



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



Bishop Edgar
da Cunha

DEACON UPDATE

10th Diaconate Class Admitted to Candidacy



UNMASKING

For some of our young friends Halloween celebrations, if they were even held, were vastly different this year. Group gatherings, for both young and old, scary masks, and bags filled with candy were only a memory of past days. Unfortunately all of us have been forced to wear masks but not in a celebratory way! Ironically, for those of faith, the month of November is the great month for unmasking. Beginning with the celebration of All Saints, we remember how God's love was truly revealed and exposed not covered over. Each saint we recall literally "brought to light" God's love.

A little boy is asked during the Sunday mass celebration "what's a saint?" The perceptive young man replies as he points to the colorful stained glassed windows in the church: "A Saint is someone who let's the light shine through him!" Yes Christ's love is not masked but shines in the beauty of each of us, in the color, texture and even the uneven and broken glass of our lives. We admire and are encouraged by the named and unnamed saints of our heritage. Julian of Norwich, Catherine of Sienna, St. Clare, St. Thomas, St. Francis etc. are the heroes and heroines our living tradition. However, the "living" tradition continues as those pilgrims of the past, and saints of today, remind us what we are called to be, saints in the particularity of our own lives. We are called to remove the mask of what Thomas Merton called the "guilty bystander" and be the full unveiling of God's complexion to our world. Where modern psychology asks us to "find ourselves" the contemporary pilgrim of faith is asked to "become ourselves!" And who are we to become? We are called to become the light of Christ for all to see.

The second great unmasking of this month is perhaps the most demanding and most dramatic. As we celebrate All Souls we remove our masks but also reveal the veil of tears hidden beneath. But our tears spring from hearts that love and hope. We are called to unmask death itself! The great mystery, the great paradox is that the mask of death is only removed by death itself. It's the dying to the comfort of the security of a womb and entering the strange, complex, uncomfortable world of life. It's the dying of the child unto adulthood and further dying to be embraced into a senior world. It's the dying of self to know the victory of loving and serving the need of another. It's the removing of all the masks of being self-sufficient and saying "thy will be done!" It's removing all the masks convinced that "neither death, nor life height not death will ever separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom: 8: 37). In Christ, the mask of death has been removed and the souls of the just are in His loving embrace.

November is a time to remember those who walked pathways of great love and faith. The pathways they have forged are the stepping stones that we now walk not masked but cloth with the glory of God's hope, the love of Christ. May we truly become what God calls us to be, a saint. Inspired by those who have loved us, encouraged to become what their lives and what our God calls us to be, and trusting in His everlasting love, may we have the courage to remove our masks and be the complexion of Jesus love to all.

In Christ love, Fr. Bob Oliveira

New Website NOW OPEN!

Our new website is now live with enhanced information and capabilities. It will house a deacon portal with access to all the important information that our deacons, candidates and wives may need - including contact lists, access to webinars and class recordings.

Visit www.frpermanentdiaconate.com

Portal Access:

user: frdeacon **pwd:** Sacred2020 (please do not share)



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



The 2nd Diaconate Class

November 6, 1982

FORMATION CLASSES AND WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE DEACON PORTAL

All of the formation classes have been recorded during the last year and are available to all deacons and their families to view onDemand! We have also started to add the webinars to the site.

All of this is available by accessing the Deacon Portal. Classes and webinars earn CEU credits.

CONNECTIONS



DIocese OF FALL RIVER
OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE
**PROJECT
CONNECT**

Project Connect is a series of programs and processes which are designed to help us connect better to each other.

Please visit the CONNECT section of the website!

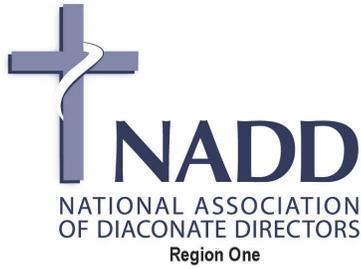
OFFICE CONTACT

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!

WIVES' COUNCIL

We still have an opening on the Deacon Council from the Cape Cod Deanery. If you are interested in serving on the Wive's Council, please drop a line to Deacon Frank at deaconfranklucca@frpermanentdiaconate.com.



NADD 1 WEBINAR SERIES

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

NOVEMBER WEBINAR

Evangelization & the Deacon: "One beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."



Deacon Phil Lawson, MTS

Dcn. Phil Lawson, MTS is the Executive Director of Evangelization, Catechesis, Divine Worship, Marriage and Family, & Respect Life for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington. He and his wife have been married 15 years and been blessed with 6 children, which he affectionately calls his "joyful chaos". In his work, he aims to inspire and equip Catholics and their parishes to joyfully share the Good News (or bread), they have been given. In this presentation, we'll look at the call to the New Evangelization, what this can look like, and the deacon's privileged role in it.

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

Wednesday, November 10, 2020 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

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83026229267# US (Chicago)

NEW FEATURE

Meet Our Deacon Candidates

This month we welcome Richard Fish of Christ the King parish in Mashpee, Ma



I was born in New York, just north of New York City, where I lived until I attended two colleges upstate, ultimately obtaining my bachelor's degree in music from Ithaca College. Like many who graduate from college, I had only a vague sense of myself, and knew that I had a lot more to learn. I was attracted to the seminary formation program at that time for the Archdiocese of New York, where they had a "house of discernment," allowing for pre-theology study, in the midst of daily prayer and formation. After a bit of a confused first year, I committed to my studies in year two, and was eventually accepted into St. Joseph Seminary, Dunwoodie for the major theologate. I spent three years there, but felt called to marriage and family (especially during my summer, parish assignments). My sister's wedding during the year of Third Theology also helped me to see the attractive aspects of marriage. With a great deal of kindness and support, I took a leave of absence from Dunwoodie after Third Theology, just a few months before my classmates were ordained deacons. I will never forget the kindness of now retired Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, our Rector, in awarding me my degrees in Theology (something he really didn't have to do).

I then needed a job, so I was hired at Landmark School, in Beverly, MA, eventually becoming the Director of Performing Arts. In addition to running the department, I was blessed to lead 16 choir tours, all over the United States (New York being our favorite locale, for obvious Performing Arts reasons). At Landmark, I earned my degree and teaching license in Moderate Special Needs Education, and I came to know very creative, loving students who taught me about patience, compassion and understanding through the many beautiful—but often pain-filled—stories of their lives. During these early teaching years, I also worked as Director of Music at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in Beverly for a number of years. I would meet my wife, Lauren, there, and we would be married in this beautiful house of God, in June of 2010.

When we learned that our family about to grow, we decided to move to the Cape to be closer to my family. This meant being closer to my parents, as well as my two sisters. We are blessed with three children, Cortlandt Joseph (8), Hannah Grace (7), and Lucy Therese (4). I became the Director of Performing Arts for St. John Paul II High School in Hyannis, where I have been blessed to lead ten choir tours, including one to Rome, where we sang for two Sunday morning Masses at the Chair of St. Peter. I have also spent a good deal of time working at both St. Francis Xavier Prep and St. Margaret in Buzzards Bay. I have also taught Theology at JPPII, which is something I'm doing more of this year, teaching classes in Church History, Sacraments, Morality, and The Church. Catholic Education is demanding, vibrant, and most filled with Christ and His Gospel!

When it was time to send our children to school, we found a very loving place for all of them in St. Margaret School in Buzzards Bay. Eventually, Lauren worked part-time, and then last year, full-time at St. Margaret, as well. Then the pandemic hit, and St. Margaret was permanently closed by the diocese. Our family is extremely committed to Catholic Education. After almost ten years of teaching in our Catholic Schools, I know that what we do is very different from what is offered in other schools. Our chapel has the Blessed Sacrament at the center of the school, and this forms the core of everything we are about: our mission is to have Christ at the center of everything we do.

The famous phrase "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," from Joshua in the Old Testament is something that hangs on the wall of our home. It is something that we try to live, as a family, together, every day. During this tumultuous year of societal unrest for many reasons, it might be tempting to despair. However, the words of Peter, "Lord to whom should we go?" ring true to us as a family, to our core. We sought help from St. Pius X School in Yarmouth, and in every way that matters we have been shown great love and support by them. Every day, our children are happy to go to school because of the loving community at St. Pius. Lauren has been hired by St. John Paul II High School and St. Francis Xavier Preparatory School, as Director of Social Media and Web. Our lives are committed to Christ and His Church, as a family, together.

A few years ago, I began to explore the idea of the Permanent Diaconate with Father Healey, Pastor of Christ the King. He has been nothing but supportive of me in this endeavor. After five years of full-time seminary study, earlier in my life, would I have expected to have four more years of additional theology in my future? Probably not. Would any of us have been able to predict the events of this year? Certainly not. However, God is still the center of my life, and the life of my family. The mandate of the Deacon is to "preach the Gospel," so we do this, every night, as a family: we read a chapter of a Gospel together, alternating with other New Testament books. This has grown into something more with the Theology classes that I teach now at St. John Paul II High School: each day, we do most or all of a chapter of a Gospel, and do "Lexio Divina" (with appropriate gratitude to Father Hindsley and Father Oliveira!). I know—and now see in others, especially the young people in my care—that the words of St. Therese are true: "I have only to cast a glance in the Gospels and immediately I breathe in the perfumes of Jesus' life."

As I continue on this journey towards the Permanent Diaconate, I ask for your prayers, please. Let us pray for each other, especially during times of trial. Our journey, every day, might ultimately be surprising in where it leads, but if it is with God, it will be beautiful, and joyful. I try embrace the surprises that God provides each day with an open heart.

THE WIVES' CORNER

This month's commentary is by Elizabeth Porter



#2020

I have a friend who, whenever texting about a unique aspect of this particular year, always notes the rare occurrence as to be expected in #2020. Despite researching the use of a hashtag in written communication, I must admit I do not understand the phenomenon, but I think it's cute and sort of uniquely distinguishes the year 2020. And we all have to admit #2020 is definitely unique. I mean, how often in your lifetime has there been a world-wide pandemic? With Thanksgiving days away, I pose to you this question: do you feel it is harder for you to have an "attitude of gratitude" in #2020? Since I do not spend a lot of time listening to the news, here are a few personal experiences to muse on, snapshots, I submit to support my belief that #2020 has, in its own way presented each one of us many moments for which to be thankful for, even in the darkest of hours.

I for one have not been able to hug and kiss most of the people I love, as often as I have in past years. For some, I have not had one chance to meet with them in-person, let alone hug them! As for the ones I love that live within my quarantine zone, I have not had the same opportunities to spend quality time with them that I had been able to in previous years. I so miss that! But, because I live in #2020, I have been able to "see them" on FaceTime, Skype, or Zoom and continue to share what life throws our way. In no way does it replace real contact, but, I believe we have learned we have a great capacity for **resilience**, which allows me to be more hopeful and to believe this too shall pass.

I went into the year thinking our family was going to celebrate a milestone event: our youngest son was scheduled to marry on June 27, 2020. "Everyone" would be flying in, we'd have a great time... you get the idea. The wedding did not take place on the date or as originally planned. Due to travel and quarantine restrictions most of our "immediate family" was not able to travel to Massachusetts. But, through **perseverance**, and the help of people who stepped in to support them in so many unexpected, loving ways, William and Amanda did get married. God was there, as well as a small group of people. And instead of a big party, there was a much quieter, intimate backyard reception. I am so impressed that they met adversity head on, and focused not so much on a wedding, but their marriage.

We have had our share of not so pleasant unexpected events as well, just like everyone else: a bout of COVID-19, a layoff, a major accident, a cross-country relocation, and individual episodes of quarantine as a result of COVID contacts. But, together (with a little help from technology and mail), we have been able to sustain our support of and for each other. COVID has tried to isolate us, but, empowered by **fortitude** and support, the individuals who have been directly impacted continue to thrive and flourish.

My friend from nursing school lives in Georgia. She has spent MONTHS on a "COVID" unit. You can't get more "front-line" in this battle. During this time, she has spent days with people living their last hours on earth without loved ones at their bedside. She has held iPhones and tablets for family members who were not allowed to be by their loved one's side. She, like so many health care workers, has served as link for people in dark hours. She has never felt more tired, and at the same time, more honored to help people work through the barriers set before them during these most significant lifetime experiences. Those prayers for healthcare workers mean more than you know. She told me that knowing people were praying for her gave her the strength to **courageously** carry on when she felt she had nothing left to give.

One last snapshot: I came home from work one day, to see a message, in chalk, written at the edge of the driveway. It said: "Hope you had a nice day". I don't know who wrote it: most likely it was a child that lives on the street who was bored. Due to anonymity, they will never know the appreciation I felt being greeted by that message at the end of an especially difficult day. The act of this **wise** person still brings a smile to my face and tears to my eyes.

Without having to look far, in the face of everything that has been thrown at us in #2020, I have seen and been awed by qualities such as resilience, perseverance, fortitude, courage and wisdom by the people who inhabit my little corner of the world. I humbly submit I have much to be grateful for, and can only hope I have made #2020 a little easier for the people I have met along the way. By the way, the Morning Prayer antiphon today was "I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living." Amen!

REFLECTIONS OF A NEW DEACON

This year we will follow our newest deacons as they begin their second year of service to God and His church. This month we welcome Deacon David Harum, St Vincent Parish in Attleboro, MA



Well, it's been a little over a year since I was ordained. In that time I have had three different pastors and a good amount of unrest in the parish to which I've been assigned. I was assigned to my home parish, St. Vincent de Paul in Attleboro, with an affiliation to St. John the Evangelist parish, also in Attleboro.

At first, and for the tenure of the first two of my pastors we were marching towards a unification of the two parishes and the creation of a single Attleboro Catholic community. There were different approaches by the two pastors and feelings were hurt in both parishes and the two pastors were, to my mind, treated very cruelly by a very vocal minority. They

eventually asked for permission to leave for other parishes. This is a fairly major event in the life of a parish.

We are currently under the third pastor and he does not seem to have any inclination to force the two, very different, parishes into a union. They are still juridically separate and it seems they will remain so.

The pandemic has thrown its share of confusion and uncertainty into the mix as well.

So, was my first year as a deacon a good one? This is where I might insert a smiling or winking emoji if I was texting this to a friend.

I would say it was a good year, even a great year in some ways. It was good in that I got to see the very best in people who stuck to our parish and worked through the difficulties with a heart of love. Though it was difficult to see other friends throw up their hands and leave for greener fields, it was also a learning experience ... and so, good. The year was great in that I learned a lot about my own limitations ... it was a very humbling year for me. I had to grow in patience and love, love both for my neighbor and ultimately in love for God the Father. I learned how little I know, and how far I have to go in holiness. This is a great lesson for all Christians, especially for those of us called to the clerical state. Ultimately, I learned ... again ... for the nth time ... that it is necessary, first and foremost, to love God with all your heart and mind and soul. If you do that, then the love for neighbor will naturally follow, will necessarily follow. I'm still working on this and will be for the rest of my life. But I'm grateful that this became etched into my heart through this year. My prayer life has grown more personal and interactive, it has become a quest to experience the Beloved in the fullest and most intimate way possible and I hope this continues to deepen.

With morning prayer, or lauds (praise) as it is called, I'm truly learning to start the day with praise, praise for this day, not tomorrow and not yesterday, but for this day which is unlike any other. It is a song of praise to God the Father for "today", for the gift of today, a day in which work in the vineyard beckons. May I be, today, more like the son of the vineyard owner who actually goes to work in the vineyard even though he expressed a reluctance to do so.

With evening prayer, or vespers as it is called, I'm learning to be grateful for the day just past, for the trials, the triumphs, the day-to-day ordinary things which occurred. I'm learning to be grateful for every little thing, or big thing ... to be grateful. I often have to approach this as the publican who prays privately and fervently for mercy for his sinfulness.

Daily rosaries for the state of our nation, offers of reparation (in various ways) for my sins and those of others, these all contributed to this quest for relationship with the other, the Other. ... So much more to do, so much further to go ...

So, was it a good year? Yes, it was a good year, even a great year!

CALENDAR UPDATES

Deacon Retreat 2020
LaSalette Retreat Center
Postponed

Wives' Council Meeting
November 9, 2020
Online at 7:00 pm

Wives' Book Club
Begins November, 2020
Online - see elsewhere in this newsletter for details and dates

Day of Reflection
November 14 2020
Online

Day of Recollection – Candidates**
March 20, 2021
Holy Trinity Parish Hall

Deacon Convocation 2021**
April 17, 2021
Holy Trinity Parish Hall

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

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

NADD Region 1 Assembly**
November 6-7, 2021
Southbridge Conference Center
Southbridge, MA

NADD Region 1 Assembly

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

The 2020 Assembly has been postponed due to the current situation



New date

November 6-7, 2021



Birthdays

November

Robert Alence 8
Thomas Bailey 19
Donald Battiston 26
Karl Buder 4

Paul Fournier 9
William Gallerizzo 11
Antonio Pimentel 5
Thomas McMahon 17
Joseph Regali 17

Prayer Requests

- Marie Guy - wife of Deacon Mike Guy
- Deacon Bob Normandin
- Deacon Bob Lorenzo
- Carolyn, daughter of Deacon Dominic Messina
- Janice Fitzpatrick wife of Deacon John Fitzpatrick
- Deacon Eduardo Pacheco
- Patry Lukac, wife of Deacon Ted Lukac
- In memory of Antonio M Pimental, Deacon Tony Pimental's dad.
- Deacon Steve Minninger

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A Day of Reflection

For deacons and candidates

Due to gathering restrictions, we are unable to hold our Study Day originally scheduled for November 14. However, we will gather virtually, for a morning of Mass, reflection and discussion.

Please join us via Zoom

November 14, 2020

10:00 am Mass Online

10:30 am - Reflection

11:00 am - Small Group Sharing

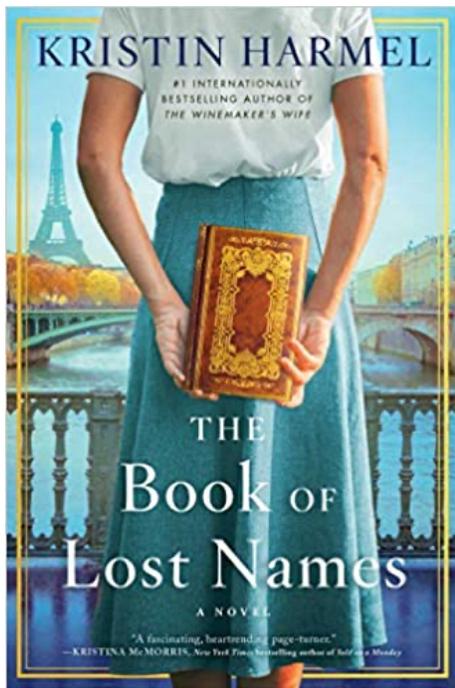
REGISTER TODAY!

Either type <https://diocesefr.wufoo.com/forms/day-of-reflection-online-2020/> into a browser or go to the website and register for this session by clicking on CALENDAR at the top navigation menu. We hope to see you all online!



Ladies of the Diaconate Community
BOOK CLUB

Many of our wives indicated an interest in gathering together for a book sharing club. Well, the woman of the Wives' Council have listened and is happy to announce their first gathering (virtually of course.) Barbara-Anne Foley will coordinate the first book discussion.



Inspired by an astonishing true story from World War II, a young woman with a talent for forgery helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis in this unforgettable historical novel from the New York Times bestselling author of the “epic and heart-wrenching World War II tale” (Alyson Noel, #1 New York Times bestselling author) The Winemaker’s Wife.

Meeting dates:

November 16, 30, December 7, 14 at 7:00 pm

Leader: Barbara-Anne Foley

via Zoom - when you register, the Zoom link will be sent to you via email.

Register at <https://diocesefr.wufoo.com/forms/wives-book-club/> or on the Diaconate website under CALENDAR at the top navigation bar.