

THE Deacon Servant

OFFICES OF DEACON SERVICES | DIACONATE FORMATION | ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE



ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE
DIACONATE
Where love becomes service.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Director's Report 1

Moving Into a New Workspace..... 2

Christ the Servant at the Altar 2

Deacon Senate..... 3

Interviewing Wives..... 4

Deacon Day 2024..... 4

Rest in Peace 5

Prayer Requests 6

Dates to Remember 6

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Deacon Jim Starke

As a former engineer, I have a passion for working with numbers. I like to say, in my old job, I could solve 90% of the problems with a calculator. I discovered that the same cannot be said with my current position. However, one

of the responsibilities as director is to report on statistics related to the statistical makeup of the deacon community. The following are statistics taken from the database of deacons:

Since 1975, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has ordained approximately 315 deacons.

- 128 have since passed away.
- 96 are currently active in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
- 43 are retired.
- 22 are ministering in other dioceses.
- 20 have left ministry all together.
- 4 are serving as parish directors.
- 2 were called to the vocation of the priesthood.

There are currently nine deacons active in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee who technically belong to other dioceses.

Ten deacons have excardinated into other dioceses, while eight deacons incardinated into the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

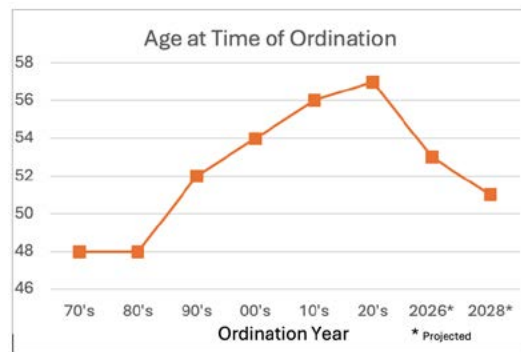
Of the 109 active deacons, 19 are Hispanic, and two are Asian/Hmong.

- Age: The average age of active deacons is 67 years.
 - The average age of senior deacons is 79 years.
 - The average age at the time of retirement is 73 years.

- The average length of services is 23 years.
- Anton Nickolai is the youngest deacon (40).
- Don Borkowski is the oldest deacon (95 years).
- Wilson Shierk is the oldest active deacon (87 years).
- Jack Champagne is the longest serving deacon (1975).

Note: There are four other deacons currently from the Class of 1975 whose last names are further down in the alphabet.

The average age at the time of ordination has changed over the years. After four straight decades of increasingly older candidates being ordained to the diaconate, the next two classes project to be significantly younger:



Between the two classes of deacon candidates currently in the program, five beautiful babies were brought into the world during their time in formation. Hence, the new nursing room.

While numbers are always interesting (at least for some), the grace of this position is to witness how the Holy Spirit continues to be alive and active in all the deacons, their wives and families. The Church is truly blessed!

MOVING INTO A NEW WORKSPACE



Deacon Dale Nees
people.

**“Blessed are you, O God, who have given us this space for our use!
Blessed are you, O God, who have given us a variety of gifts for service!
Through the work of our hands and the gift of this space, you enhance our ability to form men and their families for service to your**

Let us responsibly steward this space and the variety of our gifts and talents ever mindful of the humbling privilege that we bear: preparing others to bring God’s ministries of Word, Sacrament and Charity to a world in need. Amen!”¹

On April 2, 2024, the Office of Diaconate Formation moved into its new workspace. We had anticipated our move to a location for a while, so the entire team, like Jenny in the picture, were all ready to go with smiles on our faces.

Our new workspace is beautiful! But beyond that it is so functional. The closeness to our classrooms as well as to the entrance where candidates routinely arrive is of incredible benefit. It also is so much easier to meet with those who are inquiring into diaconate formation. I also cannot say enough about how nice it is to be right next to Dcn. Jim Starke, Director of Deacon Services. Our service to the Order of Deacon is so coupled that to be able to share things so readily is a major blessing!

There are certainly many people to thank for such a smooth move. Head of the list must be Steve Jupp, Director of Building Services, who coordinated everything from



beginning to end. Much had to take place prior to moving, including painting, cleaning carpets and lining up the movers from Coakley Brothers. I have done enough moving at my age to appreciate every bit of muscle on hand for the move itself. By the end of the business day, we had already settled in. Other than carefully selecting items to hang on the wall, we were set and certainly feel right at home.

Many of you know that prior to my role here at the pastoral center, I worked in the healthcare industry. As a registered nurse, moving, often for the benefit of patients, was simply a fact. So not surprisingly, I located the above prayer from a Catholic healthcare resource and adapted it where italicized for the purpose of this article. I invite you to further adapt it as you continue keeping Diaconate Formation in your prayers.

Deacon Dale Nees

¹<https://www.chausa.org/docs/default-source/prayers/blessing-for-new-office-spaces-from-catholic-health-initiatives-lb.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

CHRIST THE SERVANT AT THE ALTAR: LITURGICAL FORMATION

The ministerial threefold functions of the diaconate are Word, Liturgy, and Charity. It’s something we all know, but it doesn’t hurt to remember it. All three are important, and all three correlate with each other. I don’t think one can exist without the others. But today I want to talk about the importance of liturgical formation, not only during formation before ordination but also post-ordination.

As sanctifier, “the ministry of the deacon is a visible, grace-filled sign of the integral connection between sharing at the Lord’s eucharistic table and serving the many hungers felt so

keenly by all God’s children. In the deacon’s liturgical ministry, as in a mirror, the Church sees a reflection of her own diaconal character and is reminded of her mission to serve as Jesus did.”

¹This important service is not something personal between God and me at the altar; it is a relationship between Jesus and the whole assembly. We accompany the priest, who in the *persona Christi* revives the sacred moment of the Last Supper where we assist as an extension of that Christ the servant who

► **CHRIST THE SERVANT AT THE ALTAR - Continued on Page 3.**

► **CHRIST THE SERVANT AT THE ALTAR -**
Continued from Page 2.

offers his Body and Blood. As sanctifiers, we accompany the whole assembly, God's people, to this sacred moment.

As servants of the Lord's table, we are part of that ministry as we fulfill our roles in the Eucharistic Liturgy. We also guide the assembly in a shared reverence and movement to better celebrate this sacred moment, the source and summit of the Christian life. This diaconal "mission" extends beyond the Mass; it includes the celebration of the sacraments, sacramentals, blessings and other rituals entrusted to us, by the Church, through our ordained ministry. The National Directory gives us more details about the liturgical role of the deacon. (Cfr. # 37) It also talks about the importance of an integral and comprehensive liturgical formation before and after ordination. Since the roles of the deacon in the liturgy have a strong pastoral dimension, a formation program "needs to pay particular attention to the following elements ... b. The Church's Ministry of Liturgy — Liturgical praxis: celebration of the sacraments and sacramentals, service at the altar ..."²

Our formation program pays very close attention to this, providing not only the intellectual dimension portion of the liturgical theology, but also the pastoral/ministerial dimension. Our formation is not only Church writings and Vatican documents on the liturgy, but it also includes placements, practices and practicums.

As future images of Christ the Servant at the altar, we provide learning experiences from serving at the altar, rituals such as funerals, adoration, etc., to practicums for the sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony. We cannot offer all and everything in our initial formation; we never finish our learning process. It is important to continue our formation and prepare ourselves to go with the moments of church and of the times. This is why the "post-ordination" formation program is very important, where we can continue to be formed to better serve the Church as that image of Christ the Servant at the Altar.

¹The National Directory for the Formation, Life and Ministry of the Permanent Deacon in the United States, 2nd Edition, 2021, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

²IBID

DEACON SENATE: JANUARY AND MARCH 2024

Since the last publication of the Deacon Servant Newsletter, the Council met Jan. 31 and March 20. The meeting was held in via Zoom. Below are some of the more important points of note from the meeting:

- Dcn. Scott Campbell presented the 2023/2024 budget. Based on the declining annual balance and projected costs for the fiscal year, it was agreed to raise the annual dues to \$100 per active deacon. The proposal was adopted.
- A proposal was made and adopted to make a one-time donation in the name of Archbishop ListECKI to the Mother of the Church Mercy Fund. The gift is to recognize the archbishop's pending retirement and the deacon community's appreciation for his guidance and support over the last 14 years. The check will be given to the Mother of the Church Mercy Fund in the amount of \$5,000. The monies will provide outreach to poor and underserved communities in rural and urban areas of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The gift will be presented at Deacon Day.
- Dcn. Dale Nees reported that we currently have 11 candidates on track for ordination in September. There are 12 candidates in their first year. The Office of

Diaconate Formation is currently reviewing applications for the Class of 2029, which will be following the 5-year semester model.

- Doug Ulaszek, Associate Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, gave a presentation on the updated archdiocese marriage preparation. Doug wanted the senate to reach out to the deacon community via the district meetings to see what deacons see as the needs in this area.
- Dcn. Dennis Petrie accepted a nomination to be the deacon representative on the Archdiocese Pastoral Council.
- The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is requiring all active clergy (deacons and priests) to take the Safe Environment in-person training, even if they already taken it or have completed the CMG online renewal course. This includes those retired but still in ministry. In-person training can be found online. Feel free to reach out to Dcn. Jim Starke for more information.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2024. The plan is to meet via Zoom.

FOR A MARRIED MAN, THE SUPPORT AND CONSENT OF HIS WIFE IS REQUIRED¹



Maritza Espino

The Wives' Program has two interviews that are to happen at two separate times, one during the inquiry stage and the second one right before ordination. Our Office of Diaconate Formation is in the process of admission into our new five-year model of Diaconate Formation starting in fall of 2024. This is an overwhelming process in which not only the men go through the

process but the wife as well needs to affirm her support for her husband by filling out an application too. Before she completes her application, she will be asked to be interviewed by the associate director of pastoral formation. This initial interview in the process allows us to get to know her and her family better. For her it is an opportunity to ask questions about her husband's diaconal vocation, process, program, and any other affirmations or concerns that she may express as she discerns if this is a good time for both of them as well as for their family to support her husband. Therefore, both spouses need to make sure that support and consent, even at this early stage of discernment, arise from an informed understanding.² The ladies have 45 minutes to an hour to answer and ask any questions they may have, which they do. I am always surprised how younger couples come ready to share their plan and how they feel well supported by their extended families in terms of helping them with younger kids while both come to formation. We have worked as a team to make the new model family friendly, which allows those couples with newborn babies to bring them while they are here in formation. This interview as part of the process provides an opportunity for me to build my relationship with them and learn more about their

needs as they come into the program.

The second interview is on the last trimester as the wives are getting ready for their husbands' ordination. The interview is all about them, their feedback on Wives' Program and how we might improve the formation in the near future. The ladies have the option to come to the Pastoral Center or meet in a place of their preference. Once we have all the information from these interviews, I share with the team as we plan the trimesters and discern when the best time is to implement the feedback — all based on the needs of the ladies. Unlike the inquiry interview, after four years in formation, a relationship with the ladies has been established. This is essential so they can share their honest feedback and experiences throughout the four years in formation. Another layer to the wives' formation is the fact that their formation is not prescriptive; we have the latitude and opportunity to offer them different experiences based on their needs as individuals and as a group. Each group of ladies is quite diverse not only in culture but in age as well. The wives' formation will continue to evolve; they too have the opportunity to offer us transformation as a team that accompanies them as they continue to discern their husbands' vocation to the diaconate until the day of their ordination. This interview is quite rewarding on my end; I enjoy listening to their stories and challenges during their formation and how we can better serve and offer essential tools to equip them for their future as wives of our local servant deacons. Thank you for all your service too!

Maritza Espino

¹ The National Directory for The Formation, Ministry, and Life of Permanent Deacons, Second Edition, n. 178 (August 2021).

² Ibid. n.178

DEACON DAY 2024

Deacon Day 2024 was a resounding success. Thank you to the deacons of Districts 14, 15 and 16 for all their efforts. Over 100 people registered. We extend our appreciation to presenters Br. Silas Henderson and Al McCauley, Archbishop ListECKI, and the volunteers at St. Gregory the Great Parish.



Archbishop ListECKI celebrates Mass with the deacon community.



Al McCauley offers a presentation on St. Gregory the Great Parish's new worship space.



Deacons and their wives enjoy the light breakfast of breads and pastries prepared by the women of St. Gregory the Great Parish.

REST IN PEACE

† **Dcn. Allan Foeckler**, age 76, of Milwaukee, passed away Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024. He was living in St. Petersburg at the time of his death. Dcn. Foeckler was born Sept. 13, 1947. After serving in the United States Air Force in Vietnam, he worked as an operations manager for Kohls Food and All Right Airport Parking. He owned and operated a Boy Blue Ice Cream store for 22 years. He was also employed as parish director for Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Francis, and Nativity of the Lord, Cudahy, from 2014-16.

Dcn. Foeckler was preceded in death by Marlene, his loving spouse of 42 years. He is survived by his children, Rachele, Allen and Thomas. He and Marlene had 11 grandchildren.

Dcn. Foeckler was ordained a permanent deacon June 9, 2007, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukee, with Archbishop Timothy Dolan presiding. He was assigned to St. Charles Borromeo in Milwaukee and served until his retirement from ministry in 2023. His ministries included baptismal and marriage preparation, assisting in liturgy and bringing the Eucharist to the homebound and those in hospitals and nursing homes. Dcn. Foeckler also served as a chaplain for the Franklin Fire Department.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Feb. 13 at St. Charles Borromeo, Milwaukee.

† **Dcn. Chester Moczydlowski**, age 92, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024. He was living in Greendale at the time of his death. Dcn. Moczydlowski was born Dec. 4, 1931. He served three years in the United States Marine Corps, six years in the Air Force and 14 years in the Army, before retiring from the military in 1975. He was employed as a security guard for General Electric and St. Luke Hospital until his final retirement. He was preceded in death by Elizabeth, his loving spouse of 49 years, and his stepson, Dennis. He is survived by his stepchildren, Susan, James and Thomas. Dcn. Moczydlowski and Elizabeth had four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dcn. Moczydlowski was ordained a permanent deacon June 11, 1978, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukee. He was assigned to Our Lady of Lourdes in Milwaukee, where he served for 10 years. He then served an additional nine years at St. Barbara Catholic Parish. His ministries included assisting in liturgy, bringing the Eucharist to the homebound and those in hospitals and nursing homes, and working with the Share Food Program. Dcn. Moczydlowski's passion was serving as a hospital chaplain for the Department of Veteran Affairs.

The family held a private service in remembrance of Dcn. Moczydlowski at Harston Funeral Home.

† **Dcn. Carl Mahnke**, age 90, of Burlington, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024. He was born Jan. 13, 1934, in Portage. After serving in the Navy, Dcn. Mahnke worked for General Motors in the fields of quality and production control until his retirement in 1992.

He is survived by Marge, his loving spouse of 67 years, and children: Debra, Carl, Linda, Laura and James. Dcn. Mahnke and Marge have 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Dcn. Mahnke was ordained a permanent deacon June 1, 1996, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukee, with Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland presiding. He was initially assigned to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Waterford, but also served the community of St. Claire in Wind Lake. Dcn. Mahnke served from 1996 to 2020 when he formally retired from ministry. His ministries included baptismal and marriage preparation, assisting in liturgy, and adult education and formation. His passion was distributing the Eucharist and visiting the homebound and area assisted living facilities.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, Feb. 2, at St. Thomas Aquinas, Waterford.

Prayer Requests

Dcn. Tom Filipiak '94

Dcn. Jim Chrisien '98

Dan, husband of Jenny Michaels (ODF)

Jullie Sosa, wife of Dcn. Ed '22

Tom Hoffman, brother of Dcn. Mike '18

Armando, husband of Maritza Espino (ODF)

Dcn. Gerry Ponec

Dcn. Don Borkowski

Dcn. Bob Starr

Dcn. Ralph Kornburger

RECENTLY DECEASED AND THEIR FAMILIES

Tom Faust, brother of Dcn. Ted Faust '16

Dcn. Al Foeckler '07

Kathleen (Cookie) Heilman, mother of Joey Binder (Dcn. Tom Binder '22)

Dcn. Carl Mahnke '96

Dcn. Chet Moczydlowski '92



DATES TO REMEMBER

May 4, 2024

Post-Ordination Formation Class of 2022, MMCP. Times to be determined.

September 7, 2024

Permanent Deacon Ordination, St. Monica, Whitefish Bay. Time to be determined.

October 20, 2024, at 3 p.m.

Deacon Memorial Mass, St. Mary, Kenosha.

November 8-10, 2024

Deacon Retreat, Redemptorist Retreat Center, Oconomowoc.

December 7, 2024

Wives Morning of Reflection, MMCP. Time to be determined.



ARCHDIOCESE
of **MILWAUKEE**

Published by Deacon Services and Diaconate Formation

P.O. Box 070912 | 3501 South Lake Drive Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

Deacon Jim Starke, Director Deacon Services, (414) 769-3409

Deacon Dale Nees, Director Diaconate Formation, (414) 758-2212

Manuel Maldonado-Villalobos, Associate Director, (414) 758-2207

Maritza Espino, Associate Director of Pastoral Formation, (414) 758-2205

Jenny Michaels, Coordinator, (414) 758-2202

Many Hands. One Vision.



Catholic Stewardship Appeal

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

This ministry is funded by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.