

A Pastor's Perspective

October 18, 2020 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Who are deacons? We are blessed at St. Paul the Apostle Parish to have two deacons who serve our community with pastoral zeal and personal generosity: Deacon Timothy Dougherty and Deacon Michael Whalen. To be a deacon means to belong to an order of men (through sacramental ordination) who have placed their lives at the service of the church. Deacons are faithful Catholic men who are committed to the vocation of marriage (usually, but one may be single), but who also answer the call to exercise the ministries of charity (service to the poor), Word (preaching and teaching), and altar (serving at Mass and celebrating the sacraments of Baptism and Christian Marriage). This ministry is first mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (6:1-6) and then appears in the writing of St. Paul.

Being a permanent (lifelong) deacon is separate yet unique from priesthood in the life of the Church. The Diocese of Portland is now accepting applications from men who believe they are being called by God to serve the Church in a similar manner. If you are a faithful, practicing Catholic man who has been involved in the work of the Church and through your prayer life have sensed that perhaps the Lord Jesus is calling you to deepen your commitment of service and ministry, you may want to discern further the call to the diaconate/to be a deacon. To learn more about the qualifications to be a deacon, or if you know someone who should consider this call, please review the information at this link: <https://portlanddiocese.org/sites/default/files/files/DeaconQualifications.pdf>. To speak with a diocesan representative about the diaconate, please contact Deacon Peter Bernier, Diocesan Director of Ministerial Services and the Diaconate by calling (207) 773-6471 or by emailing at Peter.Bernier@portlanddiocese.org.

What is World Mission Sunday (October 17-18)? This weekend, usually the third Sunday in October, is set aside by the universal church as a graced opportunity to express our support for those who live and minister on the margins, especially in countries that are economically disadvantaged and struggling. The Catholic Church serves these areas through "missionaries" (lay and religious men and women) who have devoted their lives and labor to serving the poorest of the poor in the vineyard of the Lord. Yvonne Chace, Diocesan Director for Missions reminds us that we are all called to be missionaries:

"World Mission Sunday ... is a day for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. This year, Pope Francis has asked us to respond to our baptismal call to mission by saying, 'Here I am, Send Me.'" For more information, please see the diocesan website at <https://portlanddiocese.org/world-mission-sunday>.

This year, World Mission Sunday is more important than ever. As noted in an earlier column, missionaries were prevented from making their annual summer visit to our parish in the hope of making a personal appeal for your support of their religious community's missionary efforts. As a result, their usual appeal suffered significantly. Therefore, this weekend's second collection is another opportunity to be in solidarity with all of our brothers and sisters around the world by offering our prayers and sharing our resources. Donations can be made by using the specially designated offertory envelope or by logging onto <https://stpaulbangor.weshareonline.org/>.

Thank you for who you are and all you do as our family of faith known as St. Paul the Apostle Parish!

Peace and blessings,
Msgr. Andrew