



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



Bishop Edgar
da Cunha

DEACON UPDATE

RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH

After all these months living in the desert of a pandemic world, we are beginning to see the promise land of the world of “normal”! If the truth is told, we might ask ourselves, will things ever be normal? But our question is more than a query about what was, but in faith, we hope for what will be. C.S. Lewis once mused about time. Lewis spoke of time as truth revealed and the unfolding of a beauty we hope for.

We have faced the truth of isolation, distancing, masking, losses, but we have also witnessed the beauty of dedicated care, compassion and rich services shared. With all the challenges of COVID, we have grown, we are different, and things will not be the same again. If we return to what was, than we stand the risk of not becoming what truth and beauty are inviting us to become.

The call to depart from the desert and enter into the land of promise is rooted in our Pentecost hope as we open our lives to the Spirit of God. We pray Lord send forth your spirit and renew the face of the earth! Lord sent forth your spirit and renew the landscape of our hearts! In a post COVID world we are called to speak a new language. The vocabulary of the desert is filled with nouns and verbs of fear and anxiety. The conversation of promise unfolds into the poetry and prose of gratitude and joy filled with the Spirit of Christ the fullness of the Word.

As we embrace the truth and beauty of the Good News of the fullness of that Word, each of us is asked what language will we choose to speak? In our post-pandemic “new normal” are we tempted to speak half-truths and compromise the beauty of the language of God’s spirit?

Sadly we continue to hear the sounds of the language of fear and anger. Isolation and distancing of hearts filled with confusion still prevail. Masks of violence are still worn. While we search for alien life on Mars we are all too aware of the aliens that inhabit planet earth who continue to live in the foreign lands of prejudice and only hear the language of resentment and suspicion.

In the days ahead we are continually called to update our language skills as we become more proficient in speaking the language of the spirit. What are the building blocks of that spoken word? Paul offers us a precise syllabus for this new language: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Gal: 5:22-23).

The turning point began with a vaccination. The turning point in our life of faith begins with the injection into our hearts the Spirit of the Risen One. May the alleluia language of His love truly become the daily vocabulary of our life.

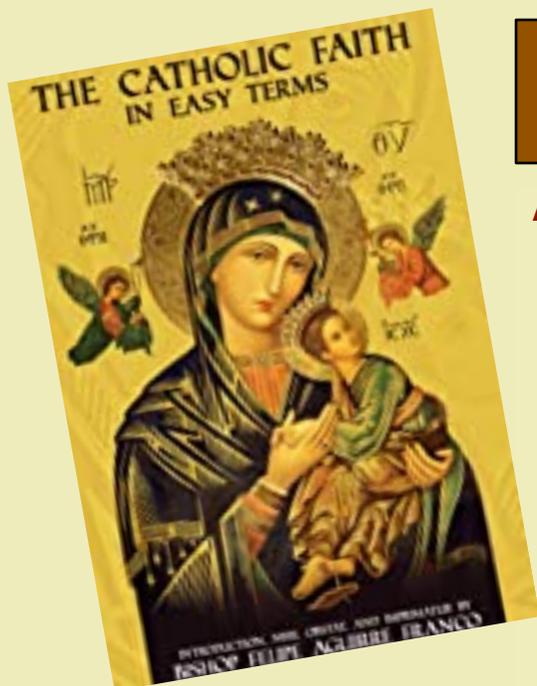
In Christ’s love,
Fr. Bob Oliveira

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.



Job Opportunity for a Deacon

A community is looking to hire a deacon full/part time to promote a new book with Imprimatur and Nihil Obstat

The Book called "The Catholic Faith in Easy Terms" is available on Amazon

The job consists of traveling throughout New England and visit all Catholic Churches and leave a flyer that will be provided \$400/week plus all expenses of the travel will be included.

If interested, please contact

**Anthony Proximo
Phone: 508-340-9370**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



The 1st Diaconate Class

June 7, 1980



The 3rd Diaconate Class

June 20, 1987



The 4th Diaconate Class

May 22, 1993



The 5th Diaconate Class

May 25, 1987



The 6th Diaconate Class

May 22, 2002

NEW FEATURE

Meet Our Deacon Candidates

This month we welcome Scott Taveira of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, New Bedford



My name is Scott E. Taveira and I was born on the 26th of December, 1969 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. I am the son of the late, John M. Taveira and Patricia M. Taveira both of New Bedford, MA., my childhood was a typical one for a family living in a city setting. My father worked as a machine operator at Stillwater Fasteners in East Freetown, MA., and my mother worked at Justin Clothing in New Bedford, MA., in the office as a payroll clerk. I had a very happy upbringing as a child and as being the only child, I was a bit spoiled by the family. I attended New Bedford Public Schools in my early years of education, first at the Sarah D. Ottiwell School until the fourth grade, then when my parents had bought a home and we moved to the area of Buttonwood Park, I attended Elizabeth Carter Brooks School in the west end of New Bedford,

from there I attended Keith Jr. High School and later went on to a vocational education at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School majoring in Machine Shop technology graduating with a degree. I have also held a position of Funeral Home Assistant for twenty seven years with Aubertine-Lopes Funeral Home in New Bedford. I truly love helping people in their time of need and suffering. I am currently employed full-time as a Staff Representative with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 93, which is a union that represents members in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, my position as a Staff Representative entails contract negotiations and representing members in discipline hearings as well as other duties for representing members in the union over the four state region. I have held this position for fourteen years starting in 2005.

I currently reside in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts and have lived there since 2008. I enjoy living in the suburbs where it is peaceful and tranquil, I also like to take walks and enjoy fresh water fishing and spending time with family and friends as an integral part of my life.

I have been an active parishioner of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception parish in New Bedford, MA., for several years. I was baptized at the parish in 1970 and then continued to attend until my family moved, and then, I attended St. Julie Billiart parish in Dartmouth, where I received the sacrament of Confirmation in 1985. I then returned to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception parish when I became an adult, I then became interested in becoming a Lector and Eucharistic Minister in the parish. I discussed this with Fr. Brian Albino and Pastor Daniel O. Reis and they urged me to proceed to attend the class for Eucharistic Ministers and allowed me to become a Lector at the parish, ever since then, I have continued to be a Lector and Eucharistic Minister.

I have also made two religious pilgrimages to the Azores and mainland Portugal in 1998 and 1999. During the pilgrimages, I attended the feast of Senhor Santo Cristo dos Milagres in Ponta Delgada, St. Michael, Azores, as well as the ceremonies honoring Our Lady of Fatima, in Fatima, Portugal, during the month of May. I was truly blessed to witness both of these wonderful events and feel a deep devotion to Christ and Our Lady, which till this day continually guides me in my daily life and prayer. When time permits in the months of May and October, when I am not working, I attend Benediction and recite the rosary during Sunday's in the parish along with many other parishioners. I like to recite the rosary as often as I can because I feel comfort in praying to Our Lady and asking for her intercession in my daily life.

I have been told that I have more to offer to the church and that is when I decided to look into the Diaconate program and sought the counsel of several people including Deacon Pires and his wife, as well as Pastor Daniel O. Reis, after speaking with them, I decided to attend the informational meeting about the program and felt that I could give more of myself to God and if allowed to participate in the program if selected. I truly enjoyed the aspirant phase in hearing the many wonderful stories of current deacons and priests as well as the other candidates in how God has been a part of their everyday life. I have been truly inspired by God in my first two years of class and look forward to the next two years.

In closing, I ask for the guidance of God and Our Lady, to continue as a candidate in the program and my daily life and if so chosen, to become a deacon in our diocese to serve God and his church.

NEW FEATURE

Meet Our Deacon Candidates

This month we welcome David Roderick of Corpus Christi Parish in Sandwich, MA



On April 22, 1960 I was born at Saint Luke's Hospital. My parents, sister and I lived in New Bedford for a year, then we moved to Fall River, where I was raised, and where I was always surrounded by family. The house we lived in was owned by my grandfather, who lived on the second floor while my aunt (mom's sister) lived on the third floor. My parents were loving and hardworking people. Mom was a stay-at-home mom while dad went to work every day. As my sister and I got older my mom went back to work. My grandfather and uncles were carpenters, and their workshop was in the backyard of our house. I would always be with them. Although they could be very tough men, they were very loving and caring men. I feel my strong work ethic came from them. They taught me to always be respectful, honest, trustworthy and to work hard in life.

The most important thing they told me was to love your family unconditionally. I attended public school, and then I went to Diman Regional Vocational High School, where I studied machine shop and graduated in 1978.

My parents raised us in the Catholic faith, and we belonged to Saint Anthony Padua parish. I received my first communion and confirmation there. I was an altar boy and sang in the choir. We attended Mass every weekend and all Holy Days. Mom made sure of that. I truly loved attending St. Anthony's; it was a very active parish. After receiving my Confirmation in 1974, and being yelled at by the pastor during confession, I left the church. I couldn't have cared less about my faith. Although my mom always invited me to attend Mass, I declined. It was not until 1980 when I met Joanne (my wife) in college, and she invited me to attend a family Mass at La Salette, that I truly realized what I was missing in my life and my faith. I thank God every day for that very day when I returned to my faith. God truly used Joanne to facilitate my return.

When Joanne and I were dating we were very involved at Saint Mary's in Norton, Joanne's home parish at the time. We attended Mass every weekend. We were involved in the Youth group, we both taught CCD, and I played guitar in the folk group. It was in 1985 that I felt I was being called to the priesthood. Joanne always being honest said, "Well you can't have me and the priesthood." So, we separated for a while so I could pray about my decision. During this time, I was introduced to Father George Harrison. I was sent to him to help me make my decision. In August 1987, Joanne and I married. I know for sure God had other plans for me. Father Harrison and I have been close friends since that first time we met. He truly is my mentor.

After being married for 15 years, Joanne and I adopted our daughter Megan from China. In 2003, we went to China and brought Megan home. Megan is now 18 years old, and we have been blessed to have her in our lives. Joanne and I have been married for 33 years, and although at times it has been challenging with the illness/death of our parents and raising

Megan, no matter what challenges come our way, if it was not for God in the center of our marriage, I believe we would not gotten through everything that came our way.

God has definitely played a huge part in my life. I would not be the person I am today if it were not for my Catholic upbringing and my love for my faith. I was involved in the Emmaus retreat program for 17 years where I served in many different roles, including being on team giving talks, co-directing and ultimately directing 3 weekend retreats, and coordinator for the program. It formed me to be a leader and deepened my faith. Currently, I am very involved in my parish. I am a sacristan, Eucharistic Minister, and server at the daily Mass. I have a Holy Hour for Eucharistic Adoration. I lector at daily and weekend Masses, and I taught CCD for 15 years including 6 years of Confirmation. For the last 9 years I have been involved in the Men's ACT Retreat program for our Parish. Once again, I have taken on a few roles for the Retreat from being a team member, giving talks, to directing the first weekend our parish had. Prior to Covid-19, on Wednesday mornings I would bring the Eucharist to a local nursing home, pray the rosary with the residents and spend time talking with them. I feel that all I have done has been a service which, has deepened my faith and has led me to the Diaconate. With the guidance of Father Harrison and prayer, I feel a peaceful call from Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother to service. I look forward to when the pandemic is over so I can resume all the services I enjoyed doing. God has blessed me with so many graces, and I feel being called to the Diaconate is indeed a blessing.

THE WIVES' CORNER

This month's contributor is by Barbara-Anne Foley

Planting Seeds of Faith, Hope and Love



Saint Rita of Cascia was born in 1381 and became an Augustinian Nun after her husband died. Various miracles are attributed to her intercession, and her likeness is often portrayed with a bleeding wound on her forehead, which is believed to be a partial stigmata. She was canonized Rita on May 24, 1900 and her feast day is celebrated on May 22nd. After she was canonized, she was given the title “**Patroness of impossible causes.**” She also became known as the Patroness of abused wives and heartbroken women. Her body remains in the Basilica of Santa Rita da Cascia, in Cascia Italy.

I thought she was a perfect Saint to be introduced in May as we are feeling a little lighter and seeing positive movement with this Covid 19 pandemic “**impossible cause**”, as more people are being vaccinated.

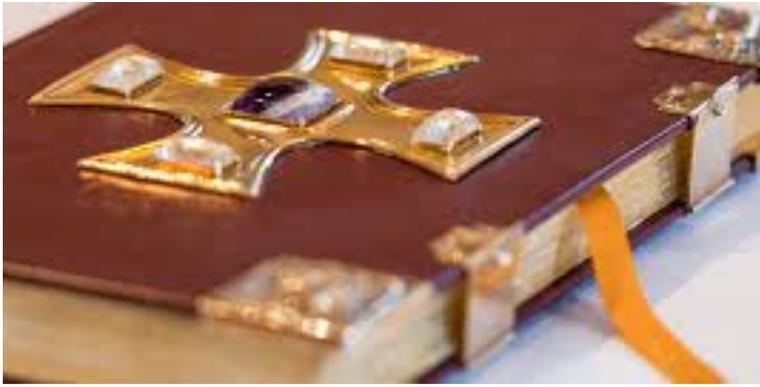
Deacon John and I with our family were finally able to introduce John’s Dad we refer to as “Dee Dee” to his only Great Grandson Porter last week in AZ! The instant bond and love with 92 years between these 2 was beyond describable. Dee Dee learned at 92 to text, FaceTime and Zoom so he could keep updated with his Great Grandson. He told all of us in tears at the first meeting of each other, “Porter was a **Beacon of Light in the dark Covid 19 darkness**, he is what got me through this pandemic!” This photo says it all. “For him to grab onto my knobby arthritic fingers was the VERY BEST feeling in the world, I cannot begin to tell you.” These were the **seeds of hope** planted on March 15, 2021 when Porter was born and the next day Cape Cod Hospital went on lock down. The seeds of Hope were planted then and came to fruition last week in person. Tears of pure joy flowed all week while we were together.

Seeds of hope continued this week too! Yesterday, our parish Holy Trinity held its Confirmation with Bishop da Cunha. As always, it was a beautiful service, however this year because of the date, I was unable to attend and take pictures like I always do because the Inn we manage opened and I had to be on premises. One of the students being confirmed “Sally” has a wonderfully strong faith filled Catholic large extended family. Her 2 cousins who we watched grow up in our parish lost their Mom to cancer when they were barely teenagers. The Dad could not take care of them and they came to live with an Aunt and her husband who are phenomenal parents and have 2 children of their own as well. Through youth group, Religious Ed. and various other fundraising and fun events we have held over the years, these kids have all been those role model type of kids you want to stay **forever young** in your parish to teach others coming up in their faith and to help **plant the seeds of faith, hope and love**.

Sadly about 5 years ago, the 2 young ladies who lost their mother moved with their Aunt’s family to Fla. I was heartsick. We have kept in touch since then, but I truly missed seeing them every week. After last night’s Confirmation, Sally, and her brother as well as these 2 young ladies came to **surprise me** at the Inn so they could still see me since I was unable to attend the Confirmation mass! I started to cry and insisted my husband take a picture of this moment so I could keep smiling when looking at it. Their Aunt told me that the 2 young ladies said when asked who you want to see on this short trip east, that their collective answer included “Mrs. F.” She said that “**the memories we created planting seeds of Faith, Hope and Love have blossomed and that one is a Sr. in college and the other a Junior in college and both are flourishing in their lives AND in their Faith.**” She thanked me and said, “it takes a village, and we are so thankful you were there for those girls when they needed it most.” To me that is our job God gave us planting seeds of Faith, Hope and Love whenever possible and being the Face of Christ to others. God Bless you all.



CANDIDATES TO BE INSTALLED AS READERS



15 men will be installed to the Order of Reader by Bishop Edgar da Cunha, at Holy Trinity Parish, Stafford Road, Fall River, Ma on June 22, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Given the new guidelines on capacity, we fully expect to be able to invite deacons and their spouses as well as candidates friends and family members to this celebration!

We will send out an email as soon as the details are complete. Please keep these men in your prayers and they continue their journey to ordination.

LITURGICAL REMINDERS FOR DEACONS

During our quarterly meeting with the Bishop, he extended his thanks to our deacons for their ministry and service to the Church. He also noted that during his parish visits that there is sometimes a great inconsistency in the words spoken by our deacons during the Mass, especially at Confirmations where the Bishop is presiding. He encourages us all to follow the rubrics set down in the Roman Missal.

As a reminder:

SOLEMN BLESSING - *Bow down for the blessing* is to be used

DISMISSAL - the following may be used: *Go forth, the Mass is ended* or *Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord* or *Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life* or *Go in peace.*

PREPARING CHALICE - Only a **few drops** of water should be used.

Pilgrimage to Germany with Deacon Frank Lucca May 13-21, 2022!

See Berlin • Dresden
• Weimar • Rothenburg
• Fussen • Oberammergau
Passion Play • Munich
and much more!

THE
PASSION
PLAY

Oberammergau
2020

This pilgrimage includes
airfare from the city of your
choice, 3,4,5 star hotels,
guide, driver, breakfast,
dinner with wine, tips,
transfers, taxes, surcharges,
excursions, entrance fees,
and the Passion Play!

To learn more or to sign up call
855-842-8001!

ProximoTravel
Your Catholic Tour Company

We've added the Dachau Concentration Camp to this pilgrimage, where the spark that re-ignited the Diaconate is said to have taken place. Download the entire brochure at <http://www.frpermanentdiaconate.com/PDF/BrochureGermany2022.pdf>



Installation Order of Reader

June 22, 2021
Holy Trinity Parish

Couples Retreat**

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

NADD Region 1 Assembly**

November 6-7, 2021
Southbridge Conference Center
Southbridge, MA

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

NADD Region 1 Assembly

"A New Way to Be Church: Parish Renewal from the Outside In"

The 2021 Assembly will be held on

November 5-6, 2021



Birthdays

MAY

Anthony Cipriano 12
John Foley 29
Paul Levesque 8
John Foley 29
Joesph McGinley 4
John Welch 25

JUNE

David Akin 1
Bruce Baxter 2
Ralph Cox 6
Frank Fantasia 8
Michael Guy 1
Fred LaPiana 3
Paul Roma 5
Thomas Souza 6
Alan Thadeu 7
Walter Thomas 10
John Twerago 3

Prayer Requests

- Deacon Joe Mador
 - 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
 - Candidate Michael Wojcik
- ...and for all those that we do not know of that are in need of prayers and support

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

121 Mt Pleasant Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Ph: (508) 990-0341

E: office@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Fax: 508 673 5518

Diocese of Fall River
Office for the Permanent Diaconate

Couples Retreat 2021



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

Registration now open
Limit 30 couples

Only 6 spots remain!!! So register today!

Register at frpermanentdiaconate.com

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

IN MEMORIAM



Deacon George Zarella

1946 - 2021

Let us pray for George, Nancy 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.



Deacon Robert Lorenzo

1937 - 2021

Let us pray for Bob, Mary 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.



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.

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 deaconjosephmcginley@frpermanentdiacoante.com