



El Diácono



October 2025

A Newsletter for the Deacons of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe

Issue 51E

Grateful
hearts, joyful
praise

**O give thanks
unto the LORD,
for he is good:
for his mercy
endureth for ever.**

Psalm 107:1, KJV



2025 Deacon Community Retreat



Deacon David
Little

The 2025 Deacon Community Retreat was held on September 26-28 at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Albuquerque. Over 220 deacons and their wives were in attendance to hear the theme of Hope—Esperanza.

Archbishop Wester graced us with words of wisdom on Friday evening as we honored those of our community who have passed. The main presenters were from our own deacon community: Deacon Chuck Navarrete (Our Lady of Fatima); Deacon Dave Little (currently residing in the Diocese of Dallas); Deacon Richard Roybal (St. Anthony, Pecos) and three newly ordained deacons—Buck Sanchez (Nativity, ABQ), Arthur Trujillo (OLOG, Peralta) and Francisco Rodriguez, Sacred Heart, Clovis).

Highlighting the retreat were options for spiritual growth. Evening Prayer and Mass both on Friday and Saturday, opportunities for reconciliation, an adoration chapel, the rosary, and inspiring words of wisdom from our speakers.



Deacon Richard Roybal



As the year begins to draw to a close and the temperatures drop as the ballons begin to gather and rise in Albuquerque, the work of our deacons seems to be more intense. OCIA, baptisms, hospital visits, helping families in need, visiting the homebound and they myriad of other "duties" we perform for some reason seem to multiply at this time of year.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to spend a weekend away in prayer with you this past weekend! I am grateful, too, for the way our community stepped forward to make our retreat such a beautiful and reflective experience. The retreat team worked hard and so many of you assisted them.

I am especially grateful for Deacons Doug Feery (St. John XXIII), Ernest (& Darlene) Chavez (Immaculate Conception, Las Vegas), and Donald (& Elaine) Yardman (OLOG, Pojoaque) for their leadership. Special thanks go to deacon candidate Benjamin Maes (St. Anne, ABQ) for putting together the wonderful choir to assist our prayer. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the hard work of Yolanda Lovato! But so many others contributed their time (and pick up trucks) for setting up and tearing down the facility.

Thanks, as well, to the staff of the Sheraton, to the parishes who contributed funds, to the priests who assisted with Mass and confessions, to those who financially contributed to this effort.

A collection was held at the Mass on Saturday to support the St. Stephen Fund and the newly formed Deaconate Formation Fund. Together, \$1,812.00 was raised.

The newly formed Deacon Council met at the retreat. There is at tremendous amount of positive energy in the council under the leadership of Dcn. John Cordova (SMDLP, Santa Fe), Dcn. Michael Illerbrun (Nativity, ABQ) and Dcn. Jeff Schaff (Thomas Aquinas, Rio Rancho). Please keep the council members in your prayers as they work to implement the ASF pastoral plan for the deacon community.

On a more personal note, I have been greatly humbled this year as I celebrate 25 years of ordination. I want to thank those who have supported me, especially my wife and family! It has truly been an honor to serve and I hope to continue, with the help of our Lord, for years to come.

Peace,

Deacon Keith Davis

Director, Office of Deacons and Deacon Formation, Chancellor

Deacon In-Service

Canon Law 2.0

Fr. Ron Walters, O.F.M.

And the Office of Tribunal Staff



Two Sessions!

Choose One or Both

Saturday, January 31, 9am to 3pm

Marriage Basics

Saturday, March 7, 9am to 3pm

Marriage Cases and Other Sacramental Issues

Casa Guadalupe Friary

1204 Stinson Rd. SW, Albuquerque

[CLICK HERE](#) to register online

Participation is limited, so register soon!



SPANISH CLASSES FOR DEACONS

- Where: St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, 5712 Paradise Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114
Parish Hall, Classroom 5
- When: Mondays—October 6 & 20, November 3 & 17
6:45-8:15pm
- Who: Deacons, Deacon spouses, Deacon Candidates/Aspirants
- Contact: Guadalupe Cain: guadalupevcain@gmail.com or call the parish office 505-898-0826

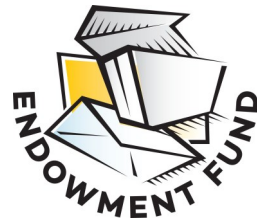
This class is to help deacons
in their ability to pronounce and proclaim in Spanish.





Deacon Formation

If you know of a man who you think would make a good deacon, feel free to discuss this with him and have him contact the Deacon Office. Better yet, he can fill out an information form at this link: <https://form.jotform.com/kdavis5430/>



This new endowment through the Catholic Foundation, will support our deacon formation program. Your generosity will help to support this important work and enable the formation team to provide better formation. You can donate online by [CLICKING HERE.](#)

Upcoming Formation Schedule

October 17-18	Introduction to Philosophy (2028 Cohort): Fr. Peter Muller, O.Praem. St. John XXIII
October 24-25	Survey of Catholic Spirituality (2030 Cohort): Fr. Chris Hallada Sandia Room, Catholic Pastoral Center
November 7-8	Theology of the Diaconate: Dcn. Keith Davis, Ed.D. St. John XXIII
November 14-15	Spiritual Direction in the Life of a Deacon: Pat McIntire, MTS Sandia Room, Catholic Pastoral Center
December 5-6	Advent Retreat: Fr. Chris Hallada St. Anne Parish, Albuquerque
January 9-10	Personal Prayer in the Life of a Deacon: Fr. Chris Hallada St. John XXIII
January 24	Perspectives on Family and Marriage: Formation Board Location TBD

2028 Cohort

2030 Cohort

Both Cohorts



Welcome to our New Deacon Candidates

David Anderson (Mary) Estancia Valley, Moriarty
 Art Brito (Sharon) Annunciation, Albuquerque
 Robert Claspell (Anne Marie) Annunciation, Albuquerque
 Concepcion Duran (Susana) San Juan Mission, Meadowlake
 Dominico Encinias (Darlene), St. Joseph, Albuquerque
 Jerome Garcia (Elizabeth), San Clemente, Los Lunas
 Antonio Gonzales (Nicole), Holy Rosary, Albuquerque
 Greg Joyner (Gina), Fatima, Albuquerque
 James Kuropatwinski (Shelly), Immaculate Heart, Los Alamos
 Sean Little (Tammi), Sacred Heart, Clovis
 John Lucero (Margarita), St. Jude, Albuquerque
 Benjamin Maes (Marcia), St. Anne, Albuquerque
 Fernando Mondala (Leninisa), St. Jude, Albuquerque
 William Salazar (Priscilla), Our Lady of Guadalupe, Clovis
 Alvin Santos (Maria), San Martin, Albuquerque
 Joaquin Sisneros (Rachel), San Clemente, Los Lunas



Admission to Candidacy on Sept 17

and Aspirants

Brandon Arritt (LeNita), Holy Child, Tijeras
 Michael DeSanctis (Christy), St. Francis Basilica, Santa Fe
 John Gold (Melissa), Incarnation, Rio Rancho
 Juan Gonzales (Raelene), Immaculate Conception, Las Vegas
 Daniel Kelly (Tyler), Our Lady of Sorrows, Las Vegas
 Steven Knight (Meredith), San Juan Bautista, Tewa Mission
 Adrian Leyva (Shirley), Our Lady of Guadalupe, Albuquerque
 Leonard Manzanares (Rachel), San Juan Bautista, Tewa Mission
 Arthur Martinez (Andrea), Nativity of the BVM, Albuquerque
 Dominic McCarthy (Ariel), Nuestra Señora de Los Remedios, Galisteo
 Kenneth Romp (Antonina), St. John, Santa Fe
 Richard Rosley (Lorena), Prince of Peace, Albuquerque
 Patrick Torres, Immaculate Conception, Las Vegas
 Gustavo Valenzuela (Brenda), San Juan Mission, Meadowlake



Rebuild My Church Update

The Pastoral Plan that is a result of the Rebuild My Church Initiative, was promulgated at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe on Wednesday, October 1. This followed the acceptance of plans from each of the eight deaneries as well as a plan from the Catholic Pastoral Center (the 9th deanery). Each of the leaders from each deanery were also awarded the St. Francis Medal.

This plan is dynamic and the primary focus is implementation. Action plans are currently being developed.

Deacons play a critical role in the success of this initiative. As agents of the Archbishop our role is to promote his agenda and to assist parishes and deaneries in their efforts to rebuild our church. This is most critical as we continue to heal from bankruptcy and the effects that the covid pandemic had on our parishes and missions.

Check the ASF website for the complete text of the plan and for critical updates.



The Deacon Office is looking for help in ensuring that the materials from the office are translated into Spanish effectively. If you are bilingual and have an hour or two per month to review newsletters and other published materials produced by the Deacon Office, please contact Dcn. Keith at the Deacon Office.



ST. NORBERT

C O L L E G E

Master of Theological Studies

St. Norbert College, in cooperation with the Ecumenical Institute for Ministry, offers a professional degree for pastoral ministry for students in New Mexico and neighboring states. The MTS degree grounds students in the Christian tradition as a base from which to address the changing realities of parishes and congregations. Classes are offered (online) Friday evenings and Saturdays for maximum flexibility.

FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE

You may be eligible for greatly reduced tuition!

Here are a few members of the deacon community who have taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity:

- ♦ Dcn. Michael Wesley
- ♦ Dcn. Joe Silva
- ♦ Toni Silva
- ♦ Dcn. Andy Carrillo
- ♦ Dcn. Arthur Trujillo
- ♦ Dcn. Rudy Rael
- ♦ Antonio Gonzales (Dcn. Candidate)
- ♦ Deana Hernandez (wife of Dcn. Lou)
- ♦ Dcn. Alex Valdez
- ♦ Pat McIntire (Instructor)
- ♦ Joseph Sandoval (Instructor)
- ♦ Mary Reinhardt (Instructor)
- ♦ Bernadette Bach (Formation Board)
- ♦ Dcn. Harold Pullings
- ♦ Dcn. Frank Lucero

**For more information on the St.
Norbert MTS Program**

[CLICK HERE.](#)



Welcome Nuestra Señora de la Paz,
brought by La Cofradía

SUNDAY
Oct 5, 2025
2.00PM-3:30 PM

Join Archbishop John C. Wester in
Praying for Our Nation, and the
Consecration of the Archdiocese of
Santa Fe to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary at
the Rosary Rally!

Rosaries, Chairs, Water,
Bathrooms, Security,
Medical Assistance will
be provided.



Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament

QUESTIONS?

Deacon Rivera
+505-410-9707
Deacon Sena
+505-228-4936

ROSARY MAKER?

Call
Nicole Turietta
+505-220-1159



**Albuquerque
Civic Plaza**

Located at 3rd & Marquette,
in the "Al Hurricane Pavilion"



Bienvenida Nuestra Señora de la Paz,
traída por La Cofradía

Domingo
Oct 5, 2025
2.00PM-3:30 PM

¡Únase al Arzobispo John C. Wester en
oración por nuestra nación y la
consagración de la Arquidiócesis de
Santa Fe al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús
y al Inmaculado Corazón de María en
el Rally del Rosario!

Se brindarán Rosarios,
Sillas, Agua, Baños,
Seguridad, Asistencia
Médica.



Adoración del Santísimo
Sacramento

¿PREGUNTAS?

Diacono Rivera
+505-410-9707
Diacono Sena
+505-228-4936

¿FABRICADOR DE ROSARIOS?

Call
Nicole Turietta
+505-220-1159

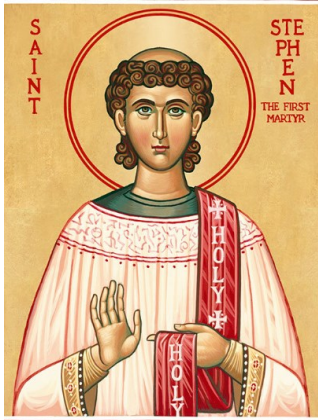


**La Plaza Cívica
de Albuquerque**

Ubicado en 3rd y Marquette,
en el "Al Hurricane Pavilion"



St. Stephen Fund



This fund is established according to the Archdioceses of Santa Fe Deacon Council by-laws and constitution. It is an approved fund for the designated purpose of giving financial assistance to Permanent Deacons and/or their wives. The St. Stephen Fund is intended to be temporary assistance during a time of crisis or when grave financial need has been identified. Assistance from the fund is intended to be a one-time gift, but under certain circumstances the St Stephen Fund Committee may decide to help on more than one occasion. The Permanent Deacon or widow requesting assistance must complete a Request for [ASSISTANCE FORM](#) and send to the St Stephen Fund Committee for review and then forward to the Office of the Director of Deacons for action.

Direct Contributions

You can now make direct contributions to the St Stephen's Fund through the link below.

<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=Twwtgk>

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.



VIRTUS[®]Online

Just a reminder that all deacons must remain in compliance with the Archdiocesan Call to Protect protocols, including keeping current (every five years) with your VIRTUS training. If you are not certain if you are in compliance, you can look it up at the link below, or contact Yolanda at the Deacon Office.

[English Virtus Link](#)

[Spanish Virtus Link](#)

The Office of Deacons would like to thank you for your ministry to the Church, The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and to the many services provided to the people of God and the entire community. May God Bless you abundantly!



Upcoming Archdiocesan Liturgical Events and Feast Days

October 1:	St. Francis of Assisi Awards and Promulgation of the Rebuild My Church Pastoral Plan. Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe, 5p.m.
October 24:	Adult Confirmation, St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Albuquerque—6:30pm
October 25:	Adult Confirmation, Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe—12p.m.
November 1:	Solemnity of All Saints (NOT a holy day of obligation)
December 8:	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (holy day of obligation)
December 25:	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Roster of Representatives to the Deacon Council

Chair	Dcn. John Cordova (SMDLP, Santa Fe)
Co-chair	Dcn. Michale Illerbrun (Nativity, Albuquerque)
Secretary	Dcn. Jeff Schaff (St. Thomas Aquinas, Rio Rancho)
Santa Fe Deanery	Dcn. Michael Salazar (San Isidro, Santa Fe)
Albuquerque A Deanery	Dcn. Ed Leyba (St. Thomas Aquinas, Rio Rancho)
Albuquerque B Deanery	Dcn. Lou Hernandez (St. Charles Borromeo, ABQ)
Albuquerque C Deanery	Dcn. Leon Jones (Ascension, ABQ)
Northwest Deanery	Dcn. Alex Valdez (Sacred Heart, Espanola)
Northeast Deanery	Dcn. Chris Torres (Immaculate Conception, Las Vegas)
Southwest Deanery	Dcn. Chris Martinez (Immaculate Conception, Tome)
Southeast Deanery	Dcn. Paul Benoit (St. Helen, Portales)
Newly Ordained Rep	Dcn. Jerry Griego, (San Miguel, Socorro)
Senior Deacon Rep	Vacant
Deacon Wives Rep	Melissa Cole (Nativity, ABQ)
Deacon Wives Rep	Esther Cordova (SMDLP, SF)
Deacon Wives Rep	Vacant



Ex-Officio

Archbishop John Wester
Deacon Keith Davis
Kathy O'Neill (Deacon Widows Rep)

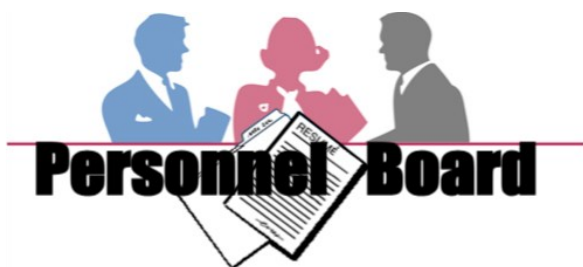


Stephen Rangel

Deacon Steve Sumiyama Rangel, age 68, was called to eternal rest on September 3, 2025, following the sudden onset of aggressive pancreatic cancer. He passed peacefully at home in the presence of his devoted family.

He was born January 5, 1957 and ordained in 2003.

October 1	Tiburcio Chavez (2012)	November 29	Sandy Hall (2014)
October 2	Michael Siegal (2013)	November 29	Ben Vigil (2016)
October 4	Lorenzo Castillo (2017)	November 29	Felix Barela (2018)
October 14	Kenneth Hill (2013)	December 3	Macedon Montoya (2004)
October 23	Paul G. Maestas (2001)	December 4	Lynn Bower (1995)
October 25	Lloyd Martinez (2015)	December 4	Tony Porto (2011)
October 26	Juan G. Martinez (2020)	December 4	John Daniel Valdez (2022)
October 28	Gerald Chavez (2015)	December 14	Alfonso Montoya (1999)
October 29	Charles V. Johnson (2020)	December 15	Robert Aragon (2017)
November 9	Hector Aguirre (2016)	December 18	Juan Miguel Rodriguez (2021)
November 12	Oscar Braune (1995)	December 19	Eluid David Esquibel (1992)
November 13	Jerry Langner (2011)	December 22	Hugh Hackett (2010)
November 14	John Russo (2022)	December 24	Charles Bates (1999)
November 14	Luis Casaus (2023)	December 27	Andrew Lopez (2021)
November 20	Pat Santistevan (2004)	December 29	Manuel A. Gallegos (2013)
November 21	James Silva, Jr. (1990)	December 31	Sotero Montoya (1999)
November 25	Chester S. Kazek (2006)		



The Deacon Personnel Board assists deacons looking for a change in their assignment as well as helping parishes that need a deacon. If you are looking to change assignments, please contact the Deacon Office to be placed on the agenda. Your request must be in writing (an email will suffice).

If your parish is in need of another deacon, your pastor must request this in writing. The Personnel Board also can help with retirements and leaves of absence.

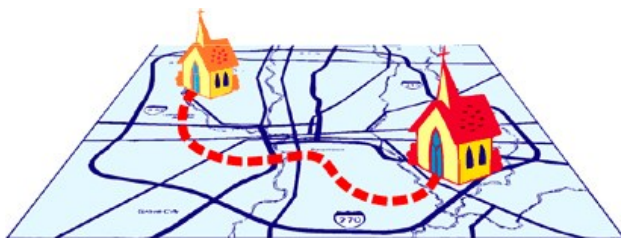
Parishes Requesting a Deacon

The following parishes have requested a deacon. If you are interested in transferring, please contact the deacon office in writing (email is fine).

- ♦ St. Francis Xavier (ABQ) (Spanish speaking)
- ♦ Queen of Heaven (ABQ)
- ♦ Sangre de Cristo (ABQ)

Transfer procedures:

If you would like to transfer from your current assignment, please contact the Office of Deacons. Requests must be submitted in writing before they can be acted on. Once the office has received your request, and a new assignment location has been agreed to, both your current pastor and the pastor of the parish of your new assignment will also be required to submit letters. Once this is accomplished, the Archbishop will make the final decision and issue a letter with the change of assignment.



Parish Transfers



Black Tie &
BLUE JEANS GALA

Sheraton Uptown Albuquerque
2600 Louisiana Blvd NE
Friday, January 23, 2026

Reception 5:30pm - Silent Auction - Dinner/Dance 6:30 pm

CELEBRATING THE STARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Join us in honoring some of the remarkable
individuals who have made a lasting difference in our
Catholic schools.

Together, we can make a difference and strengthen
the promise of Catholic education.

INDIVIDUAL TICKET—\$150.00

Table of 10—\$1,500.00

Visit the Catholic Schools website:

<https://www.asfcatholicschools.org/2025-archbishops-school-fund-dinner>

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GENEROUS DONATIONS, YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION WILL MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON OUR STUDENTS AND THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THEY REPRESENT.



Solemnities, Feasts and Memorials October through December

October

- 1 St. Therese of the Child Jesus (Virgin & Doctor)
- 2 Holy Guardian Angels
- 4 St. Francis of Assisi
- 6 St. Bruno (Priest)
- 6 Bl. Marie Rose Durocher (Virgin)
- 7 Our Lady of the Rosary
- 9 St. Denis (Bishop) and Companions
- 9 St. John Leonardi (Priest)
- 11 St. John XXIII (Pope)
- 14 St. Callistus I (Pope & Martyr)
- 15 St. Teresa of Jesus (Virgin & Doctor)
- 16 St. Hedwig (Religious)
- 16 St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (Virgin)
- 17 St. Ignatius of Antioch (Bishop & Martyr)
- 18 St. Luke (Evangelist)
- 20 St. Paul of the Cross (Priest)
- 22 St. John Paul II (Pope)
- 23 St. John Capistrano (Priest)
- 24 St. Anthony Mary Claret (Bishop)
- 28 Sts. Simon and Jude (Apostles)

November

- 1 Solemnity of All Saints
- 2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
- 3 St. Martin de Porres (Religious)
- 4 St. Charles Borromeo (Bishop)
- 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
- 10 St. Leo the Great (Pope & Doctor)
- 11 St. Martin of Tours (Bishop)
- 12 St. Josaphat (Bishop & Martyr)
- 13 St. Francis Xavier Cabrini (Virgin)
- 15 St. Albert the Great (Bishop & Doctor)
- 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- 18 Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul (Apostles)
- 21 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 22 St. Cecilia (Virgin & Martyr)



- 23 Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe
- 24 St. Andrew Dũng-Lac, (Priest) and Companions, (Martyrs)
- 25 St. Catherine of Alexandria (Virgin & Martyr)
- 27 Thanksgiving Day

December

- 3 St. Francis Xavier (Priest)
- 4 St. John Damascene (Priest & Doctor)
- 6 St. Nicholas (Bishop)
- 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9 St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
- 10 Our Lady of Loreto
- 11 St. Damasus I (Pope)
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 13 St. Lucy (Virgin & Martyr)
- 23 St. John Kanty (Priest)
- 25 Nativity of the Lord
- 26 St. Stephen (Martyr)
- 27 St. John (Apostle & Evangelist)
- 28 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- 29 St. Thomas Becket
- 31 St. Sylvester I (Pope)



Just for Fun!



Deacons: Update your contact information. If your personal contact information has changed, please inform the Deacon Office. This helps facilitate communication between you, the Deacon Community and the Archdiocese. Contact Yolanda Lovato at 505-831-8246 or by email at ylovato@asfnm.org

NOTE

Keep in mind if there is any information you would like to include in the *El Diácono* Newsletter that would be of interest to the Deacon Community, i.e., special events, accomplishments, ministry work, etc., please inform the Deacon Office and we will be happy to announce it. With the publication of this newsletter, we will be especially looking for events in the January through March 2026 time frame with a submission deadline of December 5, 2025 to the Director of the Office of Deacons.

**Advertising Spaces available:
Contact the Diaconate Office if
you would like to Advertise
your business here.**

**Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of the Diaconate
4000 St. Joseph Place, NW
Albuquerque, N.M. 87120**