



PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION

Formation du Diaconat Permanent

DIACONATE REPORT TO DIOCESE-2020

Dear Fellow Priests,
Pax vobiscum!

On September 19, 2019, the diocese rejoiced in the ordination of 8 to the Order of Deacons:

- Shawn Bigley(Barb) appointed to St. Ann, Glace Bay and Youth Ministry
- Fernand Boivan (Joan) to Stella Maris/Holy Name, Pictou Co. and Visitation of Senior Homes
- Sander Burke (Minnie) to St. John the Baptist, New Glasgow and Hospital
- David Lewis (Doreen) to Holy Family, Sydney Mines, Hospital Visitation and Restorative Justice
- Duncan McMaster(Wanda) to Stella Maris and Inverness County and visitation Inverness Manor
- Barry Miller(Ramona) to Stella Maris, Inverness Hospital and to the bereaved.
- Tom, Sylliboy(Bonches) to Holy Family, First Nations parishes and Hospital and Senior Visitation
- Henry vandeWiel(Minnie) to St. FX University

They're working on their Service Agreements. They are doing well. I hear very positive comments from parishioners and pastors. Now it's post ordination/ongoing formation time.

Our other deacons ordained Sept. 14, 2012, are
Michael Doyle(Susan) St. Ann, Gussyborough, Nursing Home and spiritual direction
Wally Ivany (Charlene) St. Michael, Baddeck and the Alderwood Home and Hospital
Arthur Riley(Teresa), St. Andrew, St. Andrews, and Hospital Visitation
Roy Smith(Viola) St. Joseph. North Sydney, Visitation of sick and dying

Deacons ordained Sept. 16, 2011:
Robert Coleman(Debbie), retired
Berkley Guthro(Jessie) St. Joseph, Port Hawkesbury and to Sacramental Prep., Clothing Depot and sick
Lorne MacNeil (Cheryl), St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Hospital and CB Correctional Center
Greg Murphy(Florence), Holy Family, Sydney Mines and sick and shut-ins.

John Scott, ordained Nov. 18, 2015, retired
Leo Penny

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(Viola)





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ordained June 11, 1990 to St. Leonard, Hospital, Chalice and Manor

The 8 new deacons added to the already 10 for a total of 18 deacons. Two have retired leaving 16 active deacons in the diocese. The question now arises: is it time to consider possibilities of another class for diaconal formation and how would that look?

Presently we have one candidate in formation: Dr. Michael McCarvill. His formation team includes:

Fr. Bill Burke (pastor), Fr. Colin MacKinnon(Pastoral Ministry), Deacon Lorne MacNeil (deacon mentor), Fr. Paul MacGillivray (Spiritual Director), Fr. Dan Doucet (Counsellor), myself as Director and, of course, the Bishop. I meet with Michael monthly. The Team meets regularly and will meet with Michael in the Fall.

The Covid 19 situation changed the whole way of doing the ministry of the Diaconate Office. However, we did manage:

- to have zoom meetings with deacons and spouses
- to meet with deacon Berkley Guthro to plan ongoing formation events and develop policies
- to take a tour of the Gaelic College for retreats and ongoing formation events. Excellent facilities.
- to prepare two retreats: Spouses: Oct. 2-3-4 with Ms. Marilyn Sweet, facilitator;
Deacons Oct. 23-24-25 with Archbishop Dunn
- to meet with deacons and their pastors to finalize their Service Agreements
- to meet with candidate Michael McCarvill in his formation program
- to meet with Michael's Formation Team
- to respond to individual deacons' and pastors' issues
- to meet with the Diaconate Formation Team: Fr. Dwaine Devereaux, Rev. Mr. Berkley and Jessie Guthro, Mrs. Gladys MacDougall, Fr. Colin MacKinnon, Fr. Paul MacGillivray, Rev. Mr. Leo and Viola Penny, Mr. Wayne Yorke, the Bishop and myself.
- to help arrange for 5 deacons to do the CPE program this year: Deacons Henry vandeWiel, Fernand Boivin, Tom Sylliboy, David Lewis and Barry Miller. We are very pleased that our deacons are able to do this important program to help them in their ministries.
- to organize a summer social gathering for all deacons and their spouses
- to get information and communicate with deacons about the Webinar Event on the Diaconate, Sept. 01 sponsored by the Ontario Catholic Association of Diaconate Leaders.

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The Advisory Formation Team is beginning the discussion on whether to recommend to the Bishop about another diaconate formation program. Issues would include: are there candidates out there and how do we attract them? Do we have the resources? Can we connect with Halifax and/or Atlantic region? How do we evaluate our last program and use the positive aspects of it in a “zoom world?”

In closing, may I say how much I enjoy this ministry, dealing with the deacons, pastors, spouses and parishes. I am grateful to Bishop Kirkpatrick for allowing me to stay on as Director. I feel assured that the cooperation in the ministries of pastor and deacon is very beneficial to the life of the Diocese.

Any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc., please feel free to contact me at the Pastoral Center or 902-578-4375.

Fraternally,
Fr. Bedford, Director of Deacons

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