



# DIAKONIA

Volume IV Number 1

January 2018



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Day of Recollection*

Very Reverend Joseph Mele  
Dr. Michael Therrien  
9:30 AM - 3:45 PM  
Saturday, February 17, 2018  
St. Bartholomew, Wilmore  
The Day of Recollection will  
conclude with the celebration of Mass

### *Chrism Mass*

Monday, March 26, 2018  
11:00 AM  
Arrival time is 10:00 AM  
Cathedral, Altoona

### *Parish Mission*

Guest Speaker - Thomas Smith  
April 22, 23 & 24, 2018  
*More information to follow*

### *Annual Diaconate Retreat*

Fr. Bernard Ezaki, Retreat Master  
June 3-7, 2018  
Antiochian Village, Bolivar  
Retreat begins Sunday with registration at  
3:30 PM and concludes Thursday following the  
10:00 AM closing Mass



Saturday, February 17, 2018  
**Lenten Day of Recollection**  
St. Bartholomew Parish, Wilmore  
9:30 AM - 3:45 PM

*All Deacons, Candidates, and their wives are invited*  
Day of Recollection will conclude  
with the celebration of Mass



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Museum of the Bible  
Washington, DC

**Through innovative and immersive exhibits, this museum is designed to attract more than just believers.**

Zelda Caldwell / [Aleteia.org](#)

At its opening, the new [Museum of the Bible](#) delivered on its promise to create a museum that would present the Bible in an engaging way to all kinds of people.

Conveniently located two blocks from the National Mall, the new \$500 million museum is poised to attract visitors to the city, no matter their denomination or whether they are believers or not.

Using innovative technology and multi-media exhibits that would be at home at the latest Disney theme park, the museum immerses the visitor in the story of the Bible, engaging the senses and the intellect.

Spanning six floors of the stunningly renovated Washington Design Center warehouse, in the southwestern quadrant of the capital, the exhibits are primed to appeal to visitors at different stages of their faith journey. [Read more](#)

To learn more  
visit [www.museumofthebible.org](http://www.museumofthebible.org)

## "Ministry Grounded and Focused on Christ"

Directed by  
Very Reverend Joseph Mele, V.E., Ph.D.  
Dr. Michael Therrien

Our Lenten day of Recollection will focus on putting things in the right order to have a relationship with Jesus so our identity as a servant is properly grounded and defined for us in our diaconal ministry. The Very Reverend Joseph Mele, V.E. Ph.D. and Dr. Michael Therrien from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will discuss the dangers of ministry that is consumed by mission and then forgets all about Jesus. They will also discuss the importance of balance and humility in ministry. The goal of the Day of Recollection is to help us understand that in putting the relationship with Christ first, we derive our sense of identity. From this relationship with Christ we are then able to better discern our mission and stay grounded in prayer while accomplishing the work of God.

All Deacons, Candidates, and their wives are invited to attend.

Registration forms and the day's schedule will be sent to each deacon. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.



**Father Mele** currently serves as the Episcopal Vicar for Leadership Development and Evangelization, head of the Secretariat for Leadership Development and Evangelization, and director of the Department for Post-Ordination Formation for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.



**Dr. Michael Therrien** is the President of the Institute for Pastoral Leadership and the Director of Evangelization for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He also serves as a professor of Fundamental Moral Theology of the Augustine Institute.

## Stop Preaching About Your Vacation And Move On From 'Selfie Sermons'

By Kenneth G. Davis



**Tom Smith** returns to the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese for a 3-night mission *April 22, 23, & 24, 2018*. Save the dates! More information to follow!

## BIRTHDAYS

### JANUARY

01 Tom Papinchak  
 05 Lisa Roth  
 08 Dee Schuette  
 12 Linda Rys  
 29 Michael Russo  
 31 Beth O'Dowd

### FEBRUARY

01 Joanna Duman  
 05 Joe Dalla Valle  
 07 Dee Zernick  
 08 Dave Lapinski  
 09 Karen Underhill  
 25 Shirley Boldin  
 26 Mike Ondik

### MARCH

02 Rosemary Concannon  
 04 Phil Gibson  
 08 Andrea Beavers  
 09 Colette Orlandi  
 15 Susan Cronin  
 18 Laszlo Ivantis  
 20 Janine Anna  
 25 Diane Lapinski

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Frank & Dee Schutte**  
 1/7/1960

**Jack & Colette Orlandi**  
 2/8/1997

**Jerry & Lori Nevling**  
 2/14/2009

**Chip & Connie Young**  
 2/15/1969



Have more sermons become selfies? Are you hearing more homilies composed of anecdotes about the preacher himself and an increasingly familiar cast of his friends and family?

This is unfortunate. Predictable vignettes from the preacher's childhood or extraneous accounts of his vacations reveal unnecessary details about the speaker rather than clues concerning Scripture.

This method of preaching seems so habitual that many homilists appear to be on autopilot. Perhaps the presumption is that chronicling his life is the only way to relate personally to the congregation. However, personal stories are not always necessary, and when they are presented as mere reflex, they can be quite uninteresting.

The alternative to a selfie sermon is not a dry or impersonal address. The liturgy itself requires self-disclosure. The weight given to the saint of the day, references to the sacramentary and the metaphorical use of liturgical symbols all offer options that reveal the personality, theology and pastoral priorities of the preacher, who chooses among them with balance and proportion.

A conscious and consistent style reveals a great deal about the homilist without the need to refer to personal details. Jesus used examples familiar to his listeners, such as lost sheep and seed sown, though he was neither shepherd nor farmer. Like parables, this approach may demand more thoughtfulness from the preacher, and more attentiveness from the assembly, than the linear approach of automatically preaching every homily through a three-step default-homilist's story, then God's story, then assembly's story.

The U.S. Catholic bishops' "[\*Preaching the Mystery of the Faith\*](#)" reminds us that "Jesus was not an abstract preacher." However, Jesus was concrete and personal without becoming obvious, overstated or self-absorbed. When Jesus did speak of himself, it was usually in reference to the Father. Hence, the bishops twice warn against "useless digressions which risk

## What's the difference between meditation and contemplation?



Philip Koaloaki / Aleteia

### Both reveal a distinct way of praying to God.

Among the many different expressions of prayer in the Christian tradition are meditation and contemplation.

At first it may seem like these terms describe the same thing, but in closer examination they reveal distinct ways of praying to God.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* summarizes meditation as:

"a prayerful quest engaging thought, imagination, emotion, and desire. Its goal is to make our own in faith the subject considered, by confronting it with the reality of our life"

(CCC

2723)

In meditation the "mind seeks to understand the why and how of the christian life, in order to adhere and respond to what the Lord is asking".

(CCC 2705)

Contemplation, on the other, hand is (in the words of St. Teresa of Avila)

"nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know love us.

[Read more](#)

drawing greater attention to the preacher than to the heart of the Gospel message."

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[www.americamagazine.com](http://www.americamagazine.com)

## 5 Helpful tips from a 6th-century monk on preparing a meal....

In the 6th century, St. Benedict of Norcia was a revolutionary abbot. He established countless monasteries under a common rule that brought much needed order to the monastic life.



The rule covered all aspects of life, including meals. In his Rule, Benedict made specific regulations for meals in community that helped nourish both the soul and body. Here are five of those practical rules that can be applied in various circumstances.

1. Cook a few different types of food, giving options for everyone to eat

We think it sufficient for the daily meal, whether at the sixth or the ninth hour, that there be at all the tables two dishes of cooked food because of the weaknesses of different persons; so that he who perhaps cannot eat of the one may make his meal of the other. Therefore, let two cooked dishes suffice for the brethren; and if there is any fruit or fresh vegetables, let a third dish be added.

2. Everyone should take turns in the kitchen

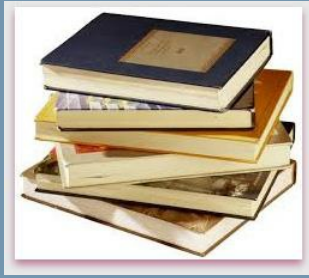
All the brethren, except those who are hindered by sickness or by some occupation of great moment, shall serve each other by turns, so that no one be excused from duty in the kitchen, for thereby a very great reward is obtained.

3. Moderation is to be observed in the food (and drink) prepared

[E]xcess [is to] be avoided above all things, that no monk be ever guilty of [consuming too much]; for nothing is more unworthy of any Christian than gluttony.

Although we read that wine is by no

# The Book Shelf



*Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence*  
by Sarah Young

*Jesus: A Pilgrimage*  
by James Martin, SJ

*Morning Homilies*  
by Pope Francis

*Morning Homilies II*  
by Pope Francis

*Love: A Fruit Always in Season*  
by Mother Teresa

*Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*  
by Henri Nouwen

*The Witness of Early Christian Women: Mothers of the Church*  
by Mike Aquilina

*Keeping Mary Close: Devotion to Our Lady Through the Ages*  
by Mike Aquilina and  
Fr. Frederick W. Gruber

*New Evangelization: Passing on the Catholic Faith Today*  
by Cardinal Donald Wuerl

*The Apostles and Their Times*  
by Mike Aquilina

*The Mystery of Marriage: A Theology of the Body and the Sacrament*  
by Perry J. Cahall

*Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life*  
by Robert Spitzer, SJ

*Ten Universal Principles*  
by Robert Spitzer SJ

means a drink for monks, yet, since in our days the monks cannot be convinced of this, let us at least agree to this, that we do not drink to satiety, but sparingly.

#### 4. Avoid eating alone as much as possible

Brethren who go out on any business and expect to return to the monastery on the same day should not presume to take any food while outside the monastery.

#### 5. Treat dinner guests as Christ himself, even breaking a personal fast to accommodate a guest

Let all guests arriving at the monastery be received as Christ Himself, for He will one day say, "I was a stranger and you took Me in." And let due honor be paid to all, especially, however, to those who are of the household of the faith - and to strangers. The superior may break the fast on account of a guest.

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[www.aleteia.org](http://www.aleteia.org)



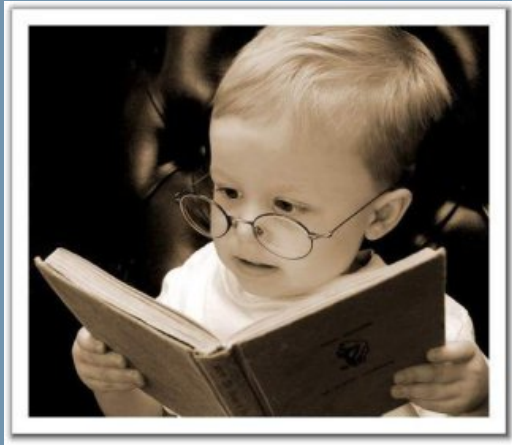
Pope Francis greets permanent deacons during the Year of Mercy

#### **Pope Writes Preface for Diaconate Book** (Source: *Vatican Radio*)

Pope Francis has written the preface to a new book that contains his various pronouncements on the vocation to the diaconate which he says is "primarily realized in the service of the poor."

The book by the Reverend Enzo Petrolino, a deacon from the diocese of Reggio Calabria-Bova in Italy, brings together the Pope's statements about the permanent diaconate from his time as archbishop of Buenos Aires with his most recent ones as Bishop of Rome. [Read more](#)

# Lenten Reading List



[We Preach Christ Crucified](#) (Liturgical Press)  
by Michael Connors, CSC

[Jesus the Bridegroom: The Greatest Love Story Ever Told](#)  
by Brant Pitre

[A Crucified Christ in Holy Week: Essays on the Four Gospel Passion Narratives](#)  
by Raymond E. Brown

[What Jesus Saw From the Cross](#)  
by A. G. Sertillanges

[The Mystery of the Cross](#)  
by Cardinal Basil Hume

[Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist: Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper](#)  
by Brant Pitre

[The Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#)  
by Archbishop Alban Goodier, SJ

[The Via Dolorosa: A Forensic and Spiritual Treatise on the Salvific Work of Jesus Christ](#)  
by Michael L. Russo

[The Lord](#)  
by Romano Guardini

[Seven Last Words](#)  
by James Martin, SJ

[Love Unveiled: The Catholic Faith Explained](#)  
by Edward Sri

[Lent and Easter With The Church Fathers](#)  
by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

"Here I Am, Lord"  
The Little-Known Story  
Behind A Catholic Hit  
by Colleen Dulle

## Continuing Education for Deacons

by Jim Alt

The following article is taken from the December 2017 issue of NDICE News (National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education) [www.ndic.net](http://www.ndic.net)

Prior to ordination, every diocese has a formation program that varies in length and content, depending on the policy for that particular diocese. This policy is set to meet the basic requirements for ordination of every deacon to be ordained in the United States.

While formation programs have improved tremendously over the years since the first U.S. deacon was ordained in 1968, to a lesser degree, the post-ordination continuing education programs in many cases have not kept pace. As in any profession, it is essential that ordained deacons also continue their diaconate ministry education.

*"Deacons, as professionals in ministry, need to update themselves constantly with practical education and spiritual development to insure adequacy in their ministry. Not only does continuing education have a further, collateral benefit of fostering self-confidence in the deacon, it moreover demonstrates to the Church the deacon serves that he is professionally accountable. This is a program based upon self-motivation and self direction."*

*(opening paragraph of the Chicago Policy for Ministerial Development of Deacons)*

The National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) enters the picture by providing the opportunity for deacons to receive 20 Continuing Education Units at their annual summer conference each year.

NDIC is the longest-continuous national continuing education organization for deacons in the United States. Next year will mark the 44th year of this Conference.



To read this article in its entirety and to learn more about the upcoming annual conference, please [click here](#).

## What would you do if you were at Calvary near Jesus crucified?

Ary Waldir Ramos Diaz / [Aleteia](#)

In his reflection on the





"I the Lord of sea and sky..."

So begins one of the most popular-and most divisive-pieces of modern liturgical music.

Dan Schutte's "Here I Am, Lord," consistently scores highly in surveys of Catholics' and Christians' favorite hymns. An informal Twitter survey of America readers' opinions on the song brought a variety of responses, all of them strong.

Already with the first line, a flurry of critics complain, "Don't make me sing the part of God!" Some even take issue with my calling the song "music." Yet it evokes in others a wave of nostalgia and comfort.

[Read more](#)

Used with permission: America Magazine  
[www.americamagazine.org](http://www.americamagazine.org)

Eucharist during today's general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis insisted again that Mass is a sacred celebration, not a show, and he invited the faithful to re-live the Paschal mystery of Jesus.

He invited his listeners to reflect on going to Mass and on their relationship to Christ: "If during Mass, we are going to Calvary-let's use our imagination-and we know that that man [on the cross] is Jesus, would we allow ourselves to chat, to take photos, and to make a bit of a show?"

"No! Because that's Jesus! We would surely be in silence, in tears, and also full of joy because we are saved."

The pope preached about the sacrament in which the Church commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus' life with His disciples, when He handed Himself over as a voluntary sacrifice of love for the salvation of the world. [Read more](#)

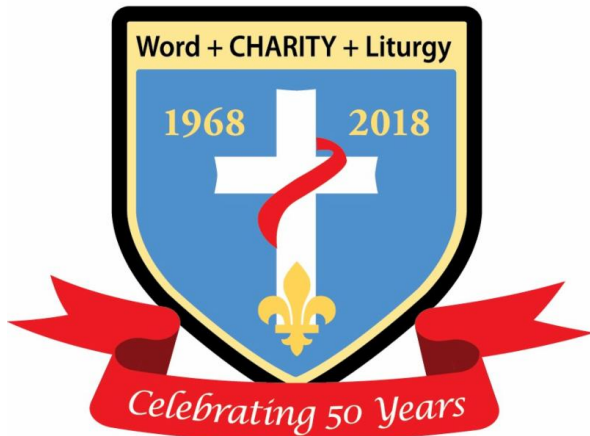
### At Convocation, Deacons Encouraged to Love and Serve as Jesus Did

By Mark Zimmermann, Catholic Standard Editor

As they have since the beginning of the Church, deacons today play a vital role in providing Christ-like service at parishes and in a variety of ministries, Cardinal Donald Wuerl said at a recent Permanent Deacon Convocation held at St. Joseph Parish in Largo.

"The very definition of diaconal ministry is service," Washington's archbishop said as he celebrated a Mass to open the Nov. 4 convocation. "...*The Catechism of the Catholic Church* says the deacon is configured to Christ the servant." What a beautiful image and way to see our ministry. [Read more](#)

### UNITED STATES DIACONATE



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