEMPORARY MINISTRY

To request letters of suitability to exercise your ministry outside our home diocese for a temporary stay, visit the Deacon Portal and select the "Letter of Suitability Request" link.

DEACON MANUAL

The Deacon Manual, developed in conjunction with the Deacon Council has been approved by the Bishop. There are several changes that we expect that the USCCB will make in the Deacon Directory and once we make those adjustments to our manual, the manual will be printed and distributed to all deacons.

We expect the manual to be released to you all this summer. Stand by for updates.

FUNERAL POLICY FOR DEACONS

With the recent loss of three of our brothers, it is prudent to review the 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.

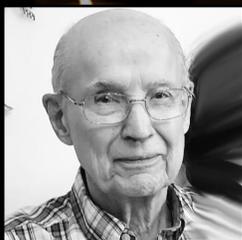
It is strongly recommended that the deacon discuss these arrangements with his wife and/or other close family members before completing and submitting the form. It is suggested that the copy of the completed form be given to the deacon's spouse and perhaps another close family member, as well. The form can be updated or changed at any time whenever the deacon believes that the circumstances so dictate.

As part of the process in completing this form, the deacon is encouraged to select a deacon/priest who consents to act as the liaison between the family and the diocese.

It will be the function of the selected deacon/priest, not to take charge, but to help coordinate the carrying out of the wake and funeral arrangements of the deacon and his family.

Details and the form may be found under FORMS AND REPORTS in the DEACON PORTAL.

IN MEMORIAM



Deacon Robert Alence

Let us pray for Robert, Anne and his family and parish family. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

DEANERY REBOOT

As we begin a return to more normal times, we are hopeful that our deaneries will begin to meet again on a regular basis.

We are hoping that some of our deacons will step up to help organize and plan for their deanery sessions. We will assist with content.

If you are interested in helping to revitalize the deanery system, please contact Deacon Frank Lucca at deaconfranklucca@frpermanentdiaconate.com.

Attleboro/Taunton Deanery
Cape Cod Deanery
Fall River/New Bedford Deanery

DEACON ADVOCATE

Deacon Joe McGinley is the Deacon Advocate for our Office of the Permanent Diaconate.

His role is to advocate for deacons in need of assistance, to communicate on a regular basis with our deacons individually and with their wives and widows.

You can reach Deacon Joe at deaconjosephmginley@frpermanentdiaconate.com



Four seminarians studying for the priesthood for the Fall River Diocese were ordained transitional deacons by Bishop Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V, in the context of an 11 a.m. Mass on Saturday, May 22, in St. Mary's Cathedral, Fall River.

Ordained are Matthew F. Laird, William O'Donnell III, Gregory Quenneville, and Laurent M. Valliere. As deacons, they will be able to assist the priest at Mass and be an ordinary minister of the Eucharist, proclaim the Gospel and preach, baptize, and minister at other services.

Please keep our brother deacons in your prayers as they begin the final leg of their journey toward the priesthood.

NEW FEATURE

Meet Our Deacon Candidates



This month we welcome Americo Miranda of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Westport, MA

I was born at Saint Anne's Hospital in Fall River, Massachusetts on August 3, 1967.

My parents were both from the village of Bretanha, located on the Azorean island of Sao Miguel. My mother Maria immigrated to Fall River, Massachusetts with her parents, Francisco and Magarida Albernaz along with one sister and five brothers in 1965. My father left behind my grandfather Jose C. Miranda and two brothers and two sisters. On October of 1966, my mother returned to Sao Miguel to marry my father and they both migrated to the United States.

We lived on East Main Street and were parishioners at Our Lady of the Angles church on Dwelly St. I do have found memories of our pastor, Monsignor Anthony M. Gomes.

I had a wonderful religious upbringing both at home and at church. Church life was essential in our household. Sunday's and holy days of obligation were non-negotiable.

Azorean religious traditions were very common in my home growing up. My father would sponsor several Holy Ghost animals every year as a gift to several Portuguese churches. This including Holy Ghost dinners, and even farm visitations by priests. The events would conclude by having the Portuguese Folia visit our home (Traditional Portuguese Song) men singing traditional improvisational songs in giving thanks to the Holy Ghost. This tradition was a great learning experience for me, both cultural and religious. Along with the Holy Ghost tradition, there was a strong Marian devotion to Our Lady of Fatima as well. There were many opportunities to visit family members who were hosting the statue of the Blessed Mother. As a result, I became fluent in reciting the holy rosary in both English and Portuguese. As a teenager, I also began to attend daily Mass when I could in the evening at Saint Anne's Church. There I began to experience a Jesus of Mercy that I wasn't too familiar with. It complemented my experience at Our Lady of the Angels in the south end of the city.

As time went on, I began to speak with the Dominican Priests and attended confession frequently. Academically, I attended the Fall River Public School system, and from a young age took an interest in music. In the 1980's I was the lead singer of a Portuguese American Band, and worked the local Luso-American music circuit. While working with the band, I met my future wife at a wedding shower. She had booked my band to play for her brother's wedding. Within one year and a half we got married as well. We got married at the beautiful St. Anne's Church in Fall River.

Soon after we were married, at the request of our Pastor Father John Folster, I became an usher at church. Shortly after, we were both approached and invited to become eucharistic ministers.

I also began to teach religious education classes and attend confirmation retreats. When our new pastor Father Marc Bergeron arrived, I began to work at the church rectory and joined the choir.

As time went on, I decided to continue my education. I received my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts in 1998. The first in my family to ever attend college. I immediately transferred to UMASS Dartmouth and graduated in 2000 with my Bachelors Degree in Political Science. By the year 2000 I was able to get a job in the New Bedford Public Schools and continued to work there for over twenty years. In order to become fully certified in the state of Massachusetts as a Public School teacher, I earned a Master's Degree in Political Science in 2006 from the University of Rhode Island.

With life taking on its own path, our life became very much involved with the parish and the school. Both my daughters attended Saint Anne's School from K-8th grade, then continued at Bishop Stang High School. As time went on, we purchased a home on the Westport border and we began to attend Our Lady of Grace Church in Westport. Our Lady of Grace had just received a new priest, Father Dariusz Kalinowski. Father Dariusz had a great impact on my final decision in inquiring about the diaconate. He gave me responsibilities I had never been given. Shortly after I became a parishioner, I joined the choir. He took it a step further and made me a soloist for special occasions such as chanting the Exult on Easter Vigil, chanting the Holy Ghost sequence on Pentecost Sunday, and many other opportunities. He made me come out of my comfort zone. Today we have a wonderful pastor Father Chris Peschel, who is very supportive of me, and has been very productive in church functions. Father Chris along with Deacon Tim Flaherty continue to serve the parish pastorally and have brought back many devotions well embraced by parishioners.

For over twenty years I have thought and prayed about the diaconate but was uncertain about leaving my comfort zone. As I continue to discern, I find peace and tranquility in the rigorous classes, and a sense of joy with my classmates. My professional career has also changed. For one year I have been teaching at Espirito Santo Parochial Catholic School on Fall River. It is a pleasure to be working in the Diocese of Fall River. I feel this school has been blessed with a wonderful administration, and a great leader Father Maurice Gauvin.

I feel that it is a rewarding and exciting time to be a Deacon. As churches merge, and priests are transferred, deacons can offer love, hope and comfort to the laity.

THE WIVES' CORNER

This month's contributor is by Elizabeth Porter



Back in early February, Gary and I were informed we were going to be welcoming a new family member, a grandchild. What a wondrous gift! Our youngest and his wife, shared the wonderful news with us over lunch one Saturday afternoon. After they left, as the good news started to sink in a bit more, I started to feel a sense of sadness: this grandchild, unlike the first three, would be coming into a world of masks and isolation. What impact would that have on their development, and our grandparenting? How would I be able to kiss my grandchild, whisper sweet nothings into their ear? How will the little one recognize the key people in their lives, something so essential to the human bond? Fortunately, it's looking like those February fears may have been for naught: there's a high probability we should be able, (I hope and pray) to meet our grandson, mask-less.

I share our happy news because over the past few months, this revelation has led me to give a lot of thought to the role of grandparenting, more specifically, the role of Catholic grandparenting. And, what better month to muse about this topic, than July. Why, you ask, well, because the fourth Sunday in July 2021 marks the first annual World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, recently instituted by Pope Francis (this year's theme is "I am with you always"). Coincidentally (or maybe not), July 26 is the Memorial of St. Joachim and St. Anne: the parents of Mary. The people entrusted by God, to raise, love, and teach the woman destined to be the mother of our Lord. Their parenting of Mary directly impacted her parenting.

I like to think I have always known grandparents have a special place in the family. Probably because I was lucky enough to have five strong, grandparent figures. Yes, five: my paternal grandmother, Marie-Louise, (widow of Raoul who had died years before I was born, but was a definite presence in the family); my maternal grandparents, Archie and Roseann; and an older neighborhood couple, Hormidas and Anna, with which our family developed a deep familial bond. Each grandparent, with their special talents and gifts, partnered with our parents to raise each of us to be the best version of ourselves. We (my sisters and brother) played, prayed, and celebrated life with them. My professional career choice was formed by them, all of them. My parenting was impacted by them (and my parents of course). I continue to include my grandparents on my own personal journey. I feel them with me despite the decades of separation.

Following the announcement of the arrival of our fourth grandchild., I have spent months pondering in my heart how have I been doing as a grandmother. With this new arrival, we will have a grandchild close by that we can, in a complimentary manner, help guide our son and daughter-in-law, as well as our grandchild on this journey called life.

My siblings agree with me, our grandparents, collaborated with our parents in our upbringing. They also provided us with roots and stability. They loved us unconditionally, and taught us about God, our faith, our family (and the French language). I watched them (and my parents) model how to be good, faith-filled people. And, as a grandparent, I now understand why the love of my grandparents seemed different than the love of my parents. Let's face it, grandparents have less rules, and are more fun! I now realize that my grandparents did the work of parenting (role modeling) along with my parents, without the day-in, day out responsibilities. Grandparents, because of being one generation removed and having a longer life lens also have a bigger picture perspective than parents. Dare we say wisdom?

The world I find myself grandparenting in is significantly different than the world my grandparents shared with their grandchildren, or my parents with their grandchildren. I would argue this is nothing new, each generation feels the times were better back when ... (please feel free to fill in your own blank). What's a Catholic grandparent to do in changing times? We should:

- Pray for guidance, pray for support, and pray for any number of reasons.

continued on next page

The Wive's Corner - continued from the previous page.

- Actively support Catholic values
- Continue to live our faith every day! It is essential for the well-being of our children, our grandchildren, and their future, as well as for the greater good of society
- We need to support each other in this mission, and to join with others who are also working to maintain a Catholic identity

If you haven't already, I encourage you to visit www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org. They have all sorts of resources for Catholic grandparents around the world, a community for support and a template for building a grandparent community in "our own backyard". The motto of the organization is "passing on the faith". As Catholic grandparents we MUST to do all we can to pass on our faith by supporting our children and grandchildren.

Blessing of Grandparents (Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers)

Lord God almighty, Bless our grandparents with long life, happiness and health.

May they remain constant in your love and be living signs of your presence
to their children and grandchildren. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Neither 'half-priests' nor 'special altar boys': Pope outlines expectations for permanent deacons



June 21, 2021

Service lies at the heart of the deacon's ministry, and this service helps the Church to become more of a "diaconal Church," Pope Francis said in one of his lengthiest addresses on the permanent diaconate.

"You have asked me what I expect from the deacons of Rome," the Pope said on June 19, as he addressed the deacons of the Diocese of Rome and their families in the Hall of Benedictions in the Apostolic Palace. Quoting the Second Vatican Council's [Dogmatic Constitution on the Church](#) (Lumen Gentium, n. 29), Pope Francis said that on deacons, "hands are imposed not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service."

Pope Francis continued:

The mere fact of emphasizing this difference helps to overcome the scourge of clericalism, which places a caste of priests "above" the People of God. This is the core of clericalism: a priestly caste "above" the People of God. And if this is not resolved, clericalism will continue in the Church. Deacons, precisely because they are dedicated to the service of this People, remember that in the ecclesial body no one can elevate himself above others. . . .

The diaconate, following the high road of the Council, thus leads us to the center of the mystery of the Church. Just as I have spoken of a "constitutively missionary Church" and a "constitutively synodal Church", so I add that we should speak of a "constitutively diaconal Church". Indeed, if we do not live this dimension of service, every ministry is emptied from within, it becomes sterile, it does not bear fruit. And little by little it becomes worldly.

Again citing Lumen Gentium, Pope Francis emphasized that deacons are called to be "dedicated to duties of charity and of administration." Thus, deacons are called to be caring servants who do their best to ensure that no one is excluded and the love of the Lord touches people's lives in a tangible way. In short, one could summarize diaconal spirituality in a few words, that is, the spirituality of service: willingness on the inside and openness on the outside. Willingness on the inside, from the heart, ready to say yes, docile, without making life revolve around one's own agenda; and open on the outside, looking at everyone, especially those who are left out, those who feel excluded.

The Pope concluded by listing three expectations of Rome's deacons: "I expect you to be humble. . . . I expect you to be good spouses and good fathers. And good grandparents. . . . Finally, thirdly, I expect you to be sentinels: not only to know how to spot the poor and the distant—this is not so difficult—but to help the Christian community to recognize Jesus in the poor and the distant, as He knocks on our doors through them."

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!

Couples Retreat**

August 20-22, 2021
Miramar Retreat Center
Duxbury, MA

NADD Region 1 Assembly**

November 5-6, 2021
Southbridge Conference
Center
Southbridge, MA

Advent Day of Reflection November 13, 2021

Holy Trinity Parish
Fall River, MA

CEU Reports Due

January 31, 2022

Convocation

March 19, 2022
Location TBA

Installation to Order of Acolyte

June 21, 2022
Holy Trinity Parish
Fall River, MA

Deacon Retreat

September 30-Oct 2, 2022
Miramar Retreat Center
Duxbury, MA

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
- Deacon Dan Donovan
- Carolyn, daughter of Deacon Dominic Messina
- Janice Fitzpatrick wife of Deacon John Fitzpatrick
- Patry Lukac, wife of Deacon Ted Lukac
- Deacon Steve Minninger
- Michael Wojcik

...and for all those that we do not know of that are in need of prayers and support

New Assignments

Deacon Brendan Brides from St John Pocasset to Christ the King, Mashpee

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

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Deacon Frank Lucca - deaconfranklucca@frpermanentdiaconate.com

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Diocese of Fall River
Office for the Permanent Diaconate

Couples Retreat 2021

A Deacons Journey with his Wife

As Deacons, we have been on numerous retreats regarding the diaconate and the ministries of the Church. Maybe we've heard presentations of what the needs of our parish communities are and what it is to be an ordained man of God. My wife, Catherine, and I wish this retreat to be more focused on the woman in our lives and the women & wives of scripture.



Retreat Leaders:

Deacon Doug and Cathy Hoffman

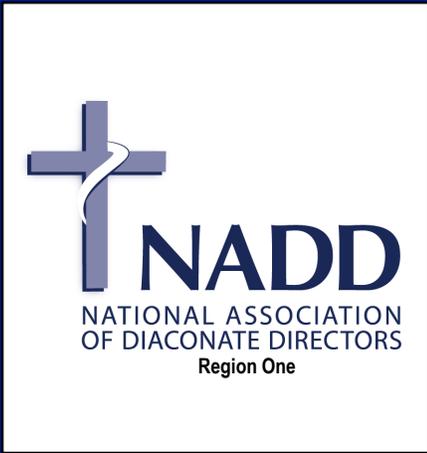
Diocese of Bridgeport

August 20-22, 2021
Miramar Retreat Center
Duxbury, M

Registration Deadline July 15
Limit 30 couples

***Only 6 spots remain!!! Last chance to register. We will
open the retreat to our candidates and wives
on July 15.***

This is the only retreat sponsored by the Office of the Permanent Diaconate this year.



NADD 1 WEBINAR SERIES

*The NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEACON DIRECTORS REGION ONE is pleased to announce the next in a series of webinars offered to our deacons on an ongoing basis!
Join with brother deacons from around the Region!*

AUGUST WEBINAR

"The Role of Divine Mercy in Deliverance Ministry"



Rev. Paul Desmarais

He was born in Providence Rhode Island and educated at Christ the King School in West Warwick and Our Lady of Providence Seminary High School and College in Warwick Neck. He completed his seminary studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland and was ordained to the priesthood on May 26th, 1979 by Bishop Kenneth A. Angell at St. Matthew's Church in Central Falls. Fr. Paul served as assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Pawtucket; as part-time spiritual director for the Blackstone Valley CYO and East Bay CYO; as Director of Spiritual Formation and Formation Team Member, Seminary of Our Lady of Providence; as summer chaplain for the Boy Scouts (Camp Yawgoo) and as chaplain for the Youth Ministry Team in Pawtucket. Fr. Desmarais was named pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Pawtucket in 1997 and served there until being named pastor at St. Mary's Parish in Carolina and St. James Chapel Charlestown in 2005. He is very dedicated to service and has a fearless faith. Being an accomplished artist, Fr. Paul believes in giving back his God given talent by helping others through volunteering. He conducts two healing services monthly, one of which focuses on addictions. He uses the St. Raphael oil at these services and makes it available to all who attend. He is the Director of Deliverance Ministry for the Diocese of Providence RI.

These sessions will also be recorded and made available to deacons by way of their Diocese Office of the Diaconate.

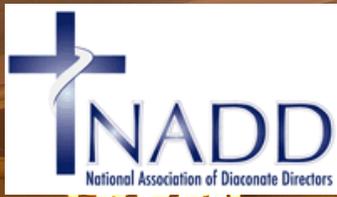
Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:00 pm

Join Online Webinar via computer, tablet or smartphone

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83026229267>

Meeting ID: 830 2622 9267



A NEW WAY TO BE CHURCH

Parish Renewal from the Outside In

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

NADD REGION 1 ASSEMBLY 2021

November 5-6, 2021

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

Register at www.nadd1assembly.org

Fall River Deacons and Spouses - The Office of the Permanent Diaconate will subsidize your participation in this Assembly.

You will also receive CEU credits for attending.

Use these codes for the discount

DFR1 - \$100 off a couple registration

DFR2 - \$50 off an individual registration



8

SPEAKERS



10

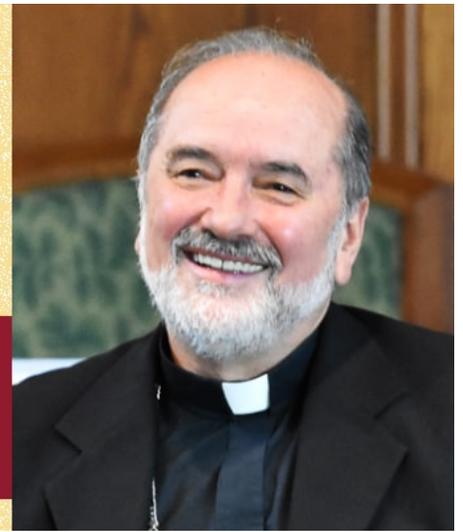
SESSIONS



250+

ATTENDERS





Building Faith

Clarification Regarding USCCB General Assembly

Since the close of the USCCB's June General Assembly last week, there has been much discussion—and confusion—about the vote the bishops participated in regarding the Eucharist. It is important to understand that the actual vote tasked the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Doctrine to begin drafting a teaching document on the Eucharist. The proposed document on the Eucharist is something the bishops have been working on since a Pew Survey emerged in 2019, revealing only one-third of Catholics understand or believe the bread and wine offered during Mass truly become the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The bishops incorporated the Eucharistic focus in their 2021-24 USCCB Strategic Plan with the theme of "Created Anew by the Body and Blood of Christ: Source of Our Healing and Hope." The decision to move ahead with a Eucharistic revival was instituted long before any elections, with a collective desire to help the faithful recognize the value and importance of the Real Presence. What was presented to the Bishops last week and what we voted on was a proposal to draft a document on the Eucharist. For the draft of this document, the Committee will seek input from all Bishops who will meet by region to present their suggestions. After receiving the suggestions from the Bishops, the Committee will begin drafting the document which will be presented to the whole assembly of the Bishops in November for a vote.

The Proposed outline of the document wants to focus on the following:

- The Eucharist: A Mystery to be Believed,
- The Eucharist: Mystery to be Celebrated, and
- The Eucharist: Mystery to be Lived.

There is nothing in this proposal, nor is it planned, to include language regarding the giving or denying of Eucharist to any person or category of persons. The final document to be created will not address any one person by name, or any category of persons as that is not the role, responsibility, or authority of the USCCB. These matters remain, and will continue to remain, between the person and his/her Diocesan Bishop.

The **Bishops' Committee on Doctrine** will be working to prepare and present a document that educates on the value, importance, and beauty of the Eucharist, which is the Source and Summit of our faith and Church—nourishment for the journey.

As the USCCB shared on their website, "The document being drafted is not meant to be disciplinary in nature, nor is it targeted at any one individual or class of persons. It will include a section on the Church's teaching on the responsibility of every Catholic, including bishops, to live in accordance with the truth, goodness and beauty of the Eucharist we celebrate."