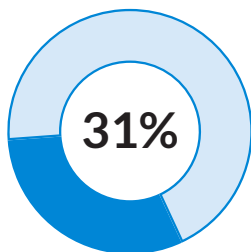




EIGHT MEN ORDAINED AS PERMANENT DEACONS

The ***Diaconate Program & Formation Ministry*** 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. These ministries encourage all to act, expressing God's saving love within us. Through the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*, this group will receive \$2.7 million, or 31%, of the total \$9 million appeal goal to carry out their good works.



More than 100 Deacons serve throughout our diocese at parishes as well as in larger ministries such as Tampa and Pinellas Hope, and St. Vincent de Paul, and in our communities at hospitals, fire departments, and police and sheriff departments. Wherever a need is identified by Bishop Parkes, our deacons step in to assist.

Our Diaconate Office offers ongoing guidance to them in their ministry and continuing formation opportunities. In addition, they also plan and supervise the diaconate formation program, bringing new men into this vital ministry.

This past October, we celebrated the Ordination of eight men to the Permanent Diaconate – one of the largest groups to date! “I think the bigger group was beneficial,” said Deacon Joseph Grimaudo,



newly Ordained and now serving at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Land O'Lakes. “We helped each other all through out in different ways, whether it was academic or struggling with something in life. We have really formed great friendships that will continue.”

The multi-year formation process is vigorous and includes graduate level coursework. As many candidates are married with children or grandchildren, the commitment of time can be daunting. However, as Deacon Shawn Ryan now serving at St. Stephen Parish in Valrico shared, it was a very rewarding experience. “Its impact on my life, my marriage, my relationship with my daughter... we've grown together personally, spiritually, in our lives, in the parish.”

Diaconate formation is funded in part

through donations to the Catholic Ministry Appeal. “I'd like to thank everyone who has and will continue to support the Catholic Ministry Appeal,” shared Deacon Grimaudo. “The Diaconate is very important to our Diocese, to our Church. Thank you so much for helping us on this journey.”

“We have really formed great friendships that will continue.”



DEACON JOSEPH GRIMAUDO

ORDAINED OCT. 16, 2023

VISIT WWW.CATHOLICMINISTRYAPPEAL.ORG TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MINISTRIES SUPPORTED THROUGH THE APPEAL.