



Deacon News

Diocese of Davenport

Summer 2019

From the Diaconate Office:

Deacon Michael Snyder, Director of the Diaconate

Hello Diaconate Community, Candidates and Friends,

Thank you, Terry Starns, for your service, passion and leadership for the diaconate; both times you served as Director!

As I transition into the office as Director of Diaconate, I am trying to meet as many of our deacons as possible. As I meet with each, I ask 2 questions: 1. From your perspective, what does the diaconate need? 2. What do you need from the diaconate that would help you minister and serve?

Answers to these open-ended questions will help me understand what needs to be done in the diaconate. Please think about these questions, so that we can discuss when we meet. If you would like to give input now, write to me at Snyder@davenportdiocese.org.

We are planning to renew the Deacon Council to be the leading body for the diaconate in the Diocese of Davenport. See the articles in this newsletter about renewing the Council, ways to participate, and upcoming elections. We need officers willing to lead the council to be this leading body. Please consider nominating yourself for the election.

God bless each of you in your ministry,

Deacon Michael Snyder



Heavenly Father, since the time of the Apostles you have inspired the Church to commission certain members to assist in a special way in the pastoral mission of Christ. Bless the deacons and all other ordained and non-ordained ministers that they may be humble and faith-inspired in their service. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Deacon Fall Convocation — Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20, 2019

Deacon Council Meeting—Saturday, October 19, 2019, at 5:00 PM

November Clergy Days — November 4-5, 2019 Dr. Micah Kiel: The Gospel of Matthew

Virtual Deacon Council Meeting—January 9, 2020 (time to be determined)

Chrism Mass — Monday, April 6, 2020

Spring Retreat — April 25-26, 2020 - Benet Retreat House, Rock Island

Fall Deacon Convocation

The Fall Convocation will be held 19-20 October 2019. All deacons and wives are invited to attend. Register online at: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/deacon-convocation>.

Dr. Matthew Coomber will present: *Old Testament: Marginalized People and What It Tells Deacons How to Serve*. This aligns with Vision 20/20 and evangelizing to the people on the periphery of our society.

The Convocation will be held at the Chancery, in the third-floor conference room; the Chancery has a good working elevator and is handicap accessible, so don't be concerned about two flights of stairs!

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Quality Inn at 6605 N Brady Street in Davenport (just north of Thunder Bay restaurant). Registration for the Convocation will reserve your room.

Fall Convocation Schedule

Saturday, October 19, 2019

- 12:30 Arrival (*Lunch on your own*)
- 1:00 Presentation by Dr. Matthew Coomber
- 4:00 Mass with Bishop Zinkula in Chapel
- 5:00 Deacon Council Meeting
- 6:00 Dinner
- 6:45 Evening Prayer in Chapel
- 7:00 Social hour

Sunday, October 20, 2019

- 8:00 Arrive, Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 Morning Prayer in Chapel
- 9:00 Presentation by Dr. Matthew Coomber
- Noon Lunch
- Departure after lunch

Saints Stephen and Phoebe Deacon Council

All deacons, deacon wives, and deacon widows are voting members of the Deacon Council. The Deacon Council will meet this fall during the Deacon Convocation on 19 October at 5:00 PM. Come and learn about changes that are being proposed to make the Council more of a guiding body for the diaconate, and vote for officers to lead the Council.

Deacon Council Elections

Officer elections will be held at the October Council meeting. Nominations are now being accepted for:

- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

All offices are two-year terms; the Vice-President assumes the role of President after two years. Officers must be deacons in the diocese.

To nominate yourself or another deacon, contact Council President Chuck Metzger at: MetzgerC@diodav.org, by September 30. If you wish to nominate another deacon, please get his approval first.



For Deacons, Candidates, and Wives of Deacons and Candidates
 The Chancery - 780 West Central Park Avenue, Davenport
Old Testament Marginalized People and How Deacons Serve



Dr. Matthew Coomber

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 12:30 Arrival
 (Lunch on your own)
 1:00 Presentation
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Sunday, October 20, 2019
 8:00 Arrive,
 Continental Breakfast
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 Noon Lunch
 Departure after lunch

Registration – Due by Thursday, October 3, 2019
Register on-line HERE:
<https://www.davenportdiocese.org/deacon-convocation>
If you cannot register on-line you may complete the registration below and send along with your check.

A block of rooms has been reserved at:
 Quality Inn, 6605 N. Brady Street, Davenport, IA

Guest rooms included in the registration categories below:

Deacon couple at hotel \$275.00
 1 King bed OR **Single at hotel** \$225.00
 2 Queen beds

Deacon couple at home \$175.00 **Single at home** \$125.00

Retired Deacon *(Retired deacon and spouse are eligible to attend for free.)*

Attendee Names: _____

Any special needs / dietary requirements? _____

Please **REGISTER ON-LINE** and have your parish send a check made payable to the
Diocese of Davenport to:

Office of the Diaconate
Diocese of Davenport
 780 W Central Park Ave.
 Davenport, IA 52804-1901

For more information contact:
 Dcn. Michael Snyder; Snyder@davenportdiocese.org
 Or: 563-888-4256

Do You Miss Seeing Your Deacon Friends?

One of the most common comments I hear from deacons is: “I don’t see my deacon friends often enough.” The fall convocation and spring retreat are two good ways and times to see other deacons and wives. A change to the Deacon Council is planned to have deacon representatives from each deanery; one of their responsibilities will be to organize social gatherings for deacons and their wives periodically. This could include morning or evening prayer, and/or coffee, lunch or dinner.

Please consider volunteering to be a deanery representative (either deacons or wives) at the fall Deacon Meeting.

How are you doing?

One of the purposes of the Deacon Council is to aid the Bishop, priests, and deacons to ensure that the pastoral welfare of the People of God may continue. One aspect of this purpose is to provide pastoral welfare for deacons, deacon wives, deacon widows and deacon families. Who better to understand the needs of deacons and families, than deacons and families! This is one reason we need to get together socially from time to time, so we can know how each other is doing, and provide this pastoral care

Deacon Retirement

What does it mean for a deacon to retire? There is a lot of confusion about what retirement means to a deacon. We all understand what retirement means in a secular job; we no longer work at, or do the things we retire from. But for deacon ministry, ‘retiring’ does not affect what deacons do. Nor does it affect who deacons are.

For deacons, ‘retirement’ only affects their assignment and diaconal obligations. When a deacon retires, he is no longer assigned to a parish or diocesan ministry, and he is relieved of the obligations of an active deacon.



Deacons may retire at age 70. At age 75, deacons must do one of the following:

- A. Request to retire with no assignment, and stop all ministry
- B. Request to retire with no assignment, and continue some or all ministry
- C. Request to remain active with parish assignment, and continue some or all ministry

A retired deacon may perform any ministry at any parish he wishes, as long as the pastor agrees. If he performs any ministry, he must:

- 1. Maintain Virtus requirements
- 2. Complete a self-evaluation form
- 3. Have periodic conversation with the pastor about ministry performed

Deacon Formation Update



Deacon Class 8: Rite of Candidacy

Top Row: Ryan Burchett, Àngel Hernández, Mike Linnenbrink; Bishop Zinkula
Bottom Row: Kent Ferris, Andrew Reif, Brian Dugan, Andy Hardigan, Gary Johnson

On July 14, Bishop Zinkula called the 8 men in our deacon formation program to candidacy for holy orders... a step that he described as becoming “engaged to the Church.” These men have completed 2 of the 5 years in our formation program, and are deep into their theological studies and pastoral experiences.

This promises to be a busy year! Classes include Catechetics, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, Spiritual Theology, Moral Theology, Sacramental Theology, and Pastoral Care. It is a real blessing that we have a number of deacons teaching either an academic class or a formation session for us. In addition, this is the year that the candidates begin preaching at the Liturgy of the Hours on formation weekends. They have had an introductory course in homiletics, and other, more intensive coursework is planned for the future. In the meantime, they are beginning to find out what this part of diaconal ministry is like!

The men and their wives come from 4 of our 6 deaneries ([click here for map](#)). While the Grinnell and Ottumwa deaneries are not represented, it is great that we have more candidates from the Clinton and Keokuk deaneries this time around!

As you know, we form the core of St. Ambrose’s Masters in Pastoral Theology degree program. As such, the men in formation (and any interested wives) who are eligible may earn the MPTh. In addition, we are blessed to have with us other students from outside the formation program; these men and women enrich our conversations and study. In addition to Lori Ferris (Kent’s wife), we are being joined by 2 lay students from Illinois: a Catholic catechist and a Protestant lay minister.

If you would like to join us for class, meals, and/or prayer on any formation weekend, let Dcn Frank Agnoli know. You are always welcome! If you want to follow the class, please visit the class webpage at: <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/class-viii>.

The Deacon's Role When Baptism and Marriage Are Celebrated At Mass

The Deacon's role in the liturgy is to assist; the priest is to preside. A deacon should preside only when a priest is not available. It is not appropriate, all things being equal, to divide the presidential role. So, when baptisms and weddings are celebrated in the context of Mass, the priest should confer / witness the sacrament, respectively. The components of each rite should not be divided between the deacon and priest (for example, it would be inappropriate for the deacon to bless the baptismal water or the rings while the priest did everything else). The priest presides, the deacon assists. As in any other Mass, the proclamation of the gospel and the announcing of the intercessions are to be done by the deacon, and he is to assist with communion. He may preach.



All things being equal. Sometimes, they aren't. What if there is a language issue (the deacon is fluent in Spanish but the priest is not)? What if we're talking about family members? In the case of baptism, the pastor may allow the deacon to be the minister of baptism. In this case, he should do everything proper to that rite. In the case of marriage, a dispensation from the bishop is required (see our [marriage policy](#)). In this case, the deacon does all that is proper to the marriage rite, but the nuptial blessing (because it is linked to the Eucharistic Prayer) is given by the priest. In both cases, the final blessing (because it is part of mass) is given by the priest. Please recall that a deacon may NOT witness a marriage that involves an Eastern Christian (Catholic or Orthodox).

Save the Date!

Spring Deacon Retreat April 25-26, 2020

For Deacons and Wives

Held at the Benet Retreat House, Rock Island, IL