

# DIACONAL MINISTRIES

## RESOURCE MANUAL



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
**DENVER**

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# Letter from the Archbishop

My Dear Brothers in Christ,

The billions of dollars that the government and secular entities pour into well-meaning efforts to help the poor and suffering are laudable, but we must recognize that we have something they don't: the answer to the deepest longing of the human heart. Jesus Christ can do what only God can do – he heals hearts, bodies, and minds from the effects of sin, neglect, abuse, and indifference.

God creates opportunities to provide His love and grace to everyone but especially to those in need. His love is healing. He builds up the soul and brings joy to those who were once alienated and are now part of the community of the faithful—his family. We as Catholic clergy have a duty to serve as conduits of the love and grace of Jesus Christ as we conduct our ministries. It is our responsibility as pastors and shepherds--as Deacons, Priests, and Bishops--to walk with the faithful, and the lost, and to help them encounter Christ as they journey through the rough waters of the world.

This Ministry Resource Manual provides important tools for bringing hearts to God with abundant joy. Indeed, our ministries should be an avenue for an encounter with the Eucharistic Lord. Opening the hearts of those who long for meaning and yearn for a purpose, can rely on the Eucharist helps lighten the load of the burdens many people carry as they experience suffering. In some cases, these charitable experiences allow the opportunity for individuals to have their first experience with the Living God, providing access to life-changing events—to a Eucharistic Revival built on Charity!

Yet, these charitable ministries are only as good as the holy and prayerful people who step up to serve others. The Ministry Resource Manual is nothing but words unless the people behind these efforts are filled with a living and vibrant passion for bringing Christ to the world. It is in those moments of revelation when we make the Church a place where others want to participate and minister to those who seek the healing power of God. Unlike other outside organizations, these charitable ministries are inspired by the Holy Spirit, to bring hope to those who are stuck in a victim mentality. They bring delight because they enable a real encounter with Jesus. That's the difference between secular solutions and Church solutions. It is up to you to be a vessel that communicates Christ's charity to others.

Thank you for your hard work on these programs and may the Lord bless you as he continues to build his kingdom through you.

Fraternally yours in Christ,



*Most Rev. Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.  
Archbishop of Denver*





# Introduction to Diaconal Ministries

The Archdiocese of Denver Diaconate Community is made up of dedicated ordained men who not only serve their parishes but their brother deacons and the many lost individuals in the Archdiocese. This document is designed to consolidate the many ministries conducted and assisted by deacons under the leadership of the Archbishop.

The Archdiocesan Policy Manual or “Bluebook” provides a look into the many functions of a Deacon, as well as, some of the diaconal organizations that support their brother deacons in a leadership capacity. Among the primary diaconal avenues of service and support are the Deacon Council and the Personnel Board.



# The Pastoral Handbook

## Consultative Organization

The **Deacon Council** is made up of Regional and Associate Directors who meet quarterly to discuss the ministries and the lives of deacons in their regions. They provide education opportunities, information exchange, fraternal activities, and counsel. They represent the deacons in their region, providing status updates to the Director on the welfare and needs of their brother deacons as well as their families.

The **Personnel Board** meets monthly to oversee personnel issues and to advise the Director on assignments and recommendations for personnel action for the Archbishop to consider. They also look at any challenging situations and oversee the St. Lawrence Assistance Funding for Deacons.

More information can be found in the Policy Handbook Chapter 2, Part 5.

“

*They presented these men to the Apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*

ACTS 6:6

”



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## St. Lawrence Assistance Fund

The fund was started several years ago in order to assist deacons in need. In 2016, the name was changed to the **St. Lawrence Assistance Fund for Deacons** to help in the following areas:

- educational assistance to enhance their ministry
- start-up money for a new ministry
- assistance for a deacon with an emergency financial need

So far, the Fund has supported two new ministries, assisted a deacon in an educational pursuit, and assisted deacons with emergency financial need.

Donations made payable to the St. Lawrence Assistance Fund can be sent to St. Lawrence

Assistance Fund for Deacons C/O the Catholic Foundation of Northern Colorado, 6160 S Syracuse Way Suite 111, Greenwood Village, CO 80111 or to the Diaconate Office, Account #40250-500408-10032, 1300 S. Steele Street, Denver, CO 80210.

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# Seminary Formation Ministries

Seminary formation for men aspiring to become deacons is run through the St. John Vianney Seminary in the Saint Francis School of Theology for Deacons. The Formation Program includes two phases: pre-ordination and post-ordination.

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## Pre-Ordination Formation

After an invitation, the candidate studies and discerns for a minimum of four years. The first year is the Spirituality Year which includes study of the Catechism and Church history, beginning Philosophy and Pastoral Formation, developing a life of prayer and the universal call to holiness. Years 2-4 include classes in intellectual,

pastoral, and spiritual formation. The deacon directors recruit and screen men, administer the program and do ongoing evaluation of the men in formation. In addition to professors in the seminary, active and retired deacons instruct candidates in the different courses.

## Post-Ordination Formation

Newly ordained deacons are required to undergo five years of supervised ministry with a Deacon Mentor. A part of this ministry includes three years of formal formation training. Once a month during the academic year, newly ordained deacons receive certifications, practical training, prayer, and academics to help broaden their understanding of the ministry.

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# Specific Diaconal Ministries Within the Clergy

Additional support to deacons, outside the Policy Manual include Committees that design assistance tools to help deacons better serve their parishes and programs. These committees include the Master of Ceremony, Liturgical Assistance, Marriage Assistance Advisors, and Tribunal Support.

By their ordination, deacons are called to serve at the altar and to assist the Principal Celebrant in his liturgical capacity. This service also includes accomplishing the duties of the **Master of Ceremonies** or MC. Deacon MCs must be flexible with their time and be leaders within the Diaconal Community. They must be willing to conduct themselves with discipline and certainty so that the Mass is conducted with the reverence and majesty it deserves. Therefore, adequate training for MCs is critical and the ability to take constructive criticism is necessary.

To help emphasize the importance of the Deacon in the Mass, a **Liturgy Assistance Committee** was formed. A deacon from each region is the advisor for their region. These advisors are available to visit and consult with deacons relative to how an archdiocesan Mass is conducted. Each advisor has been specially trained on how to conduct a Mass with the Archbishop or Bishop.



As clergy, many deacons have first-hand experience of the pitfalls and graces that are exchanged in the Sacrament of Marriage. Deacons can provide unique and proven tools that can help engaged couples avoid struggles and failures that can result in a marriage that is not properly prepared. The **Marriage Assistance Committee** investigates and helps with Marriage Preparation and Sacramental Ceremonies. Deacon Advisors also provide information on critical areas to help tackle difficult subjects that are prominent in our society today. Upon request, deacons provide **Tribunal Support** and are asked to develop templates and manage canonical issues that are often very difficult for the Church and the individuals concerned. These processes include such things as clerical loss of faculties, or assisting individuals who have been laicized. These are often complex issues within the Church and it is important that the deacon who is assisting during these times is willing to work pastorally in these sensitive areas.

# Diaconate Ministries for the Benefit of the Ordained

## Emmaus Spirituality

As the disciples learned so much from their Savior by sharing their journey with him on the road to **Emmaus** and listening to his insights, so, too, do deacons call upon Jesus to guide them in time of spiritual and personal reflection. Allowing themselves to be vulnerable, they share their lives with each other. They journey together, humbly reflecting on struggles, insights, and revelations about personal faith encounters.

The encounter begins with adoration using *Lectio Divina* for prayer and reflection, then sharing the lectio experience and where God has been with them in ministry and family life,

and struggles with the same – their desert experiences. Deacons continue to share about areas of potential growth in life and ministry (“What have I learned about myself today and what can I work on this next month?”). They finish the session by soliciting prayer requests from each deacon until the next meeting. The session ends by breaking bread together.

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## Retired Clergy Assistance

Priests and deacons should receive respect and reverence in life and in death. Deacons are very active with helping priests and deacons with their health care and housing concerns. This includes visiting with the sick, helping them relocate, and planning clergy funeral liturgies. Periodic visits to ailing clerics and scheduling the sacraments are routine operations. Funeral liturgies are done with utmost care and in keeping with the desires of Church teachings. For clergy, it is very important to have documented funeral

plans, along with family information, to effectively carry out funeral desires and to help alleviate concerns should the cleric be in the hospital and incapacitated.

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## Prophet Elijah House Ministry

The Prophet Elijah House was built to allow retired priests to reside together in fellowship and provide spiritual growth during their later years. The deacon responsible for managing the house sees to the needs of the priests, works with scheduling maintenance contractors and ordering supplies. The deacon also assists the Carmelite nuns who provide a daily meal and house-keeping for the priests.

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## Parish Security Committee

The Parish Security Committee, comprised of deacons who are law enforcement officers and a legal expert, was formed to assist parishes with security needs. The Committee has created tools for parishes to use in addressing their security plans. The tools include a policy, an infographic, and a security checklist for the parishes to assess their current security measures along with recommendations to update them, if needed. The committee members are available to do onsite evaluations of parish security, medical and safety plans, if requested.

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## Ecumenical Taskforce on Terrorism

The FBI Denver Field Office, the Colorado U.S. Attorney's Office, along with local law enforcement partners, have partnered with church leaders and other stakeholders throughout Colorado to increase understanding and cooperation in law enforcement efforts to address hate crimes and terrorist threats. Colorado Courage stakeholders receive training, educate each other about identifying pre-attack activity, and exchange information about potential threats. Leads originated through Colorado Courage chapters are reviewed, and appropriate

investigative actions are taken with guidance and input from the U.S. Attorney's Office and the local District Attorney's Office. The deacon is a liaison when incidents occur at Archdiocesan parishes and properties and communicates to Archdiocesan leadership about possible threats.

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# Diaconal Ministries Around the Archdiocese

## St. Raphael Counseling

The goal of St. Raphael Counseling is to change the culture by bringing together the teachings of the Catholic Church and the very best in clinical care. Their mission is to help people find growth and fulfillment within their vocation in life. Together with a licensed therapist, clients can find healing in their life as well and come one step closer to the saint God is calling them to be.

The deacon works with his pastor to arrange for St. Raphael therapists to visit parishes and inform parishioners of the services offered by St. Raphael Counseling. The deacon continues to work with the therapist to

provide referrals for individuals and couples to St. Raphael Counseling.

Deacons call on St. Raphael Counseling and Mt. Tabor Counseling Center for many of their ministries including, the RISE Ministry and the In God We Trust Ministry, and other ministries where therapy can provide valuable healing.

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## Respect Life Ministries

The Respect Life Ministries are coordinated through Catholic Charities. Deacons help in a variety of ways to protect, defend, and promote the dignity of human life. Through the Respect Life operations deacons promote and participate in the two 40 Days for Life campaigns in the spring and fall and are asked to participate in the Mass and the rally during the annual Celebrate Life march in January.

The Deacon Committee also works in the parishes, schools and community presenting talks (in English and Spanish) on the topics of the dignity of life, marriage, gender ideology, conception, suffering, and religious liberty.

Deacons also promote Prayer in the Square at their parishes which often includes praying a rosary and chaplet outside of the church or in a public setting. The Respect Life Radio shows and podcasts are led by deacons from the community. These broadcasts speak about the tough moral topics of our modern age.

*Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person.*  
ST. JOHN PAUL II



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life

## Marisol Health

Marisol Health operates two medical centers on Colorado's Front Range that are fully equipped to help women make informed decisions about their reproductive health. They embrace individuals and families in need with life-affirming medical care and social services. The medical clinics are based on a unique continuum of care model that leverages existing resources within Catholic Charities, including shelter and housing services, family and children's services and counseling. Deacons provide monthly Adoration/Benediction at each location and have also been emailing reflections to the staff.



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## Marisol Homes

Marisol Homes provides safe and secure emergency and community-based housing for pregnant women and single women with children who are experiencing homelessness. They work with women and their families as they integrate back into the community by offering counseling, job training, workshops, and needed quality childcare services for their children up to 12 years old. They help the women to rebuild their lives by walking alongside them to secure housing

and placing them on a trajectory to stability.

Deacons involved in this ministry help to bring a compassionate male presence and visit with the women and families. They share a meal with the residents once a month. They also assist with the charity aspect and the acquisition of donations like hygiene kits.

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## R.I.S.E. Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking Assistance Ministry

R.I.S.E. is an apostolate of the Archdiocese dedicated to affirming and working to uphold the inherent human dignity of survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking while advocating for their healing through education, counseling partnerships, and training of church leadership for spiritual accompaniment. We accomplish this with prayer intercession and with loving service. With clinical assistance from faith-based counseling services, healing comes when victims of assault see who they are as a child of God. The deacons and volunteers are establishing a resource network for satisfying basic living needs of victims emerging from the trauma of an abusive environment, and a website to facilitate awareness and communication. They host training seminars to

educate the community on the warning signs of sexual abuse and human trafficking and provide awareness resources appropriate for middle school, high school, and college students. They also participate in the hands-on work of restoring dignity to victims through self-giving friendship, reflecting the loving care of Jesus to the injured and marginalized.

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## Gabriel House

Gabriel House is a network of 12 parishes that assist families throughout Northern Colorado. They are committed to providing much-needed supplies to mothers and families with young children. Gabriel House also helps new moms and their families in need of love, care, spiritual, material and emotional support. Gabriel House provides material supplies, such as diapers, wipes, formula, baby food and clothing. They also assist with referrals to find housing, employment, education, and parenting programs. Each mother is connected with an angel volunteer who becomes her advocate for both physical and spiritual needs, along with becoming a friend.

The deacon supports Gabriel House by reaching out to the parish community by asking for donations of the needed items, collecting them, and recruiting volunteers from the parish to assist at the house.

“

*I was naked, and you clothed me.*

Mt. 25:36

”

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## Rachel's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard works with parents who have suffered from an abortion procedure. In the light of God's mercy and love, participants are able to connect with others who have experienced the same.

This three-day Catholic weekend retreat is an extremely effective and efficient format for post-abortion healing. There are numerous advantages to doing grief work without distraction or interruption from one's job, family life and relationships, especially with the direction of a priest, counselor and lay facilitators.

The deacon assists with the promotion of the retreats by asking other deacons to encourage and endorse the retreats at their parish and by speaking to the pastor. Deacons help coordinate a visit by a Rachel's Vineyard representative to speak at the parishes. They have also assisted with the preparation and facilitation of the retreats, in a limited capacity.



**i** [www.rvcolorado.org](http://www.rvcolorado.org)

# Immigrant Ministries

## Migrant Worker Ministry

The farmers in Colorado have relied on migrant farm workers for the last 100 years. For many years migrants would live in migrant camps during growing/harvesting season, but due to the housing at the camps not meeting minimum safety requirements, many of the migrants now live in separate housing, such as Catholic Charities Plaza del Sol and Plaza del Milagro in Greeley. They also need suitable clothing to work in the elements and other supplies. Two deacons began a ministry of collecting clothing and

toiletries at their parishes to support the workers. The deacons take the items collected to the workers. They also lead Communion Services and pray with the workers.

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## Southeastern European Cultural Outreach

Visiting sick and homebound immigrants from Croatians, Serbians, Slovenians, Montenegrins, Hungarians, Bosnian, and Herzegovinians. Bringing the Holy Eucharist and administering sacraments of Baptisms as well as a vigil for dead and rosary prayers. Teaching classes for First Communion and Confirmation. Organizing monthly Croatian Mass and gatherings at St Louis in Engle-

wood. Keeping close ties with other Croatian communities in other Dioceses in the western USA with larger Croatian populations, mainly Chicago, San Diego, Houston, Phoenix, Dallas, and Las Vegas.

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# Faith Building

## Family Life Ministry

The apostolate for Family Life addresses the varied issues and challenges that Catholics face raising families. The range of ministry efforts are varied and diverse.

Examples include ministry to support those suffering from the perinatal loss of a child, ministering to single parent families affected by divorce or death of a spouse as well as collaborating with other family life related ministries such as Faith in Action and Fallen Away Catholics. This apostolate provides prayer, education, and spiritual support for those devoted to strengthening their

Catholic families. The deacons provide guidance to parishes that offer ministry services and provide information about designated programs. They also offer spiritual support to family life lay leaders and the lay faithful who attend ministry programs.

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## Single Parent Ministry

This ministry reaches those who find themselves for any reason raising children as a single parent. Based on Jo Holt's book, "Single and Raising Saints - Forming Single Parents as They Lead Their Children to God," this scripture based Lectio Divina series helps single parents tackle challenges such as achieving balance, loneliness, finance and budgeting, parental discipline, and the dangers associated with pornography and technology. Led by a single parent lay minister, participants meet in a group setting once a week for nine weeks to study scripture,

share and support each other on their parenting journey. The deacon attends each session to provide spiritual and prayer support. Single parents from all parishes are invited to participate in the existing program at Saint Thomas More parish or parishes may wish to obtain more information about establishing their own single parent ministry group.

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## Marriage Preparation and Enrichment

This ministry is working to develop retreats for married couples (Marriage Enrichment Retreats) and couples who are engaged to be married (Marriage Prep Retreats). The retreats will be open to couples from all parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Additionally, this ministry provides educational presentations on marriage-related subjects.

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## Faith in Action Ministry

There are numerous ministries in the Archdiocese that are coordinated by deacons that also are areas the lay faithful can be involved in. Faith in Action attempts to provide a link from the ministries to the lay faithful so that they can become involved more fully in the life of the Body of Christ. Faith in Action coordinates the diaconal ministries by helping deacons involved in the various ministries reach out to the lay faithful to provide information on how the lay faithful can become involved. The information includes some of the activities that have been identified as well as contact information for follow up.

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## Fallen Away Catholics

Many in our community were raised Catholic, but no longer practice their faith or have serious questions about their faith. Six people leave Catholicism for everyone that joins. Half of young Americans who were raised Catholic, but no longer identify as Catholic today. Four out of five Catholics who left the Church left before age 23. Millions of parents grieve for their fallen-away children and describe their situation as “helpless” and “hopeless.” All have stories, and all have reasons for leaving. It is important to reach out to them, reconnect with them, answer their questions, and bring the baptized back home to the

faith. The deacons in this ministry have helped individuals come back on a case-by-case basis, but now are forming, preparing, and inviting parishioners to join in 5 to 6 weeks of book study and discussion on the newly released book from the Word on Fire Institute “Return” by Brandon Vogt.

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## Homeless Shelters Ministries

### Samaritan House Ministry

Samaritan House is a Transitional Shelter, that helps men, women and children facing homelessness and assists them in finding a path to self-sufficiency. Their program helps residents feel secure with basic needs so they can focus on learning life skills to become self-sufficient in a 120-day program. They also partner with outside organizations to help residents with other resources and referrals.

Deacons have assisted in numerous ways. They assist by helping the residents with their spiritual needs by assisting at Mass and Bible studies. They assist with the daily needs of the residents by helping at the shelter or collecting toiletry items or clothing.

The residents also receive individual spiritual assistance, as well as classes on Scripture from deacons. The deacon shares an interpretation of the readings and discusses the application of the readings to daily life and helps residents go deeper into their spiritual life.



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## Samaritan House – Ft. Collins

The Samaritan House – Ft. Collins, a facility of Catholic Charities Northern, provides nightly shelter, breakfast and dinner to homeless single individuals and families. They provide meals for those in need through the hospitality kitchen. Other services include: emergency assistance for utilities, bus passes, along with a Senior Program, and a Veterans' Program. Deacons lead liturgy and prayer services during the week for residents and staff

members. They interact with the residents during their visits and assist with meal preparation including family night once a month.

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## Guadalupe Community Center

The Guadalupe Community Center is a homeless shelter in Greeley which offers programs and services that operate on a “support to succeed” approach where homelessness does not equate hopelessness. The Center gives these residents a safe and supportive place to live for a few months while they secure income and save the money to transition to affordable housing.

Many people who have lost their jobs and their homes also become lost in their faith. The deacon's presence and support provides a means for them to rediscover their faith life. A chapel is located within the Center and

provides a space for clergy to meet residents for consultations and prayer.

Ministry to the residents of the Guadalupe Community Center in Greeley consists of deacons assisting with the spiritual needs of the residents by providing spiritual counseling, providing a Catholic presence, and a Communion service every other week. A Mass is also celebrated once a month for residents and staff.

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## Boulder Shelter for the Homeless

Boulder Shelter for the Homeless provides services for residents by focusing on finding stable housing with case management support and referrals with outside agencies. The Shelter has four programs. Coordinated Entry, where residents meet with a staff person and complete a brief assessment before being referred to a local service provider for comprehensive support. Housing Focused Shelter includes case management, counseling, medical care, and Veterans Affairs (VA) resources are provided along with short-term housing. Permanent

Supportive Housing provides intense case management to overcome chronic homelessness. Rapid Re-housing assists in finding housing in the community.

The deacon is the Program Manager for the Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Because of his role he ministers only when asked by a resident for assistance with prayer or spiritual matters.

**i Deacon Chris Byrne**  
mybyrne@8128@aol.com  
303.862.4457

## RecoveryWorks – Jefferson County

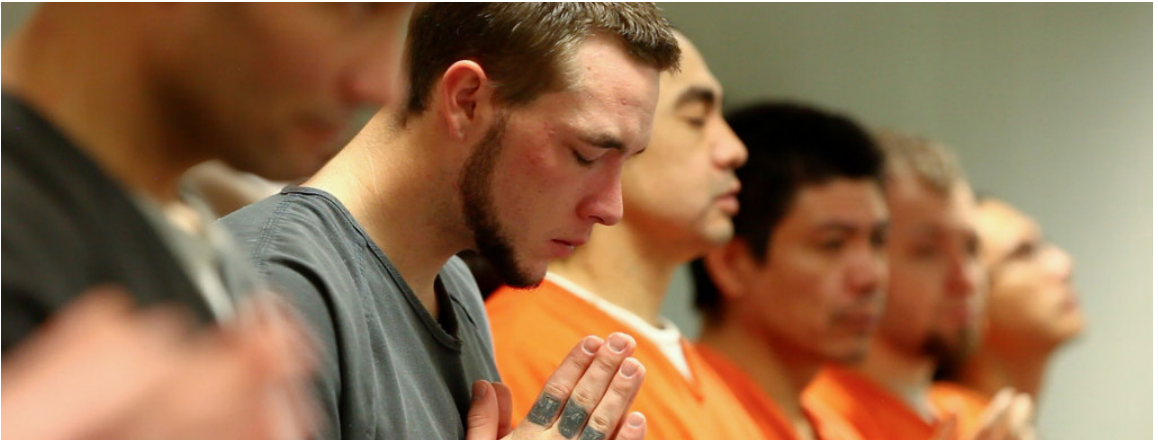
Our mission is to provide access to opportunities for resources, community and recovery with our unhoused neighbors. At RecoveryWorks, we know that recovery is a challenging process which takes many forms. We're here to walk along side you on your own chosen path.

It includes a respite center where homeless persons can recover from surgery in a safe & supportive environment, a day center with

case management, and an array of meetings to support those living sober one day at a time.

The deacon is a board member of the non-profit organization.

**i TheRecoveryworks.org**  
**Deacon Phil Harrington**  
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720.296.6355



## Prison Ministries

Since the first centuries, Christians have followed Jesus' lead by visiting the imprisoned. The primary mission of prison ministry is to bring God's love and mercy to all, to offer hope to those who may be in times of chaos and treat the incarcerated with dignity. Deacons assist at Mass, lead Communion services, Scripture studies and facilitate RCIA.

The Director of Prison Ministry, a deacon, coordinates and directs clergy, religious and lay Catholic volunteers by scheduling ministry work at prison facilities. He recruits, trains, and supervises the volunteers, as well as leads the RCIA process for the prisoners. The Director also coordinates facility staff and national diocesan prison ministry groups.

“

*I was in prison and you visited me.*

MT. 25:36

”

**i Deacon Steve Vallero**  
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303.715.3206



## Juvenile Detention Ministry

Juvenile facilities differ in their treatment plans depending on the risk level of the child or youth, and the seriousness of the crime. The facilities focus on strengthening children, youth, and families through evidence-based practices and data-informed services. Safety, trauma-informed care, family engagement and hope are the cornerstones of all aspects of their care. Partnering with community providers, they link services for aftercare and follow-up services.

Deacons visit the juvenile detention facilities on a regular basis in the Denver area.

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## Chaplaincy for Police and Fire Personnel Ministry

The first responder ministry is a multi-faceted ministry. It focuses on working with first responders suffering from PTSD due to their line of work, deaths, other traumatic losses, and struggles within the family. This ministry helps provide resources as well as peer counseling, with much of the work involving Church related matters and teaching.

The deacon counsels the police officer or firefighter, sometimes for an extended period to help them heal from their experience, and refers them to professional counseling if needed. The deacon prays with them, shares his faith, as well as provides opportunities for Communion service.

**i Deacon Derrick Johnson**  
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720.350.8981



# Disaster Recovery Assistance Ministry

When a local disaster strikes, be it a natural disaster or one caused by human error, Catholic Charities responds with supplies and financial assistance, if available. The deacons involved in this ministry go to the scene and assist with the spiritual needs of the victims, first responders, and others involved. The team of deacons coordinating this ministry build and maintain a roster of deacons able to assist in time of need.

Deacons work with the Red Cross and Catholic Charities, to create partnerships with pastors to assign parishes as evacuation centers during these disasters.

**i Deacon George Thierjung**  
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# Medical Advisory Ministries

## Medical Advisors Ministry

Deacons who are medical doctors are available to clergy with questions regarding beginning and end of life issues. Specifically, these issues may be related to Natural Family Planning, infertility, or contraception. End of life issues involve advance directives, hospice and palliative care, ordinary and extraordinary treatments, pain control, or withdrawing life support. As experts in both Catholicism and medicine, the deacons are available to speak at parishes about beginning and end of life issues and how they relate to church teachings. With permission they provide second opinions and provide information in lay person terms for patients and their families.

They give referrals as to facilities that might be best for the patient's situation,

and have, when requested, testified at Congressional hearings. They provide a loving and comforting presence.

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**Deacon Alan Rastrelli**  
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303.770.1155

## Hospice and Nursing Care Ministry

When advice, care and recommendations are needed around hospice, the deacon can help with the journey no matter which hospice agency is chosen. The deacon works to make sure a patient is offered and receives Catholic services if desired, and that their Catholic faith is honored. Making sure the whole person is cared for, medical, spiritual, emotional, social/family, & financial issues are addressed. If you need advice on what hospice is, what it provides, and what is covered, or which of the 40 Colorado hospice agencies to choose, please reach out to the Hospice and Nursing Centers Ministry. The deacon in charge of this ministry can also share which agencies support/enable physician assisted suicide.

**i Deacon Alan Rastrelli**

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## Hospital Ministry

Deacons are privileged to minister in the local hospitals. To listen when patients have needs or family members receive difficult news about their loved ones. Often, the people need a willing ear and an understanding heart. Many speak of having a feeling of peace because of the deacon's presence as a representative of the Church. This small gesture makes an incredible difference to the patient and the family.

The deacon may be asked to visit with a patient or provide viaticum to those that are dying. He may also help by arranging for a priest to come for a final anointing. At a Catholic Hospital, the deacon also assists at Mass, ministers to the patients, staff, or members of the nearby community.

Love and compassion to see the sick and

dying with the eyes of Christ and to minister to them as they are shown the way by God, the ultimate healer of all.

The Archdiocese has created a Hospital database to ensure that these facilities have clergy available to minister to patients and family when requested.

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**Deacon George Linehan**

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## Children's Hospital Ministry

Deacons have been providing Catholic ministry at Children's Hospital Colorado for several years. Many courageous and faithful patients, families and staff have benefited from this ministry and have been an inspiration to the deacon.

The deacon leads a Communion service once a week and assists a priest at Mass for special occasions. These services are scheduled on the hospital calendar which has attracted both regular staff attendees as well as patients and family members, especially at the Ash Wednesday service. Some families and hospital staff will stay after the service to talk and share some of their challenges, and in some cases schedule a private conference.

The hospital chaplain team calls on the deacon when they meet Catholic patients and families so that he can visit with them, lead prayers, provide blessings, perform emergency baptisms, and bring them the Eucharist. The deacon and the spiritual care chaplain team have a wonderful, collaborative relationship. Mutual support exists, which makes this a deeply rewarding ministry for the deacon and those who are served.



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**Deacon Huan Nguyen**  
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## Craig Rehabilitation Hospital Ministry

Craig Hospital is a world-renowned rehabilitation hospital that exclusively specializes in the neurorehabilitation and research of patients with spinal cord injury (SCI) and brain injury (BI). At Craig Hospital, they believe in empowering patients to fully participate in their program of care, from planning and scheduling to working hard to progress. There's no passive-patient model of care at Craig. It takes teamwork, and the patient is the most important member of the team.

The deacon who ministers at Craig fully understands the patient's needs because of first-hand experience recovering from a stroke. The deacon prays and distributes

Holy Communion with Catholic patients individually, along with sharing how his faith assisted in his healing process.

**i Deacon Mladen Martinovic**  
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303.618.3564

# Courage/Encourage Programs

The Courage and the Encourage Programs are designed to help work with individuals who have same sex attractions (SSA)

or are family members of someone who has SSA.

## Courage International

St. John Paul II once said, “Courage is doing the work of God.” Deacons have responded to that statement through programs designed for those with SSA. Deacons meet with individuals that battle with this wound and help them to rely on God for their strength to endure and fight off these tendencies. Deacons provide communal prayer, spiritual support, assistance, and fellowship to men and women over 18 years

old that strive daily to live a chaste life and understand their identity in Jesus Christ. The group meets confidentially twice monthly under the direction of a deacon or priest.

**i Deacon Tim Kilbarger**  
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720.530.6602

## EnCourage International

EnCourage is designed for family members and friends of SSA individuals to meet and help each other. With the help of clergy, EnCourage fosters communal prayer, conversation, encouragement, education, and moral support. This group meets once monthly. Participation is confidential.

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# Christ’s Love In Families Finding Support

C.L.I.F.F.S is a Christ centered ministry dedicated to meet parents and families of behaviorally challenged children ages 1-21 where they are at in their particular stage of life. To offer support, provide tools and resources to help direct the paths of families, and help them to know that they are not alone in what seems to be the edge of a cliff. C.L.I.F.F.S seeks to build a network of support groups within the Archdiocese of Denver, so parents and families can be ministered by those who understand what they are going through, and will help be Christ’s love for them in their time of need.

**i Deacon Joe Gerber**  
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303.885.0123

# Disabled Assistance Program

## Carron Coffee House Ministry

Carron Coffee House Association provides recreational, social, and spiritual interaction for adults with developmental disabilities. Cary Carron began the ministry in 1960 after teaching faith formation to a disabled teen. The Knights of Columbus assist with funding and transportation for the participants for the Friday evening program at Light of the World Catholic Parish. The evening includes a Catholic Mass, entertainment, and light refreshments.

Deacons and a priest support this ministry

by assisting at the Mass & serving the liturgical needs of the community, including the spiritual needs of the patrons.

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**Deacon Marc Nestorick**

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303.667.2428

## Angel Haus Ministry

Angel Haus Inc is a 501c3 nonprofit charitable organization established to provide employment for disabled adults by creating beautiful religious artworks. Individuals with physical and emotional handicaps are involved in producing the artworks. It is a ministry directed by Deacon David Arling, with his wife Marianne, guiding a production team. Products include: large outdoor Christ-

mas panels and indoor or outdoor panels which depict a variety of sacred images. Website: [www.angelhaus.org](http://www.angelhaus.org)

**i Deacon David Arling**

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# Deaf/HH (Hard of Hearing) Ministry

The Deaf Ministry Program is designed to assist those persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families so they can participate and grow in their Catholic faith. The Church supports the deaf community by providing an interpreted Mass, helping them prepare to receive the Sacraments, and instruction on the Catholic faith in American Sign Language (ASL).

St. Bernadette Parish in Lakewood is home for the Colorado Catholic Deaf Community where a 10 a.m. Sunday Mass is celebrated and interpreted in ASL. The parish then of-

fers weekly sacramental preparation, classes on the faith, and social activities interpreted in ASL for the community. A 12:30 p.m., Sunday Mass with an ASL Interpreter is also celebrated at St. Thomas More Parish in Centennial.

The deacon assists at the Mass, preaches on occasion and teaches both sacramental preparation and faith formation.

**i Deacon Hal Goldwire**

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303.233.1523

# Senior Citizen Ministries

## Mulroy Center Ministry

The Mulroy Center is a day center for the elderly, and they provide educational programs, discussion groups, social, and physical activities for them. The center is an advocate for seniors and coordinates their support networks. The seniors have companionship and a comfortable place to spend their day.

A deacon walks with them on this journey showing Jesus' and the Church's concern for them by spending time with them. If they have troubles in their family, have a question about God or the faith, the deacon provides a listening ear. These can be group discussions or one-on-one depending on the situation. The deacon also leads Communion services and a scripture service with the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. During special feasts, the seniors ask for a presentation about the faith or famous saint. The deacon socializes with the seniors by playing dominos, poker or calling bingo. This community is full of surprises and the deacon needs to be a good listener and ready for anything!

## Retirement Home Ministry

Deacons' ministry includes visiting the homebound and residents of retirement facilities to bring them the Eucharist, to give them comfort, and to provide them with spiritual guidance as they live out their later years.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to the forefront the spiritual needs of the residents in these facilities and the need to ensure deacons have access in order to provide that comfort and spiritual guidance. A committee of deacons creates ways to effectively minister during the visit restrictions. The committee has expanded this pastoral outreach



*Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood.*

ACTS 20:28



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to also include the families of residents. The committee will continue to meet post COVID-19, to provide ideas & resources to Parish Ministries and to Catholic Schools, so that the interactions with residents will be inspiring, faith-filled opportunities.

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## Racism Program & Ministry

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles and President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote the following: “Racism is a sin that denies the truth about God and his creation, and it is a scandal that disfigures the beauty of America’s founding vision. In our 2018 pastoral letter on racism, my brother bishops and I stated: ‘What is needed, and what we are calling for, is a genuine conversion of heart, a conversion that will compel change and the reform of our institutions and society.’”

Bishop Jorge Rodríguez has established the Archdiocesan Committee for Racial

Justice and Equality within the Archdiocese of Denver to eradicate the sin of racism within the Church of Northern Colorado. The deacon is a member of the committee. They are requesting resources from the USCCB in order to structure the Archdiocese of Denver program and to get resources out to the faithful of the diocese in the future.

**i Deacon Clarence McDavid**  
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303.322.1119

## Retrouvaille Retreats

Retrouvaille Retreats are a lifeline for couples who are struggling with marriage.

Retrouvaille is a community of highly trained individuals who teach married couples new tools for communication that enable them to live their marriage freely and whole-heartedly in both good times and bad. The power of the Retrouvaille weekend lies in the testimony and support of these witnesses of love who have experienced suffering in their marriages and have trusted grace and learned to faithfully work for their married love. The highly trained volunteers then walk

with the couple for 7 weeks to assist them in creating new habits. A couple seeking help needs to know no more than the first step, which is a phone conversation with a Retrouvaille couple.

The deacon assists the volunteers during the weekend in miscellaneous small ways, like helping set up the classroom setting.

**i Deacon Gary Miller**  
Garyevanmiller@msn.com  
303.514.7050

# Declaration of Nullity Ministries

Through the years, many Catholics have been wounded as a result of a difficult marriage ending in a civil divorce. These wounds extend to the entire family. Programs designed for those affected by divorce are developed with the intention to build a relationship with God and allow His Mercy to heal wounds steeped in pain. These programs exist to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced loss, suffering and loneliness as the result of a broken marriage.



## Advocates for Annulments Ministry

At a Deacon Convocation in 2015, the Archbishop of Denver asked his deacons to step up activities and receive certification in a more active annulment process. Deacons are great advocates for those seeking to get their affairs right with the Church.

While many of the deacons were already advocates, the deacon community responded and represent the bulk of the advocates in the Archdiocese. These advocates meet with the petitioner and walk with them on

their journey through completion of the annulment process. The petitioner often shares many difficulties in their life that allows the deacon to provide the tools needed for God to heal.

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## Separated and Divorced Ministry

The Surviving Divorce Program is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and is a confidential service. Participants journey through the grieving and healing process with the guidance of trained facilitators who have experienced the journey. Individuals who attend gain wisdom and comfort as they give witness to their pain and loss, while discovering a deeper understanding of God's love for them. They receive the healing power of Christ through the Church and the Sacraments. Deacons are a liaison between the diocese, the pastor, and the program team to provide support, counseling, guidance and spiritual direction.

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## Minor Children of Divorce Ministry

A Catholic guide for kids entitled “*When Parents Divorce or Separate*” will be available in 2022. The key is to provide children a safe place in which to work through his or her grief while assisting them in developing foundational skills such as effective communication, problem solving, anger management and empathy. The children will be better equipped to not only adjust to a family break-up or remarriage, but also to build other relationships in a healthy and faith-filled way by drawing on their Catholic faith.

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## Adult Children of Divorce Ministry

As children, most victims of divorce were told that their parents’ breakup was not their fault. However, they often blamed themselves, prayed for their parents’ reconciliation and were disappointed when their prayers seem to go unanswered. As adults, they sometimes mask their pain with unhealthy habits or situations and often, if they are married, they often struggle because they did not see healthy examples of how to honor their own vows.

The Life-Giving Wounds Program is a confidential retreat-centered way for adults to reconcile the pain of their parents’ divorce and help get participants back to the Sacraments they yearn for, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Oftentimes, these folks are the “nones” who are Catholic but not practicing. The program assists them in healing and finding good examples for the sake and well-being of themselves and their children, if they are married, as well as providing ongoing support.

In addition to scheduled retreats, deacons are working on programs to help the immediate needs to those adult children who struggle with their parent’s divorce. For additional information visit, [archden.org/eflm/family/#childrendivorce](http://archden.org/eflm/family/#childrendivorce).

The Archdiocese would like to have a parish partnership, where one parish offers the Divorce Ministry Assistance and a neighboring parish offers the Adult Children of Divorce Ministry. Deacons will be the liaisons for the two programs providing counseling and spiritual direction.

**i** **Deacon Don Weiss**  
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Photo by Dan Petty

## Veteran's Ministries

Many U.S. veterans leave the service with wounds that impact their lives. These wounds are often directed at God and society, sometimes leaving the veteran homeless and lonely. These ministries are designed to help them heal through a deep encounter with their Savior. For deacon veterans, these wounded souls are our brothers and sisters.

“

*I command you: be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go.*

JOSHUA 1:9

”

## In God We Trust Ministry

Deacons assist veterans through their struggles as they make their way back to God's Church. They are reminded “the Will of God will not take you where the Grace of God will not protect you,” which is a source of peace in their relationship with the Lord. At an annual event hosted by the Diaconate and members of the Colorado Freedom Memorial, deacons help spiritually wounded veterans come back to their faith. Deacons plan the event which includes Mass, Confession, faith-related speakers, faith-based counseling, resources for veterans, and a social hour that includes lunch and an opportunity to share.

Plans are to also create a faith-based network for veterans. A landing page on [Archden.org/veterans](http://Archden.org/veterans) has more information.



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## Veterans Community Living Center at Fitzsimons Ministry

The Veterans Community Living Center serves veterans, veteran spouses and Gold Star parents. Their mission is to honor and respect those living and working at the home through companionship, empowerment, and individualized care while providing a comfortable and safe place to live. The Colorado State Veterans Home at Fitzsimons is a facility providing skilled nursing care and a specialized short-term rehabilitation unit. The center also provides long-term care, Alzheimer's care and end-of-life/hospice services.

The deacons involved help veterans and work to ensure Catholic residents receive

Jesus in the Eucharist each week. The apostolate is supported through the Diaconate Veterans Outreach Program and St. Pius X Parish. Deacons provide opportunities to engage in conversation, experience the Word of God, and receive the Eucharist.

### **i** Deacon Chris Tranchetti

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### **Deacon Carl Redman**

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## Veteran's Rehabilitation Ministry

Ft. Lyon is a recovery-oriented transitional housing program in Las Animas, Colorado, which allows residents to recover from substance abuse. Residents are required to attend community meetings, New Beginnings Drug and Alcohol Education, and do their ongoing recovery work (examples include meetings and groups). Ft. Lyon also provides referral resources including social workers, probation officers, outreach workers, addictions counselors, behavioral health specialists, primary care providers and case managers.

Veterans are given priority and receive

additional services to help them obtain VA Benefits.

The deacon oversees the program including employees and contacting donors and agencies that provide other resources to the residents. He also works to build a state-wide referral network so that those needing services in other areas of Colorado are made aware of Ft. Lyon.

### **i** Deacon Phil Harrington

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719.662.1100

## Military Services Ministry

In partnership with the Archdiocese of Military Services, the deacon is assigned to assist military families, so they continue to grow in their faith while stationed at Buckley Space Force Base.

The deacon ensures military families can worship, receive sacraments and nurture their faith. He assists at the Sunday Liturgies in the base chapel, prepares dependent children of military personnel to receive the sacraments. The deacon assists military personnel with the marriage preparation process as

they prepare to enter into the Sacrament of Matrimony, as well as helping couples have their marriage convalidated. He is also an advocate in the annulment process for military personnel and their dependents. Military personnel have Bible studies and adult faith formation available to them as well.

### **i** Deacon Craig Fucci

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# Burial and Cemetery Services Ministries

## Mt. Olivet and St. Simeon Ministry

Mt. Olivet and St. Simeon Ministry  
Numerous deacons preside at Committal Services at burials at Mt. Olivet and St. Simeon cemeteries on an ongoing basis.

### Crypt of All Souls

Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services have a special ministry to assist families who are unable to provide their loved ones a final resting place. The Crypt of All Souls is designed for families who may have cremated remains at home and can't afford to lay them to rest at the cemetery. CFCS will take them into their care for free to peacefully and respectfully lay those loved family members

to rest, in accordance with Church teaching. The deacons hold a Committal Service each month at the Crypt of All Souls and are available for spiritual assistance if needed. Lay diocesan parishioners involved with this ministry attend the Committal Service and add their prayers to the deacon's prayers for the deceased as they are inurned.

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**Deacon Dennis Langdon**  
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## Precious Lives Ministry

The loss of a child in pregnancy or at birth is a very difficult time for families. Often, the child is left at the hospital without knowing that the precious life that died should be placed reverently in a cemetery.

In a pro bono partnership with Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services of Northern Colorado, deacons officiate a monthly non-denominational memorial service for the families at

Mt. Olivet. They are also available to assist the families if they would like spiritual guidance.

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**Deacon Jim Blume**  
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## Angel Beds Ministry

As a part of the Precious Lives Ministry, a need surfaced for the manufacturing of coffins, known as "Angel Beds," that provide dignity for the tiny bodies of the deceased.

Deacons were asked to help build these coffins and as usual, they stepped up in a big way. Deacons built the coffins to help those families who could not afford a burial otherwise. In addition to Angel Beds, small crosses are also provided as a way for families to remember their little one. Deacons are provided with the plans and the hardware to build the caskets, as

well as the plans for the memorial crosses. Rosaries and blankets for the little ones are also made by volunteers and provided to the families that attend.

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**Deacon Mark Wolbach**  
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## Behold Your Child Ministry

**B**ehold Your Child ministry helps provide hope and healing for parents and families who have experienced a life-limiting prenatal diagnosis, miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death. Originally launched by the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa the deacons assigned to the Archdiocese of Denver's Apostolate of Evangelization and Family Life are in the beginning stages of establishing this ministry in our Archdiocese. The goal is to provide spiritual support, pastoral care and information. Trained volunteers who have experienced such losses are available to those who request assistance to address a wide

range of spiritual and practical needs such as help making funeral arrangements, prayer, organizing a meal train or providing ideas to honor or remember their child. In addition, the deacons in this ministry coordinate a special annual memorial mass at host parishes to honor these children and their families.

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720.542.8232

**Deacon Spencer Thornber**  
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303.979.7688

## Grief Support Ministry (Funeral Response Team)

**M**t. Olivet and St. Simeon Mortuary Services(CFCS-Colorado) helps over 1500 families with the loss of their loved one each year. Due to the inability for families to celebrate the life of a loved one through the limited participation of families at funerals during the COVID—19 restrictions, the Grief Support Ministry, was initiated by several AOD deacons make a pastoral call to the next of kin of the deceased 4-6 weeks after CFCS has served them to see how the family is doing, pray with them, listen to them, and assist them through their grief. They are

present for those in need and provide direction on how to access the many services of CFCS, the Archdiocese, and Catholic Charities, to encourage them to reach out if they need support, spiritual or otherwise, and to assist them in coming back to the faith.

**i Deacon A.J. Misiti**  
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303.867.9163

**Deacon Mike Berens**  
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## Ft. Logan Burial Ministry

**I**n 1950, Congress authorized the use of military lands at Fort Logan as a national cemetery. Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the armed forces who have met a minimum active duty service requirement and were discharged under honorable conditions. A veteran's spouse, widow or widower, minor dependent children. Eligible spouses and children may be buried even if they predecease the veteran. Members of the reserve components of the armed forces who die while on active duty or who die

while on training duty, or were eligible for retired pay, may also be eligible for burial.

Deacons assist the military families to lay their loved ones to rest on a regular basis by performing a scripture service during the interment. Ft. Logan does have specific guidelines for clergy, for assistance please contact the Diaconate Office.

**i Deacon Kelvin Brath**  
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303.789.0007

# Spirituality Programs

## Liber Christo Ministry

Liber Christo is a ministry that assists those who approach the Catholic Church seeking relief from suspected extraordinary diabolical affliction (infestation, oppression, obsession or full possession). It follows traditional Catholic liberation practices of prayer, discipline, sacraments and if necessary, exorcism. The goal is reconciliation with God the Father, liberation, and ultimately salvation.

The deacons are involved in intake, annulments, catechesis, mentoring, teaching and facilitating classes, RCIA, and participating in prayer sessions. For more information see liberchristo.org online.

## Intercessors of the Trinity

Intercessors of the Trinity (IOTT) shows people how to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ... healing them through the power of prayer, to overcome spiritual, emotional, and physical blocks so they can live with peace, joy and hope in realizing the fullness of the Blessed Trinity.

IOTT offers ongoing prayer services for healing, deliverance, retreats, teaching seminars and visitations to the seriously ill. It is focused on developing an intimate relationship with the Trinity, drawing people into the beauty of the Sacraments.

The deacon involved leads the prayer service every Tuesday night at 7pm.

## Credible Catholic Ministry

The Credible Catholic ministry is developed by Father Spitzer. It is a program that helps others recognize the compatibility of science to Catholic Christianity. The organization provides videos, presentations and workbooks to help people delve into the scientific theories relative to creation and to the

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*Do not cast me away from your presence, oh Lord, nor deprive me of your Holy Spirit.*

PSALM 51:13

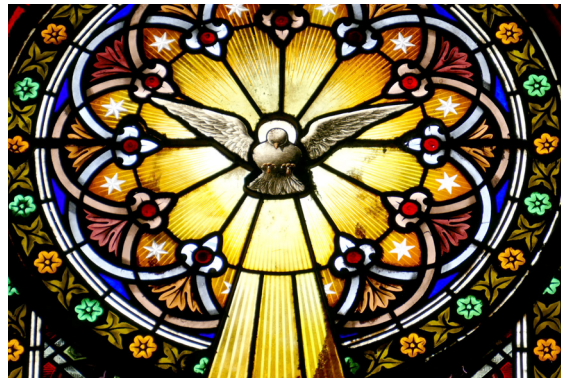
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existence of God. The Deacons in this ministry are able to provide opportunities for teaching about the compatibility of science and faith.

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## Men's Spirituality Ministry

Surprise! Men and women are different. Men have their own ways of interacting and growing in their faith. We want to help men connect with God and other men. (Proverbs 27:17: "Iron sharpens iron, ....") There are multiple avenues to do that: retreats, regular programs, one-off programs, etc. Highly effective for serving men is the "That Man is You!" model. This involves a weekly get together, watching a video with great Catholic content, and doing small group sharing (6-10 in a group, ideally) with food optional. Ideally, the deacon leverages his time with a group of volunteers to run whatever program fits the needs of his parish. The resources available have mushroomed in recent years, and are too numerous to list here, but check out on the web: heroicmen.org for one centralized spot with tons of fantastic free resources. Many great programs are also now available in Spanish including That Man is You! and The Blue Goose (you can find many more on Heroicmen.org). Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist available on Formed.org is one of

the very best and just one other alternative as an example.

Retreats like "Welcome" and the annual "Gathering of Men" can also powerfully energize a man in the faith. All leaders in this ministry should plan to attend our "Men's Leadership Summit" on March 4, 2023. Again, in this small space, we can only cover so much but the bottom line is we strongly encourage you to do something for men at your parish, and please reach out to one of us for a practical discussion of what's available to assist you.

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## Jesus Our Hope Retreat Center

Jesus Our Hope Retreat Center is nestled in Jefferson County, 40 minutes southwest of downtown Denver. At an elevation of 6,800 feet, these consecrated grounds are situated on 62 acres of rugged woodland dedicated to God. The St. Francis House provides sanctuary not only for people of all faiths, but also for birds and wildlife.

Spacious and supplied with a full kitchen, four bedrooms (sleeps eight), and a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament, it has all the comforts of a home, without the distractions of TV and cell phones.

It is an ideal location for overnight/one day retreats for small church groups, parish staff, and small organizations that want to meet

God in an uninterrupted setting.

The deacon assists with operations and maintenance through his role on the Board of Directors.

### **i** Deacon Bob Hoffman

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Reservations are handled by  
The Community of the Beatitudes:  
303.697.7539 | [jesusourhopetreat@gmail.com](mailto:jesusourhopetreat@gmail.com)

## Marian Ministry

Many deacons have a special place in their heart for Mary. Many have used Fr. Michael Gaitley's *33 Days to Morning Glory* (or St. Louis de Monfort's alternative) to consecrate themselves to our Blessed Mother. Many have visited the famous Marian pilgrimage spots of Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, Medjugorje, or even the only approved Marian apparition in the USA: The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, WI. Sometimes pilgrimages to these spots are organized by a deacon. Some are involved in the regional Marian Conferences held and others with the International Marian Movement of Priests including their Prayer Cenacles. Deacons are also willing to give talks on Mary.



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## St. Monica's Healing Ministry

During a person's life, they can experience one or more serious traumas which can leave equally serious injuries to the heart. These injuries manifest in a series of well-known consequences which can cause terrible life disruptions. Coping mechanisms are adopted which can stabilize the disruption, but at some point, the coping mechanisms no longer work and the person is in hopeless despair. In addition, some of the coping mechanisms have their own disruptive effects. The usual treatment for these includes psychology, medications or faith healing.

St. Monica's draws elements from both psychology and faith, motivating the individual to work together with God to bring a resolution to the injury in their heart. Psychology is used to help the individual to understand the effects of the trauma in their heart. Faith is first used to help them understand why God permits these traumas within the context of the purpose for their lives on earth. Over the course of the five meetings

of the ministry, the minister trains the individual to recognize the signs of actual graces. God responds in powerful and tangible ways such that the individual knows God is present with them and their life has undeniable meaning. The individual discovers graces that finally bring power to give their right for justice to God in the action of forgiveness. It's not a "letting go" forgiveness, but a forgiveness where the individual gives the injury of injustice to God, so that God can work on the conversion of the perpetrator.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the preeminent culmination of this ministry.

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# Foreign Missionary Work

## Mission Apostolates to Africa

“Mission” means different things to different people. Short-term mission experiences are interesting, but some Deacons take on a Mission Apostolate more akin to the early missionaries of the Church who left home and family to bring His good news to the world.

For many years, deacons from Denver have had a presence in African countries, from Kenya, Tanzania, Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia and beyond.

Deacons bring the Word to those in remote areas of the continent that need a Catholic witness. These locations have people living in areas with no roads, electricity, or running water. Eager to know the faith, there can be as many as 21 adults baptized in a day. With the parish priest, deacons provide the Eucharist up to 19 churches within parish boundaries.

While some live in Africa for months, other deacons bring teams of experts for a finite period to help build essential facilities needed to sustain adequate food, housing and water supplies. Some missions also provide education for adults and children.

“His Work Foundation” [hisworkfoundation.org](http://hisworkfoundation.org) is a ministry started by a Denver deacon to help raise money for emergency relief for

basic human services, church construction & furnishings, priest transportation, education and other needs.



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**Deacon Dennis Wallisch**  
[denwallisch@comcast.net](mailto:denwallisch@comcast.net)  
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## Mission Apostolates to Haiti

Volunteers from the Archdiocese have created the Global Outreach Ministry. They, along with volunteers having experience in education, travel to Haiti and provide missionary services to an orphanage. The volunteers built a covering for the vegetable seedlings area and a retractable awning for the produce garden to protect the orphanage food source from the intense heat. They supply books in Creole for the library and assist

the instructors at the school with classroom management skills.

The deacon helps coordinate the mission trips and is a member of the team providing services at the orphanage during their visits.

**i Deacon Clarence McDavid**  
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## Mission Apostolate to Mexico

A Denver deacon residing in El Paso, TX travels to Juarez, Mexico on a monthly basis to visit the seminarians at Conciliar Seminary of Ciudad Juarez.

He visits with them and together they study Sacred Scripture in the form of Lectio Divina with meditation and prayer.

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## Mission Apostolate to Vietnam

The Father Kieu Charity is the continuous charity work of the late Father Khuat Dang Tich, the founder, in Binh Gia village of Chau Duc county, 100 miles southeast of Saigon City, Vietnam, since 2000. The charity focuses on helping the poor. The volunteer group of 25 people in Vietnam have been in action since 2004. They assist with four projects: The Heart to Heart Housing Project (Nhà Nhân Ái) which has assisted 30 families with housing, four orphanages, a nursing home and the Aborted Fetus Coffins Project.

The deacon and his family help raise money in the U.S. to support the projects through the charity based in Pennsylvania. They are members of the Board of Directors and travel to Vietnam every 3-5 years to check on the projects and the volunteers.

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## Shroud of Turin Ministry

Many have testified that as they became familiar with the volume of data concerning the Shroud, they were led by God into deeper contemplation and prayer. This experience strengthened their faith and even changed their lives.

This is what prompted the founding of The American Confraternity of the Holy Shroud (ACHS). The mission of the Confraternity is to develop ways that the Shroud, whether it is “authentic” or an iconic representation of Jesus’ passion and death, may illuminate and strengthen Christian faith.

The deacons give a presentation along with answering questions for about two hours. An offering is suggested and given to the American Confraternity of the Holy Shroud in Colorado Springs.

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