



Henderson & Peters ordained permanent deacons



NEWLY-ORDAINED PERMANENT DEACONS—Deacon Tony Peters, Bishop Edward M. Rice, and Deacon Kevin Henderson posed for a photo after The Rite of Ordination to the Sacred Order of Diaconate held Saturday morning, June 10, in St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau. Deacon Peters will serve in St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, while Deacon Henderson will serve in Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff. (Photo by Bruce Stidham/The Mirror)

Cape Girardeau, MO

After five years of study, two men were recently ordained to the Permanent Diaconate by The Most Rev. Edward M. Rice, on a beautiful Saturday morning, June 10, in St. Mary of the Annunciation Cathedral, Cape Girardeau: **Kevin**

Henderson of Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff, MO, and **Tony Peters**, of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau. To follow, are interviews with each man regarding their receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Church in service to the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. May God bless them in their ministries.

Kevin Henderson

Sacred Heart Parish, Poplar Bluff

Please share reflections on your ordination.

The Mass of Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate was a special, and spiritual event for classmate Tony Peters and me, along with our family, close friends, and the clergy in attendance. Everything on June 10th went perfectly, and I was surprised at how I seemed to relax, and to enjoy the moment. Tony (Peters) and I taking a “selfie” with Bishop Rice while vesting

before Mass seemed to break the ice—thank you Bishop!

Greatest memories:

- Bishop Rice firmly laying his hands upon me.
- Being at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, surrounded by the priests as they quietly prayed along with Bishop Rice. A spiritual realization of the sacred fraternity of the priesthood!
- Distributing the Precious Blood of our Lord to family, friends, and classmates during Holy Communion.

These moments were very spiritually meaningful, for it is in the humble acceptance of God’s plan for us that we come to realize being part of a much greater good than ourselves.

When did you discern your call to the diaconate?

Discerning God’s call began several years prior to formation. The light of Christ for me was Sr. Rosa Lilia, MC. She, along with our former pastor Fr. David Coon, parishioners, and friends,

CONTINUED // page 8

◀ **LAYING ON OF HANDS & PRAYER OR ORDINATION**—Bishop Edward M. Rice laid his hands upon the head of Kevin Henderson June 10 and prayed the Prayer of Ordination, ordaining him a permanent deacon in service to his parish of Sacred Heart, in Poplar Bluff. (Photo by Bruce Stidham/The Mirror)



PROCESSION—Deacon candidates Kevin Henderson and Tony Peters process into the Celebration of the Eucharist and The Rite of Ordination to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate on June 10 in St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau. Following, with the Book of the Gospels, was Deacon Mark Kiblinger. (Photo by Bruce Stidham/The Mirror)



The next issue of **The Mirror** will be **July 21, 2023**. Sign up to receive the diocesan newspaper via Email in digital format: Contact Debbie Thompson at (417) 866-0841, or Email: dthompson@dioscg.org.





COME, AND YOU WILL SEE
Bp. Edward M. Rice

Vibrant parishes are community-oriented

A caption caught my attention in the May 7-15 edition of *Our Sunday Visitor*, “How to make our Catholic parishes vibrant once again.” Although it highlighted the reality of disaffiliation of Hispanics with the Catholic Church, it gives the reality with which every generation of immigrants has had to deal—the danger of secularization. Having left their homeland, especially in small towns where the parish church was the center of activity, and finding themselves in major metropolitan areas, the ties to the parish church are weakened and traditional practices such as cemetery visits, daily visits to the church, and other parish devotional activities are no longer practiced, leading to a weakening of the faith.

The article then goes on to give some suggestions. Does your parish ring the church bells at morning, noon and evening for the Angelus? This is the reminder that three times a day, “the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us.” And just hearing the church bells raises our minds and hearts to God. Is the parish church open during the day for people to visit? Of course, security needs to be addressed, but I think it can be done. For those parishes that have a school or a PSR program, are the parents invited to pray the rosary in church while waiting to pick up the kids? Could morning prayer be offered for those who come for daily Mass? Does the parish celebrate 40 Hours according to the schedule put out by the diocese? And while the family rosary is highly encouraged, what about gathering at the home of a Catholic neighbor to pray the rosary together?

To quote from the article, “It might

be thought that efforts focused on community rather than evangelization might not be worth the effort, but they are critical to building vibrant communities. Card nights, bocce clubs, picnics, and a host of other things that were part of parish life 100 years ago

survey discovered, “the loneliest people are also the least religious.” A couple of months ago, the Holy Father told a youth group in Italy, “Put down the phone and look at each other.” It seems as if many have lost the art of conversation, the art of interaction, and find it difficult to

even shake a hand or look somebody in the eye. As our parishes strategize on how to move from “maintenance to mission,” we don’t have to over-complicate things. For example, I was recently able to be at St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Joplin, for its feast day. After the Mass, there was a simple picnic held under the trees. Again, it was pretty simple and it was impactful!

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

As part of the parish phase of the Eucharistic Revival, I offer the following suggestion for every parish in the diocese: how about a study of Pope John Paul II’s Encyclical Letter, “On

resources out there, please, please focus on the Eucharist in all parish-based adult education programs.

“Oh Sacrament Most Holy, oh Sacrament Divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine.” ©TM

"Let us pray for our country, for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all, through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Let us also pray for the protection of all travelers during the summer holiday season."

— BISHOP EDWARD M. RICE



July
PRAYER INTENTION

are part of the answer to our “epidemic of loneliness.” Some of my fondest memories of parish life was the annual Watermelon Festival held at my parish, St. Cecilia. Yes, something as simple as a Watermelon Festival! There was a German band and of course a beer garden along with hamburgers and hot dogs and watermelon! When I look back on it, it was pretty simple.

‘COLLECTIVE EMPTINESS’

I recently studied the results of a study from the Institute of Politics at Harvard where they mention a “collective emptiness” amongst our young people. Some 47% of those aged 18 to 29 have felt depressed or hopeless. And 46% of them reported “little interest or pleasure in doing things.” Finally, the

the Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church?” That could be taken one chapter at a time and spread over the course of an entire year. This would be a great way to increase awareness of the Eucharist. The National Council of Catholic Women has created an easy study guide, available on its Website at nccw.org. Additionally, Formed.org has a small group program called “Presence;” Dr. Edward Sri has Published, “A Biblical Walk through the Mass,” which would be great for a “book club” situation or small group. I’m looking forward to the release of a seven-week small group study put out by the National Eucharistic Revival Committee, to be released this summer to assist parishes this fall or the following spring. With so many

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a new column by Fr. Belken

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The Mirror

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STEPPING STONES CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE HELD IN DEANERY 5

Mountain Grove, MO

The women of Sacred Heart Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW) at Sacred Heart Church, in Mountain Grove, hosted a conference for Catholic women on Sat., June 3, the first time that a Catholic women's conference has been held in Deanery 5. Around 50 women came from all over the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, and from as far away as Kansas City, to listen to four dynamic speakers impart their wisdom and experiences in helping women build pathways to Christ.

Father Joseph Kelly, Spiritual Moderator of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW), was the keynote speaker. He fascinated listeners on many interesting topics concerning the Church today, outlining the keys to the pathway to Christ: 1) Pray a daily rosary; 2) Seek to imitate the virtues of Our Lady in daily life; and 3) Devote oneself to Jesus in the Eucharist.

Elva Weber, President of the DCCW, and Judy Carly, a former President of the DCCW, paired up to speak on how to be a leader in your church and community and how to be of service to your church, respectively. Deacon Joe Kurtenbach spoke on the differences in spirituality and religion. Mass was celebrated by The Very Rev. Leo Arockiasamy, Dean of Deanery 5, and pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Mountain Grove; as well as churches in Ava, Cabool, Gainesville, Mansfield. During the liturgy, the New Deanery 5 officers were installed.

Andrea Ferguson is the new Deanery 5 President; Margaret Miller is the new Vice President for Deanery 5; and Sharon Long will be the new Treasurer and Secretary of the deanery. Waynita Cahoj of West Plains was the outgoing Deanery 5 President. She has moved into the diocesan-level position of Service Commission for the DCCW.

BE 'OTHER MARYS'

Focusing on what the culture and our society presents as feminism, the guide used by Fr. Kelly for his presentation was Carrie Gress's book entitled, *The Anti-Mary Exposed*.

"In this book, Gress speaks about how our culture has distorted the image of true femininity and womanhood," Fr. Kelly said. "She calls this distorted image the 'Anti-Mary,' and it is found in our culture in a variety of ways."

According to the author, the 'Anti-Mary' could be characterized as anti-children, vulgarity, immodesty, promiscuousness, self-absorption, gossip, manipulation, and being spiteful-- basically, everything that the Blessed Mother is NOT.

"We see this portrayed in the feminist movement that has promoted a false sense of liberation that included conveying the lie that

motherhood and the rearing of children was an impediment to women reaching their full potential and fulfilling their desires," Fr. Kelly said. "The result of

this mentality has only led to chaos and the dissolution of family life and the true image of feminism."

After presenting a variety of examples of the Anti-Mary in our culture, which included the abortion industry, the vast use of contraception, pornography, the lewdness and suggestiveness often heard in music and seen on TV and in movies, and other examples, Fr. Kelly then spoke about the antidote to the Anti-Mary: "The Blessed Virgin Mary, of course!"

"She embodies and encompasses everything that a woman should strive for, including the virtues of humility, modesty, charity, chastity, honesty, gentleness, having a maternal heart, and a true, zealous, living faith in God," said Fr. Kelly. "How does one do this? By getting to know Mary and by imitating her virtues; by praying the rosary; by consecrating oneself to the Blessed Mother; by being a good, Christian feminine witness; standing up for the Truth and not apologizing for being Catholic, but proudly living our Catholic faith; by being faithful to the sacraments and to Christ's Church."

"In short, 'Be other Marys,'" Fr. Kelly said. "If you strive to do that, you will be well on their way to sainthood!"



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION—Women gathered for the "Stepping Stones," Deanery 5 Catholic Women's Conference gathered for small group discussion. Speakers included Fr. Joseph Kelly, Deacon Joe Kurtenbach, Elva Weber, and Judy Carly. (Submitted photo)



DEANERY 5 'STEPPING STONES'—Deacon Joseph Kurtenbach greeted Elva Weber at the Deanery 5 Women's Conference held June 3, in Sacred Heart Parish, Mountain Grove. (Submitted photo)



CATHOLIC SISTERS—Julia Grider of Chaffee, MO, and Jolene Davis of West Plains, were designated "Catholic Sisters" during the June 3 Deanery 5 Women's Conference, "Stepping Stones," hosted by the Sacred Heart Parish Council of Catholic Women of Mountain Grove, MO. Two women were randomly assigned as Catholic Sisters in order to get to know one another better and to pray for one another in the coming year. (Submitted photo)

CATHOLIC SISTERS

A new program was introduced to conference attendees. Each woman was randomly assigned a "Catholic Sister," and the two women spent the day together and enjoyed getting to know one another. They were also encouraged to pray for each other throughout the next year and meet back in Mountain Grove again next year.

"The day was joyful and the excitement was contagious," Andrea Ferguson said. "It ended all too soon and the consensus among the participants was very positive."

If you missed this conference, ideas are in the works to make one next year even more special. Father Kelly has agreed to return to speak! ©TM



ANOTHER WALK THROUGH: 'WALKING TOGETHER' by Bishop Emeritus John J. Leibrecht

Before his retirement in 2008 as the Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Bishop John Leibrecht wrote a standing column in *The Mirror* entitled, "Walking Together." At the end of each article, Bp. Leibrecht would normally share a funny story referencing his travels to the schools, or time with friends, family, or other bishops. *The Mirror* has decided to share a few of these in an ongoing series entitled, "Another walk through: 'Walking Together.'" We hope you enjoy them.

June 9, 1989 Regaining consciousness in the hospital's recovery room after an operation, a small boy had one question for his parents: "Why did everybody in the operating room wear blindfolds over their mouths?"

June 23, 1989 A friend shared this little verse with me and I hope you enjoy it too. I dreamed God came the other night // And heaven's gate swung wide. An angel ushered

me inside // And there stood folks I'd known on earth. // Some I had judged unfit and bad // But my angry words were not set free. // For every face showed stunned surprise; // It seems no one had expected me.

July 7, 1989 I recently heard a "vacation" described as the time when you spend all the money you have left after the installment payments to live higher than you can afford.

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Project Rachel is the Catholic Church's ministry of love, support, and healing for those who have been involved in abortion. To implement that ministry, our Diocese has created an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats, opportunities for sacramental forgiveness, and referrals to licensed mental health professionals.

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It's normal to grieve a pregnancy loss, but the loss of a child by abortion can create a hole so deep in one's heart that it may seem the emptiness can never be filled. With the forgiveness, hope, and healing provided through Project Rachel Ministries, many women and men have returned to a loving relationship with God.

How do people get help?

Women and men who have been involved in abortion are invited to contact the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry to receive free, compassionate and confidential help. Call (417) 242-9300 or Email projectrachel@dioscg.org to learn more. A list of ministry resources is available at hopeafterabortion.com.

For more information,

Contact **Kim Brayman**, Program Coordinator
 Office of Family Life
 Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
 601 S. Jefferson Ave., Springfield, MO 65806-3143
kbrayman@dioscg.org
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cape Girardeau—Catholic Social Ministries Food Pantry will have a **Yard Sale**, Thu., July 27, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., July 28, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat., July 29, 7 a.m.-noon, in St. Mary Cathedral School gym. On Saturday, fill a bag with clothes for \$1 while other items will be half-off. Items may be dropped off Mon., July 24-Wed., July 26, at the school gym. All proceeds to benefit the Catholic Food Pantry.

Diocesan wide—SAVE THE DATE! **Diocesan Evangelization and Discipleship Summit**, a day of prayer, formation, and inspiration, featuring Bishop Edward Rice, Jason Simon (President of Evangelical Catholic), and more, will be held Sat., Oct. 28, in Cape Girardeau, and on Sat., Nov. 4 in Springfield. More details to come.

Glennonville—The **Glennonville Picnic** will be held Sat., July 29, at Glennonville Park. An Old-Fashioned Country Dinner will be served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring southern fried chicken, bbq pork, potatoes, gravy, cole slaw, corn, green beans, and homemade desserts. Cost: Adults-\$15; children, ages 6-12-\$8. Other activities include Miss Heartland Pageants, Horseshoe Tournament, games, grab-bags for children, and old-fashioned picnic races.

Monett—St. Lawrence Parish will host **Dr. Scott Hahn**, Sat., July 22, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., at the Monett Performing Arts Center, located at 1650 E Cleveland Ave. Study Scripture from the heart of the Church with one of today's most respected scholars. For additional information, and to purchase tickets, go to <https://stpaulcenter.com/monett2023/>.

Ozark—St. Joseph the Worker Parish Council of Catholic Women will have its

annual **PCCW Garage Sale**, Fri., Aug. 4, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sat., Aug. 5, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., inside the air-conditioned parish hall, located at 1796 N State Highway NN. Over 500 parish families with lots of donations! Saturday is bag day/half-price day. Something for everyone!

Sikeston—The Women of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church will host a **lunch for the Biking for Babies participants** on Fri., July 14. The 2023 National Biking for Babies Ride includes young adult missionaries from MN, WI, OH, KS, CO, and MS who will pedal 100+ miles each day, with the purpose of raising awareness and financial support for pregnancy resource centers across the country. You are invited to lunch at noon and to meet the participants as we support their efforts to renew the culture of life in America.

Springfield—Springfield Area Perpetual Adoration, hosted in Holy Trinity Chapel, has an **urgent need of Adorers** on Wednesdays, 2 a.m. & 3 a.m. Join our substitute list to experience the peace of adoration. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marilyn Gibson at (417) 224-4043.

Wildwood—Mid-life Singles: Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life changing **REFLECT weekend retreat** at La Salle Retreat Center (35 min from downtown St. Louis), on July 21-23. Cost is \$250, including meals and a single room. For more information, visit <https://ReflectRetreat.com>, Email reflect.stlouis@gmail.com, or call (314) 283-0044.

Parishes and organizations are invited to submit notices of future events to be printed on a space-available basis. There is no fee.

Knights support Joplin schools



SUMMER CLEANING—The Knights of Columbus Council #979, Joplin, MO, volunteered to move desks and furniture out of the classrooms at Saint Mary Catholic Elementary School to support summer cleaning. On June 24, they helped return the desks to the rooms as the school prepares for the upcoming school year. The Knights took a break to congratulate two McAuley Catholic High School graduates, and presented them with a check for expenses before they traveled to the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) National Competition in Atlanta. *(The Mirror)*



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Diocese seeks Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau seeks qualified applicants to fill the position of **Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry**. The Director develops and implements diocesan policies and programs related to Youth and Young Adult Ministry that will promote the three priorities of the diocesan Mutually Shared Vision: "Growing in Holiness, Forming Intentional Disciples, and Being Sent Forth to Witness."

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Recent employment or volunteer experience as a ministry leader with high school youth and/or young adults in parishes, schools, universities, or diocese is required. Minimum of a Bachelor Degree in Pastoral Ministry, Theology, Catholic Education, or Catechesis is required.

This is a full-time, exempt position. Evening and weekend hours and extensive travel driving across the diocese will be required. Compensation includes a competitive salary, excellent health benefits, and a retirement plan based on diocesan guidelines.

Diocese seeks Director of Development and Properties

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau seeks qualified applicants to fill the position of **Director of Development and Properties**. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Qualified individuals need a demonstrated understanding of the theology of stewardship and experience in the administration of major capital campaigns as this position includes responsibility for the annual diocesan fundraising appeal. Additionally, the ideal applicant would have experience in a field related to property management or construction as well as experience with the legal duties related to property acquisition. Administrative and management experience is required. A college degree is preferred and the ability to work collaboratively is critical. This is a full-time, exempt position. Some evening and weekend hours, as well as periodic travel, driving across the diocese will be required to accomplish the work. Compensation includes competitive salary, excellent health benefits and retirement plan based on diocesan guidelines.

To request an application packet, including a detailed job description, please contact Jan Smith at The Catholic Center, jansmith@dioscg.org, or call (417) 866-0841.





By
Fr. Joshua
J. Whitfield

WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 22: *What Scripture is For*

If to encounter the Church is to encounter the Body of Christ — that is, to encounter Jesus intimately and individually but within the fellowship of other believers — then to encounter the Church is, in a sense, a personal encounter. Indeed, as this series has treated several times, the Church is a communion and sacramental mystery. It's something both visible and invisible, hierarchical and charismatic, always an encounter with Christ in Trinity. Still another aspect of encountering Christ in the Church is in the Scripture and in tradition.

Now, in short, the mystery is simply this: Since the Church is the Body of Christ, that same body of Christ speaks to us in the Scripture and in Tradition. That is if encountering the Body of Christ is like a personal encounter, then the way that body communicates is like personal speech. This is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church means, calling Tradition — always connected to the Scripture — a “living transmission” (No. 78). And this living communication of the Body of Christ is what we intend to explore.

But first, a simple question: What is the Scripture for? John, at the end of his Gospel, helps us begin to think of an answer. There is much that Jesus did, the evangelist says, that is “not written in this book.” However, what is recorded in the Gospel is written: “so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name” (Jn 20:30-31). We see here a simple twofold purpose to the Scripture. First, the point of the Scripture is to hear about, read and encounter Jesus so that you can believe in Jesus — not Jesus merely historically as some ancient figure, but as the Messiah, the Christ. This leads to the second point of the Scripture: that once one believes in Jesus, then that person has “life in his name.”

BELIEF AND SALVATION

Another way to think about this

question is to look at what Paul wrote to Timothy. “But you,” Paul writes, “remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and from infancy you have known sacred scriptures.” Here, Paul exhorts Timothy



(Shutterstock)

not simply to remember what he learned through reading the Scripture but also to remember through whom he learned it — perhaps a nascent appeal to what we'd later simply call Tradition. But that aside now, the purpose of the Scripture is clear: the reason Paul asks Timothy to remember the Scripture is because the Scripture is “inspired by God” and capable of giving the person who remembers it “wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” Again, like John, the purpose of the Scripture is salvation. But it's also “useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work” (2 Tm 3:14-17). So, the purpose of the Scripture is not only to provoke belief — to make the person who encounters it wise for salvation through faith in Christ — it's also meant to teach and equip the believer to do good works. The purpose of the Scripture, therefore, is more than spiritual or intellectual, it's also moral.

BELIEF, SALVATION AND HOLINESS

Another way Paul puts it, in his letter to the Romans, is to say that the Gospel (in its unwritten proclamation, but also presumably in its written form) is “the power of God for the salvation of

everyone who believes: for Jew first, and then Greek” (Rom 1:16). As he told Timothy, and just as John wrote at the end of his Gospel, here Paul says basically the same thing: that the first purpose of the Scripture is to inspire belief in Jesus necessary for salvation. But, also notice here, Paul's evangelical order of proclamation: “for Jew first, and then Greeks.” Whenever he traveled to a new city, he usually preached first in the Jewish synagogue, and only after he was rejected, did he preach to non-Jews.

Also in Romans we learn something else about the purpose of the Scripture. “For in it is revealed the righteousness of God from faith to faith,” Paul wrote (Rom 1:17). Now this is an enigmatic, much debated line, so what might it mean? First, it seems Paul is telling us that in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God reveals to us his justice. For that's what God's righteousness is, his justice — which is interesting, because the

Gospel is the story of a God who loves the world so much, he sent his Son to die for it and forgive it (cf. Jn 3:16). God's story of justice is a story of mercy. As Paul says later in Romans, rather bluntly: Christ died for the “ungodly” (Rom 5:6). Interestingly, if this is an account of justice, it's radically unlike our conventional notions of justice. Unlike other accounts of justice, attributing punishments and rewards to either the guilty or deserving, God's justice is different — it's merciful. It rewards the undeserving simply through faith. God's justice is forgiveness. Which seems to be another purpose of the Scripture: to show us what that strange justice looks like.

BELIEF, SALVATION, HOLINESS AND MERCY

But we should also note the beautifully curious phrase, “from faith to faith.” Paul says the revelation of the Gospel is “from faith to faith,” but what does that mean? Many interpretations have been given. I personally prefer the interpretation of Karl Barth, the great Protestant theologian. “To those willing to venture with God, He speaks,” Barth wrote about this mysterious line (“The Epistle to the Romans,” Oxford University Press, \$19.95). That is, the revelation of the Gospel is not the transmission of some dry dogmatic or metaphysical treatise. The Scripture is not some cosmic owner's manual. The Bible does not possess the pretensions of science. It's never claimed to describe the world with scientific precision. Rather, more beautifully, the Scripture simply tells the story of God, Israel, Jesus and the Church. It is not a position paper for the disinterested; rather, it's like personal communication — “from faith to faith” — a word of love for those who through love search for God. And this is a really important point, for it's



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only when we grasp that the Scripture is best approached in faith as an act of love that we experience the purpose of the Scripture as something that inspires belief and which can become the means of salvation and holiness.

Think of it this way: A young man is romantically interested in a friend of a friend, but he's not yet met her. So, he goes to his friend to ask about her. If the friend were to answer him by describing the woman's height and weight, blood type, tax bracket and so on, we would all understand that that's weird and creepy. That's not the sort of information that's important in this circumstance. Rather, his friend — if he's normal — is going to say something like, "Oh, she's great! Brilliant! She's beautiful, with a great sense of humor. You'll love her." Now, both types of discourse are true (the woman's height and weight and blood type are indeed facts that are real and, in some circumstances, do matter), but only one type of speech is

going to make the young man fall in love with her. Now, the Scripture is like the second type of speech. It's like someone coming alongside you saying, "Here's this God, he's great. He's done all this great stuff. You'll love him." The Bible makes no pretensions about being a scientific textbook; it never has. Nor has the Church ever thought of it in those terms. Rather, it's "from faith to faith." Which also teaches us something about the purpose of Scripture, and that it is to tell us about God, but in a certain way — personally, like love.

BELIEF, SALVATION, HOLINESS, MERCY — IN LOVE INSPIRING FAITH

To encounter the Scripture is to encounter, in a sense, the body of Christ *speaking*. And thinking of it as speech, we can think of it like speech between lovers, speech that not only informs but which also inspires faith and hope — all of

which flowers as salvation. This fits with our understanding of the Church as the body of Christ. The Church is communion, organism, body, bride; and when this organism speaks, the living Christ speaks — speaking that's scriptural. It's like speech establishing a relationship, not merely delivering data. It's speech that shares Christ and creates communion.

Which, you'll remember, is exactly how John puts it in his first letter. The "word of life" — that is the word "from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our own eyes, what we looked upon" — is shared with others for the sake of fellowship, "so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father," John writes. Notice that this is a written invitation: "We are writing this so that our joy may be complete" (1 Jn 1:1-4). Earlier we looked at this passage to see how the communion of

the Church spread interpersonally and apostolically. Here we simply notice that it's also "writing." That is, the expansion of communion depends upon a mode of communication that is not just oral but also clearly written. This, along with all we've just mentioned, is also what the Scripture is for: the growth of the Church.

NEXT EDITION: WHAT WE BELIEVE, PART 23

Christ According to Scripture

Father Joshua J. Whitfield is pastor of St. Rita Catholic Community in Dallas and author of *The Crisis of Bad Preaching* (Ave Maria Press, \$17.95), and other books.

"What We Believe, Part 22: What Scripture is For" by Fr. Whitfield is from *simplycatholic.com*, copyright © Our Sunday Visitor; all rights reserved, no other use of this material is authorized.

Free Concert



Join us for an evening of story & song with Joel Rosario-López

JULY 30, 2023
FOOD TRUCK: 5PM
CONCERT: 6PM

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 a simple solution to world hunger

All proceeds benefit Mary's Meals, a global organization that provides life-changing meals to some of the world's poorest children where they attend school.

Find all the details: mothersshrine.com

129th Annual Leopold PICNIC

Sponsored by **St. John Church • Leopold, MO**

Saturday, July 29, 2023

6th Annual Leopold Picnic Antique Tractor Ride
 leave the K.C. Hall at 10:30 a.m.

Gift Shoppe • Fish Pond • Games • Fun • Homemade Ice Cream
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 CARRY OUT ONLY

Beef, Fried Chicken, Chicken & Dumplings with all the trimmings

Serving 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Adults 16 & up \$15.00 • Children 6-15 \$8.00

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vitae foundation



Springfield Pro-Life Dinner

Friday, August 25, 2023
Keynote: Melissa Ohden

Registration & Social 6:00 PM
Dinner & Program 7:00 - 9:00 PM

\$75 per person (\$40 Tax Deductible)
 White River Conference Center | 600 W. Sunshine St. | Springfield, MO

Melissa Ohden is a survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion attempt. She has always believed that God had a specific purpose set out for her. Melissa is the Founder and Director of The Abortion Survivors Network, the only healing and advocacy organization for abortion survivors worldwide and The Education and Policy Center, which impacts policy issues relating to abortion and abortion survivors. Melissa and her team have connected with over 400 survivors. She is a frequent contributor to pro-life and conservative news outlets and a regular guest on radio and television programs around the world. She has testified before Congressional committees numerous times, lobbied for the pro-life case, and even met with the President in the Oval Office. Ohden is truly a voice for the voiceless.

Ways to Register!

- Call 573.634.4316
- QR Code to event website
- Online at vitaefoundation.org



All proceeds benefit Vitae Foundation, a national non-profit organization that facilitates research about life issues to create messaging strategies to share with others so that together, we can build a future where abortion is unthinkable.

HENDERSON & PETERS ORDINATION // Continued from page 1



▲ **GIFT BEARERS**—Spouses of the newly-ordained permanent deacons were the gift bearers of bread and wine June 10. Pictured are (left) Renee Peters and (right) Lisa Henderson. (Photo by Bruce Stidham/The Mirror)

were all very encouraging in taking the next step. It was during this time I began fervent study of Scripture as well as writings from holy souls such as St. Francis de Sales, St. Augustine, St. Alphonsus Liguori, and St. Teresa of Avila.

What were some highlights of the formation process?

The five-year formation was the greatest journey of my life. This group of over 15 men, and our wives, shared many joys as well as the trials, and sufferings of life. Through it all, we all became brothers in Christ, grew in our faith, and became better Catholic men.

What are you looking forward to the most as a deacon?

The many aspects of the *Ministry of Charity* – to be there in time of need, to be part of the Sacramental Ministry of the Church. As a deacon, I feel obligated to share

the love of Christ with others – the widowed, the home-bound, those in nursing homes, and those who have left the Catholic faith. The Ministry of Charity will be strengthened by assisting at Mass and performing the *Ministry of the Word* and the *Ministry of the Liturgy*. These are the three ministries of the diaconate.

These days of waning church attendance, people wary of institutions and the Church particularly, what relevance does the Church still have?

The Church is the Bride of Christ, and through its sacraments, she offers to all the path to holiness, and, to eternal life.

What are your thoughts on what needs to happen to help grow faith and relevance for the Church?

The Catholic Church needs to remain true to its foundation

It is in the humble acceptance of God's plan for us that we come to realize being part of a much greater good than ourselves.

– Kevin Henderson

in Christ, to continue to live the “*Faith of our Fathers*,” if you will. The Church needs to remain a source of love, of truth, of genuine spiritual happiness for those who believe. We need to be steadfast in our belief in the Real Presence of Christ, to be bold in proclaiming the Catholic faith, to be vigilant despite the many persecutions which will come at us. As a deacon, I wish to help reach out to the lost, the forgotten, to those who have left the faith.

What will your role be in moving the diocese from Maintenance to Mission: ‘Growing in Holiness, Forming Intentional Disciples, and Being Sent to Witness’?

I will strive to do my best to fulfill the three ministries of the diaconate: Word, Liturgy, and Charity. The Ministry of Charity, and all it entails. In addition, proclaiming the Word of God, at Mass and to the parish and greater community around us. To be a faithful witness, to imitate Christ in word and in action. To be a minister of unity and peace in a world of conflict. To live out the words told to us by



▲ **INVESTURE**—After the Laying on of Hands and Prayer of Ordination, Kevin Henderson was assisted with his investiture in his deacon stole and dalmatic by his pastor, Fr. Daniel Robles, and Deacon Mark Kiblinger. Tony Peters (right) was assisted by Deacon Rob Huff. (Photo by Bruce Stidham/The Mirror)

Lisa Henderson

What are your memories of the ordination?

What a wonderful, meaningful celebration! I was very grateful for the family, friends, and clergy that joined us to celebrate. When all the priests gathered with the bishop in celebrating the Eucharist, it was a very moving experience.

What are your thoughts about your new role as a wife of a deacon, providing support and integrating the changes that may affect your marriage and family life?

I know I will need to be supportive and patient as he will be involved in many parish activities. I believe his vocation will strengthen our marriage and impact our children and grandchildren in a positive way.

How did you prepare for this new family vocation?

It was an adjustment for me realizing that Kevin wanted to be a deacon. I had to understand and believe in him for desiring this vocation to serve the Church in a greater capacity. Through the process, I learned more about our Catholic faith and realized how hard the men who go through the program work and prepare for ministry.

What are you looking forward to most as your husband becomes a deacon?

I am looking forward to seeing Kevin grow even more in his faith, and help the Church and people, especially the elderly.

What parish or other Church activities are you involved in?

I have been involved in music ministry since we joined Sacred Heart Parish in 1999.

What ministries are of interest to you?

I would like to continue my music ministry as well as be involved with helping the youth. ©TM



HOLY COMMUNION—A smiling Deacon Kevin Henderson presented the chalice to his wife, Lisa Henderson, during the liturgy ordaining him a permanent deacon June 10 in St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau. (Photo by Bruce Stidham/The Mirror)



▲ **LITANY OF SUPPLICATION**—Tony Peters and Kevin Henderson lie prostrate in St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, the morning of June 10 as the Litany of Supplication was prayed, led by Bishop Edward Rice. (Photo by Bruce Stidham/The Mirror)

Bishop Rice during ordination, when we held our hand on the Book of Gospels: “Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.”

Family – names of wife, children, parents, grandchildren?

My wife Lisa and I have been married for 36 years. We have two boys – Aaron and Jacob. Aaron was married September 2022 to Jennifer, and on May 30, we became grandparents to Lucia Therese, our Little Flower!

Education – lists of degrees, studies, etc.?

Twelve years of Catholic education, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Southeast Missouri State University, in Cape Girardeau. I am very blessed to work for a wonderful community bank and have been a Financial Advisor for over 25 years.

Favorite Saint: St. Francis de Sales

Favorite Devotion: The Holy Rosary

Favorite Scripture Verse: “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” —Isaiah 12:2



▲ **RECESSIONAL**—Each face showed emotion during the recessional out of St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, concluding the ordination rites of Tony Peters and Kevin Henderson to the permanent diaconate. (Photo by Bruce Stidham/The Mirror)

Tony Peters

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau

Please share reflections on your ordination.

There was a lot of grace, it was palpable. One of things that stood out to me was the Litany of the Saints during Mass. Prior to the ordination, I had reached out to my entire family and asked each to share their patron saint, and these were recognized in the Mass during my ordination. That was a very moving experience, the entire liturgy was very moving for

me. I recall thinking how grateful I am for being called, and seeing it fulfilled. It meant so much to have my extended family there and to have their support. Also, completely unplanned, the Psalm read for the Ordination Mass was the favorite of my mother and grandmother, both who are deceased. Hearing that reading was another meaningful memory from the ordination.

When did you discern your call to the diaconate?

I have always felt called to serve the Lord and the Church. When I was young, I attended the seminary in Winona, MN, where I discerned I was being called to serve, but not as a priest. After I met my

future wife, Renee’—the best Catholic I know—and as life continued, I always felt affirmation that I was on the right path. I remember I had prayed the Breviary, when out of the blue, Deacon Rob Huff and Deacon Tom Schumer reached out to me to ask me about becoming a deacon. They have been tremendous advisors throughout this process. I believe that a lot of prayer and the Holy Spirit led me to this place in life.

What are some highlights from the formation process?

The formation process was fantastic and challenging, both academically and spiritually. I believe I have come a long way since the beginning. The process was challenging in a good way, and I enjoyed the study. My relationship with the Lord has increased through the process. It was a joy to be around the theologians.

What are you looking forward to the most as a deacon?

I am looking forward to serving both the community and the diocese. I will let the Lord determine what is next for me.

What ministries are of interest to you?

I am active in the home ministry work through my parish, St. Vincent de Paul, Cape Girardeau. I am a nurse. Since 1990, my ministry is, and has been, in

CONTINUED next page...



▲ **BOOK OF THE GOSPELS**—Bishop Edward M. Rice placed the Book of the Gospels in the hands of Deacon Tony Peters June 10 in St. Mary Cathedral, Cape Girardeau. (Photo by Bruce Stidham/The Mirror)

Reneé Peters

What are your memories of the ordination?

It was a little surreal! To see what Tony had worked on come to fruition. It was somber to see him face down (prostrate on floor): I remember thanking God for his many blessings. In November, we had witnessed our daughter’s marriage and then to see my husband saying “I do” seemed a full-circle experience. I remember thinking what a wonderful High Mass Bishop Rice celebrated. To see all the priests and brother deacons offer the sign of peace and to acknowledge Tony was wonderful. To just be present to witness and see so many holy and religious men together celebrating and acknowledging Tony and Kevin (Henderson) was a tremendous gift and blessing.

What are your thoughts about your new role as a wife of a deacon, providing support and integrating the changes that may affect your marriage and family life?

I always knew there was something special about Tony. It doesn’t surprise me this is the path he has discerned and chosen. I am a Catholic school teacher at Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau. I love my faith, teaching, and working with youth. I live my faith by example. I believe this experience will transfer to my life as the wife of a deacon. I support him 100%. I am so proud of him.

How did you prepare for this new family vocation?

I try to always be a good role model as a mother and wife. It is important to share that we are happily married and can still have this role within the Church. I hope to inspire other young people as we serve. I am looking forward to it. Our entire family is so proud of him.

What are you looking forward to most as your husband becomes a deacon?

He has pursued this calling, and is now ordained: I am so excited for him. It is a new dynamic in our life. I look forward to getting to know the priests in our diocese and to be able to support them in this new role is a blessing. In my heart, I know his ordination to the permanent diaconate is right for him.

What parish or other Church activities are you involved in?

I currently serve as an Eucharistic minister and Catholic high school teacher, including additional activities for the school.

What ministries are of interest to you?

My ministry is youth, specifically my ministry in my job at Notre Dame High School. My role as teacher doesn’t stop at the end of the school day. It continues beyond school hours, through support of outside activities and sporting events. (I coached for the high school for 17 years.) I anticipate I will continue to teach and support this ministry for several more years. ©TM

ORDINATION // Continued from page 9



RITE OF ORDINATION OF A DEACON

The Sacrament of Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles, continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time. This is a sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees: episcopate (bishop), presbyterate (priest), and diaconate (deacon).

The sacrament is conferred after the Liturgy of the Word, and in this case is called, "The Rite of Ordination of a Deacon," which includes various parts before the celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>Call & Presentation</i> | <i>Laying on of Hands & Prayer of Ordination</i> |
| <i>Election by the Bishop & Consent of the People</i> | <i>Investiture with Stole and Dalmatic</i> |
| <i>Homily</i> | <i>Handing On of the Book of the Gospels, and The Greeting of Peace</i> |
| <i>Promise of the Elect</i> | |
| <i>Invitation to Prayer</i> | |
| <i>Litany of Supplication</i> | |

healthcare: it is my "sweet spot," but I am open to where the Lord needs me. Deacon Steve (Stephen) Pieper, Archdiocese of St. Louis, a cardiologist, and mentor, offered me some great advice as he faced the same question I had pondered, "Can I work and do this?" He shared his thoughts and helped me realize that the Lord has called me where I am now. I can minister where I am, and the Lord will guide me where he needs me. I will continue to work and minister in the environment I am in; the Lord called me and placed me where I am. The Holy Spirit has been involved in the entire process and will continue to guide me.

These days of waning church attendance, people wary of Institutions and the Church particularly, what relevance does the Church still have?

The Eucharist! It is very timely that the Eucharistic Revival is going on in the Church. It is a wonderful gift to have. Integrating the importance and meaning of the Eucharist in homilies is important.

What will your role be in moving the diocese from Maintenance to Mission: 'Growing in Holiness, Forming

Intentional Disciples, and Being Sent to Witness'?

I am called to serve; I plan to serve as a deacon and all it entails. I serve on the discipleship committee in my parish. We continue to focus on and plan events to increase discipleship and growing in holiness. Focus areas include various parish events, some related to the Eucharistic Revival, also small groups, Cursillo, and outreach to the community.

Family – names of wife, children, parents, grandchildren?

I am married to my wonderful wife, Renee, and together we have two adult children, Michael Peters and Lindsey (Wade) Stauss. My parents are Bob (Robert) and Katie (deceased) Peters.

Education

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, Saint Meinrad, IN
Permanent Deacon Formation, 2019-2023; Currently pursuing Master of Arts in Theology

University of Saint Francis - Solutions Resource Center, Joliet, IL
Certificate in Franciscan Studies Program, 2012-2013

Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing, Peoria, IL
Bachelor of Science in Nursing, 1995-1997 Currently licensed as a nurse in Missouri and Illinois.

Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL
Bachelor of Science in Non-Teaching Physical Education/Fitness, 1987-1990

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota/ Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Winona, MN
Studied Human Physiology/Theology/Seminary studies and religious formation at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, 1985-1987

Thank you

I would like to thank the following for their support, feedback, and prayers: Fr. Charlie Poe, Fr. David Hulshof, Fr. Rick Jones, and all the priests of the diocese. Also, Deacon Mark Kiblinger, Deacon Rob Huff, and Deacon Tom Schumer. ©TM

ATTENTION: CATHOLIC MEN
 You are invited to the Southeast Missouri...

CATHOLIC MAN NIGHT
Men Meeting Jesus

Wednesday, July 26 | 6:30-9:00 pm
 Sacred Heart, Poplar Bluff, MO

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To help plan for food, please RSVP to SEMOCatholicManNight@gmail.com 'SEMO Catholic Man Night' on FB or text to 573-275-5214

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We need TWO individuals (21 years or older) each night of Camp Re-NEW-All in Conway, MO as the night watch crew. PLEASE HELP!

Hours: 10PM to 7AM

Week 1 Nights: July 10, 11, 12, 13
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Thank you!

2023 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL for Church Funding Ministries

8th Grade graduation held in Sikeston



HIGH SCHOOL BOUND—Eighth grade graduation and the end-of-the-year awards ceremony was held on May 23 after the 8:15 Mass in St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston, for grades one-eight. Pictured are Jennifer Barnes; Principal, Barbara Tomaszewski; graduates: Davalyn Williams, Jackson Garner, Will Ferguson, and Beth Bollinger, and Pastor, Fr. Colby Elbert. Best wishes to the graduates as they prepare for high school in the fall. (The Mirror)

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH
Picnic
in New Hamburg, MO

Friday, July 14, 2023 5:00 - 11:30 pm
Saturday, July 15, 2023 3:00 - 11:30 pm

FRIDAY SCHEDULE:
Little Mr. & Mrs. New Hamburg Contest, 7:30 pm
Open to St. Lawrence Parish members or grandchildren of a St. Lawrence parishoner only. Children ages 3-5 years old. Registration at 6:30 pm on the picnic grounds.
Corn Hole Tournament, 6:30 pm
Bring your own partner, \$20/person.

SATURDAY SCHEDULE:
Horseshoe Tournament, 1:00 pm
Smorgasbord Dinner, 3:00-6:00 pm
At the St. Lawrence Parish Center, featuring fried chicken, dumplings, potatoes, green beans, slaw, dessert & drink.
Corn Hole Tournament, 6:30 pm
On the basketball court, blind draw, \$10/person.
Turtle Races (Bring your own Turtle), 6:00 pm
Kid's Tractor Pull, 7:00 pm
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www.dioscg.org/wp-content/uploads/How-to-Register-for-a-VIRTUS-withOnline-Option.pdf

Both in-person and online training sessions are for adults only.

Before engaging in activities involving minors and/or vulnerable adults, new volunteers or employees are required to complete the VIRTUS *Protecting God's Children* training for adults, submit a current Background Disclosure and Authorization Form, and read, sign and submit the annual Code of Conduct, which are available on the VIRTUS Website and the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau Child and Youth Protection Webpage: www.dioscg.org/child-youth-protection/

For more information, please contact the Office of Child and Youth Protection, childandyouthprotection@dioscg.org; or Bill Holtmeyer, billholtmeyer@dioscg.org; or Shelly Ferry, sferry@dioscg.org, (417) 866-0841.



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