



MINISTRIES IN ACTION

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG | CATHOLIC MINISTRY *Appeal*



THE DIACONATE: *Teaching our people*

“ What has really touched my heart, what has really touched me spiritually, are the sacraments of Baptism and Marriage.

Baptism has given me the opportunity to **teach** and show parents and God parents why Baptism is important. And when we go through the preparation sessions and I invite the God parents to be there, you see these “A-ha!” moments and hear so many statements like “*I didn’t know.*”

With Marriage, in addition to preparation you also have those that have not been married in the Catholic Church, people asking you to bless their existing marriage. I get to have very long discussions with them and **teach** them this part of the Catholic faith. And again, all of a sudden you see these “A-ha!” moments, and they say, “Why did I wait so long to receive this blessing, this sacrament – why did it take me so long?”

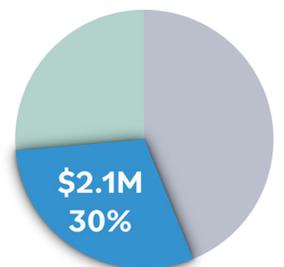
These moments are really gratifying because through them I can see these souls are going in the right direction. They fill my heart and I say, “Oh Lord, thank you for giving me the opportunity to help these people understand your love for them.” ”

- Deacon Jose Cruz
St. Joan of Arc Parish, Spring Hill

115 
active Deacons committed to
1,725 hours
of continuing formation
while providing **85K**
hours of ministry

EMBRACING GOD’S CALL *to* SERVE

The **Diaconate Program & Formation** is one of six diocesan ministries that embrace God’s call to serve, and actively carry out His mission and ministry with love, gratitude and concern for others while encouraging all to act. Through the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*, this group of ministries will receive **\$2.1 million** of the total **\$7.1 million** appeal goal to carry out their good works.



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE
about these ministries!**



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