



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



Bishop Edgar
da Cunha

DEACON UPDATE

**A DAY AT THE
FR. PEYTON CENTER**



WIVE'S CORNER



by Elizabeth Porter

Hello and warm Easter greetings to all of you! It seems odd to compose an Easter-themed message while preparing for the holiest week of the Catholic calendar. One must start somewhere so I will begin with an “examination of conscience for Lent.” How was your Lenten season? I ask this because, in the week prior to Holy Week, I attended an organizational meeting for a church ministry. The group leader asked each of us to share our names, a little “something” about ourselves, and what had been, to that point in time, our “high and low” during this most recent Lenten journey.

The question surprised me — I don’t think I had ever been asked to reflect on the Lenten experience as a body of work, and it made me wonder how many of us reflect over the last forty days and learn from their personal Lenten journey. What did we learn during this most recent period of our lives, and what will that mean for us going forward, into our Easter season experience and beyond? Dare one ask: “How am I different in April, and will I be able to sustain the changes I made to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent 2024?”

It is still too early to tell, but I am optimistic that the changes I made (or instituted to support change in a behavioral aspect) will/should help me support some of my newly developed behaviors, intended to strengthen my spiritual life and ultimately the day-to-day living of life. That is because I believe this Lenten journey provided me with more, shall I call them “God winks,” than I can recall in the past.

The question is, were there more, or was I more open to “seeing” them? Let me share an example. I attended the Deacon Wives Day on March 23 at the Father Peyton Center (wonderfully planned, coordinated, and executed by Nancy Donahue and Barbara-Anne Foley—thank you so much for your efforts; they are most appreciated!) For those of you who were not able to attend, I recommend trying to get there to, at the very least, enjoy the Art Gallery, as the Peyton Center will continue to show the beautiful work of Jen Norton for a few more months. Our Zoom “chat” with artist Jen Norton was very engaging! If you have never visited the Father Peyton Center in Easton, please consider it!

But I digress. The Planning Committee and Peyton Center staff prepared a hospitality bag and had journal notebooks available for us to use during the program. Coincidentally (or perhaps not; I leave it to you to decide), I had been listening to a podcast series about spiritual discernment. The presenter of this podcast frequently references the use of journals. I had been hearing this repeatedly and wondered if I should start journaling. Then there was a journal at this event just waiting for me!

Unfortunately for me, I did not initiate journaling at the start of Lent. I will never have the opportunity to reflect on the “little things” that made this season particularly fruitful. I do know; what’s done is done. It is time to move past and look forward. Because of starting this journal, I am, at least, able to reflect on the concluding days of this Lenten journey. This new practice will help me, in my spiritual development, to learn more accurately from my past as I build my future. It’s a great way to benefit from lessons learned more fully.

I hope you take the opportunity to learn from what you lived during this past season of Lent and to be newly conscious of the opportunities that we each encounter during this Easter season and beyond!

**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 mis

Candidacy Retreat
April 26-28, 2024
LaSalette Retreat Center

Convocation 2024
June 22, 2024
St Mary's Dartmouth

Admission to Candidacy Mass
June 26, 2024
St Mary's Dartmouth

Couples Retreat 2024
October 4-6, 2024
Stonehill College

Deacon Convocation 2025
June 21, 2025

Installation as Lectors
June 24, 2025

Deacon Convocation 2026
June 20 2026

Installation as Acolytes
June 23, 2026

Pre-Ordination Retreat for Candidates
April 9-14, 2027

Tentative Ordination Date for 11th class
May 15, 2027

DEACON DIOCESAN DALMATICS STILL AVAILABLE



The Deacon Diocesan Dalmatic is now available for purchase. The Office will accept orders at the discounted price of \$125 including shipping. We need a minimum of 10 new orders to receive the discounted price as the first order has been placed.

\$125
includes shipping

Please make checks payable to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate and mail to the office. Other details may be found on the order form.

Our hope is that all deacons will vest in the diocesan diaconate vestments for all events when we gather as a group. If you do not currently have this vestment, please consider discussing this with your pastor and request that they purchase the dalmatic for your use at the parish and at diocesan events.

The order form is available at

<https://diocesefr.wufoo.com/forms/dalmatic-order-form-deacons/>

NEWS YOU CAN USE

TRIBUNAL ADVOCATES NEEDED

The Diocese of Fall River's Office of The Tribunal and Canonical Services is seeking Deacons who might be interested in becoming Tribunal Advocates and assisting in our work of examining marriages as to their possible nullity or invalidity ("annulments").

Deacons who might wish to embark upon this important ministry should feel free to contact the Tribunal. To become an Advocate, it helps to have a good listening ear, a very keen eye for detail and for correct spelling, mad skills when searching on the internet for someone's former spouse, and willingness to take the occasional heart-breaking phone call. Advocates can be assigned to one or two cases at a time, or maybe more if they feel they have more time for this ministry.

Training is usually an initial hour or so in person or by Zoom, and then over the first year some follow-up sessions (also either in person or by Zoom). Advocate work is absorbed as you go and becomes more clear as you move forward in it and as you have questions about some aspects of it. The basic principles of the Church's canon law of marriage will become clearer as you actually engage in Advocacy.

The work does not necessarily involve being at the Tribunal, but rather can be done from where you are – almost all of it is carried out by telephone and e-mail.

Please feel free to contact Magdalen Ross at the Fall River Tribunal at: eross@dioc-fr.org or 1-508-675-7150 (www.fallrivertribunal.com)

FORMATION PROGRAM FOR 11th CLASS VIDEOS

Formation classes for the upcoming 11th Diaconate class are underway. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at St Mary's in Dartmouth, MA.

The two courses are *Christology* and *Old Testament*. Classes are being recorded and made available for deacons and wives to view through the Deacon Portal on the Permanent Diaconate website.

IMPORTANT PROCESSES

Deacons requesting retirement should send a letter addressed to the Bishop but **SENT TO THE OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE**. We will review the letter and send it to the Bishop with our recommendation. Mailing to the Bishop will only delay the process.

ALL requests to the Bishop should be forwarded to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate for our review. We will forward the request to the Bishop with our recommendation.

DEACON IN GOOD STANDING?

As you are all aware by this point, all active deacons in the diocese are required to submit an Annual Report which includes the name of thei Spiritual Director, the locations of their annual retreat as well as their CEU report. This annual report is due by January 31 of each year.

We understand the difficulty that many have locating a priest for a spiritual director. We recently met with the Bishop and he is looking at opportunities to assist with this.

All active deacons are required to participate in an annual retreat. The office provides one at no cost to all deacons, but if you do not attend that retreat, you will need to choose another on your own.

Finally, effective February, 2024, any active deacon who has not submitted his Annual Report, will not be considered a deacon in good standing in the diocese nor will then be able to request a move to another parish. Please submit your Annual Report as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.



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

2024

CONVOGATION

DEACON AS SERVANT OF THE EUCHARIST

JUNE 22, 2024

9:15AM – 2:30PM

ST. MARY'S PARISH CENTER

DARTMOUTH, MA

5 CEU'S

REGISTER TODAY

NOW

All Deacons, Aspirants and Spouses
are Invited to Attend

Meet and welcome members of
the 11th Diaconate Class!

Agenda

- Guest Speaker Presentation
- Mass with Monsignor Maroney
- Lunch
- David Carvalho



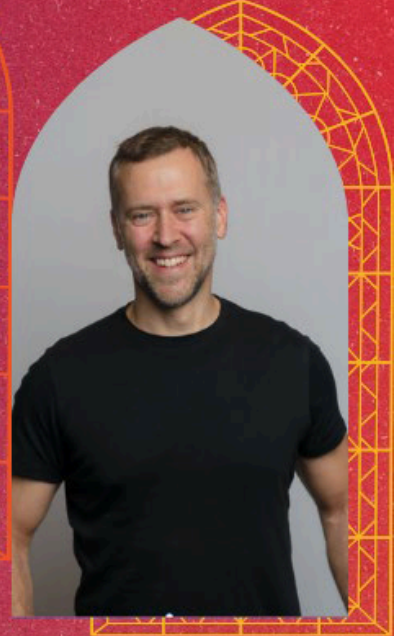
**MSGR. JAMES
MARONEY**



DAVID CARVALHO

Register at fallriverdeacons.com

Diocesan **EUCCHARISTIC** Encounter



Saturday | Sept. 7, 2024 | 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Bishop Connolly High School

373 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA 02720

Learn more and register at:
<https://bit.ly/Euch24>



PLEASE NOTE:

The Office for the Permanent Diaconate will cover the admission cost for deacons, candidates, their spouses as well as widows.

Please complete the form located on the FALL RIVER PERMANENT DIACONATE website to receive free admission.

Registration link:

<https://diocesefr.wufoo.com/forms/eucharist-assembly/>

4 CEU Credits awarded for participation in this event.



YOUR
ATTENTION
PLEASE

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY
2024

**TO REMAIN A DEACON IN GOOD
STANDING - AN ANNUAL REPORT
IS REQUIRED OF ALL ACTIVE
DEACONS**

PLEASE COMPLETE THE REPORT LOCATED AT
[HTTPS://DIOCESEFR.WUFOO.COM/FORMS/REQ6
DMJOSBYSNP/](https://diocesefr.wufoo.com/forms/req6-dmjosbysnp/)
BY JANUARY 31, 2024



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

WIVE'S CORNER

As we did not publish the newsletter in March, this article was not offered. It is too good not to share. We apologize for the delay.



Take Courage and Get Up

By Allison Gingras

Lent, at least for me, involves taking stock of my spiritual well-being and giving extra attention to strengthening my relationship with Christ. A time when I focus more out and upward with still an eye inward so as to discover the places the Lord wishes to heal or transform. My latest writing project centers around Jesus' many healings in the scriptures — physical, emotional, and, of course, spiritual.

As I work on the fast-approaching deadline, all while navigating my Lenten journey, one such story, the restoration of sight to Bartimaeus, particularly resonated with me this Lent.

Bartimaeus, a blind man, sat by the roadside begging; as Jesus passes by he yells out, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." This may sound familiar to anyone familiar with the Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." The Didache Bible (Ignatius Press, p. 1335) refers to this passage from Mark's Gospel as "a marvelous instruction on prayer."

When we look at this blind beggar, we see several characteristics to be emulated in our own lives:

- A strong faith
- Persistence in prayer
- Practice and participation in the faith
- Drawing nearer to Jesus
- Acknowledging Jesus as Messiah,
- Bold, confidence in Chris
- Undeterred by anyone's attempts to hush his voice as he sought Jesus.

Bartimaeus knocked on the heart of Jesus. He asked for mercy, for the Lord's pity, and his prayers were heard; the door was open, and his eyes were opened. He experienced the healing power of Christ in his life!

The Word Among Us referred to this passage in Mark's Gospel as "the perfect profession of faith." The man, unable to see with his eyes, had a clear vision of the heart. He opened himself for healing, and we can do the same when we put our faith and trust in the goodness of God. When we ask Jesus for His loving mercy upon us, we may not see physical healing, but we can be assured of spiritual healing.

This encounter is an allegory of our own faith journey. How we, too can be cured of our spiritual blindness until our life with Him becomes more clear. Process. It may sometimes take several attempts to be who God created us to be; there is a reason the spiritual life is often compared to a journey. First, we, too, must yell out to Jesus to have mercy on us and then be open to his movement of that mercy in our lives. Though we may want to do it figuratively if we are in Mass or Adoration, however, if alone, feel free to speak your desires with bold, confidence as Bartimaeus did.

What do you seek to have your eyes open to? Jesus' touch, more important than any temporary physical healing, brings mending and strengthening to a broken heart or fragile faith. Just as the people encouraged Bartimaeus, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you," today, I do the same for you. What will you tell Jesus you need? Where do you seek his mercy, pity, and compassion in your life?



Secretariat for
The New Evangelization
 with **MEN OF ST. JOSEPH SFX**

Saturday,

May 4th 2024

Cathedral Camp

E. Freetown, MA

5-8pm

Men's

**MEAT
 NGREET**

Team Events

"Catapult Cornhole," Giant Slingshot, Potato Cannon Target Shooting, a Tractor Pull and more!

Ticket price

\$15.00

DINNER

Pulled Pork, Burgers, Hotdogs and Bacon*

**a lot of bacon*

**Special Guest
 Kevin Wells**

is a former sports reporter turned evangelist. He is the author of the bestselling books "The Priests We Need to Save the Church" and "Priest and Beggar: The Heroic Life of Venerable Aloysius Schwartz." Kevin is President of the *Monsignor Thomas Wells Society for Vocations*, which is committed to the promotion of strong priests, seminarians, and living the fullness of the Catholic Faith.



Register here!



MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU!

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Please notify the office with any updates to your contact information by sending an email to Jackie at office@frpermanentdiaconate.com. Thank you!

Birthdays

MARCH

James Adams-5
Leonard Guyette 5
Paul Macedo 18
Norman McEnaney 2
David Pepin 31
Abilio Pires 12
Albertino Pires 28
Peter Schutzler 20

APRIL

Brendan Brides 4
Peter Cote 15
Kevin Gingras 14
David Harum 29
William Hays 16
Robert Lemay 25
David Murphy 16
David Roderick 22
Eugene Sasseville 27



Prayer Requests

- Marie Guy - wife of Deacon Mike Guy
- Marissa, daughter of Deacon David Boucher
- Rebecca Gallerizzo - wife of Deacon William Gallerizzo
- Deacon Abilo Pires

If you know of any deacons or family members who are in need of prayers, please visit to website

fallriverdeacons.com

and fill out the form located in the Deacon Portal

Office of the Permanent Diaconate

Deacon Frank Lucca - deaconfranklucca@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Deacon Joseph McGinley - deaconjosephMcginley@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Diocesan Co-Directors

Deacon Tony Pimentel - deacontonypimentel@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Deacon Advocate

Jackie Collins - office@frpermanentdiaconate.com

Office Manager/Administrative Assistant

c/o St Mary's Dartmouth
789 Dartmouth Street
South Dartmouth, Ma 02748

Ph: (508) 990-0341

E: office@frpermanentdiaconate.com



Diocese of
Fall River
Southeastern MA • Cape Cod • The Islands

Secretariat for
**The New
Evangelization**



LOCAL WALK FOR LIFE

The National Shrine of Our Lady of
La Salette, North Attleboro
May 10, 2024



9:30am

Keynote Speaker
Massachusetts State Legislature,
Representative Alan Silvia



10:30am

Mass with Bishop of Fall River,
Most Rev. Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.



1:00pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



10:00am

Rosary for Life



12:00pm

Walk for Life and
the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Registration is required. Register your group today by scanning the QR code.
Seating is first come, first served. For more information visit fallriverdiocese.org

