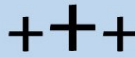


The PeliDeacon

*a newsletter about deacons
in The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana*



Deacons Conference

Highlights Inside

Vol. 2023, No. 8

June 7, 2023

On the Horizon: Ministry “Field Trips”

The Ven. Charles deGravelles, Archdeacon

As a chaplain and teacher for many years at Episcopal School of Baton Rouge, I learned that experiential learning augments book learning by a factor of many. For instance, in high school ethics, students would study the philosophy of justice, but we would also visit a courtroom, a police station, a prison. We would study the causes of crime, but we would also visit a mental health facility and an addiction treatment clinic. In field trips such as these, abstract notions of justice and injustice, evil and good, came to life.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if each deacon could share the sights, sounds and smells, the challenges and joys, of his or her ministry in the world with the rest of us deacons, as well as with priests and with lay folks? We have so much to learn from each other about Christ-like service that we can then take back into our respective congregations.

Deacon Mike Hackett is now working with prison officials to offer deacons a tour of Louisiana's largest prison, the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, and the chance to learn about the work of the Episcopalians who minister there. I'm hoping this will be the first of many “field trips” to come. Let Mike know if you want to go, and be thinking about how you can share your ministry with us.

Highlights from the Spring Deacons Conference



On June 3, 2023, seventeen Louisiana deacons and assorted friends gathered first in the Gaudet Chapel of St. Luke's New Orleans for prayer and to learn about nineteenth-century educator and prison reformer, The Blessed Frances Joseph-Gaudet.



All photos by Deacons Cindy Obier and Mark Hudson

Dr. Rosanne Adderley, Tulane professor of history (below left) and **Trevor Bryan**, St. Luke's Sr. Warden (below middle), traced the complex history of Gaudet and her connections to the national Episcopal Church, the Louisiana Diocese, and to St. Luke's, a rich legacy that lives on to this day.

Keynote speaker, **Matthew Pineda** (below right), sentenced to life in prison at 16, described his transformation during prison and his prison reform work since his release. He is currently Community Engagement Coordinator for the Louisiana Parole Project.



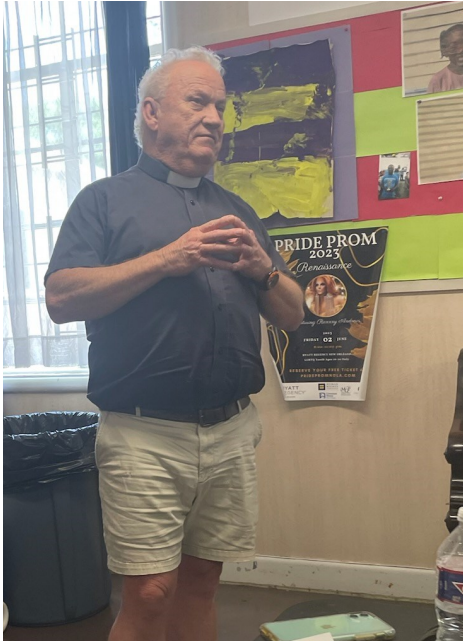


Highlights from the Spring Deacons Conference



A spirit of renewed energy and reunion permeated the Spring Deacons Conference. Deacon Frank Spencer, canonically resident in Mississippi, joined his wife, Deacon Carol Spencer, for the gathering (below). Deacons Marigold Browne (above left) Luigi Mandile (above center) and Jay Albert (above right) contributed in important ways.

The Deacons Conference afternoon session was held at St. Anna's where rector, **The Very Rev. Bill Terry**, and **Deacons Luigi Mandile and Ben Nobles** made us feel welcome. Father Bill described the important work with youth, musicians and community that has taken place at St. Anna's since Hurricane Katrina. An important part of the program was a check-in, led by **Deacon Jay Albert**, that allowed deacons from across the diocese to report on their lives and ministries.



Deacon Ben Nobles
St. Anna's New Orleans



Deacon Mark Hudson
St. Matthew's Bogalusa



Deacon Reese Wiggins
St. Stephen's Innis



Deacon Kathy Comer
St. Augustine's Metairie



Deacon Phil Wild
Christ Church Covington



Deacon Mike Hackett
St. Augustine's Metairie




In recognition of those who have demonstrated a deep commitment of loving service to others in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Deacons of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana hereby present to:

Father William "Bill" Terry

Louisiana Deacons Award

June 3, 2023

The Rt. Rev. Shannon Rogers Duckworth Bishop The Ven. Charles N. deGravelles Archdeacon




Deacon Debbie Scalia and Archdeacon Charles deGravelles present the 2023 Louisiana Deacon Award to recipients:

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Deacon Pat Lyle (top) has served the elderly, those in prison, and as a spiritual director.

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Deacon Joyce Jackson (middle) has served Black women, those with HIV/AIDS, the LGPTQ community and the destitute.

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The Very Rev. William "Bill" Terry, (below) long-time rector at St. Anna's New Orleans, has led his church in serving hurricane victims, out-of-work musicians, at-risk youth, and the LGBTQ community.





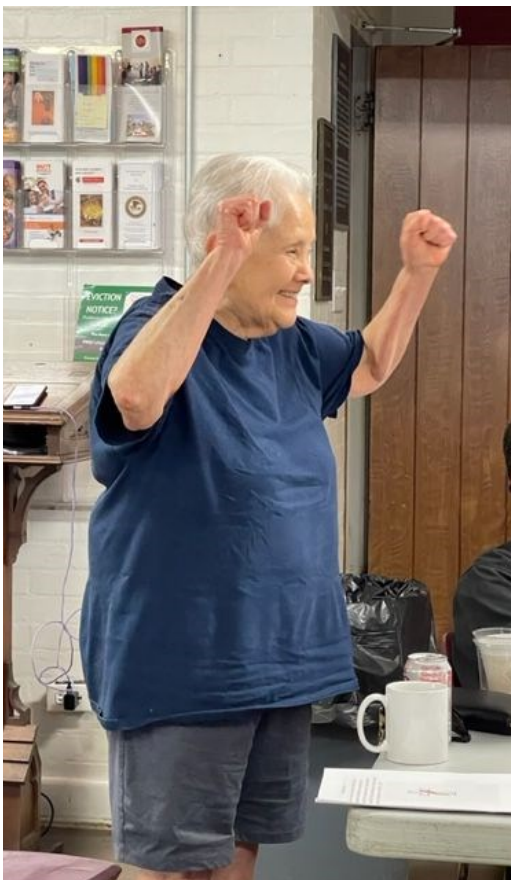
Archdeacon Charles deGravelles

Thanks to St. Luke's New Orleans, St. Anna's New Orleans, to our presenters—Dr. Roseanne Adderley, Trevor Bryan, and Matthew Pineda, and the many deacons who contributed in lots of ways to make our first Deacon Conference since the pandemic such a success.

At the end of the day-long conference, Deacon JoAnn Garma (below left), reflecting on the current state of the diaconate in the Diocese of Louisiana, gave thanks to God for the servant leadership of all the assembled deacons and for the able and energetic episcopal leadership of Bishop Shannon Rogers Duckworth and her support for the Sacred Order of Deacons in the diocese.

Until we gather again, go in peace to love and serve the LORD,

The Ven. Charles deGravelles
Archdeacon



Deacons JoAnn Garma



Deacons Charmaine Kathmann and Alyce Jefferson



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The PeliDeacon is an official publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana.
1623 Seventh Street New Orleans, LA 70115 - (504) 895-6634 www.edola.org

Our Vision: The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana is one church, faithful to our Lord Jesus, united in mission, reaching out through service and proclamation to all for whom Christ died. We live in joyous expectation of God's transforming power, compassion, and mercy in our lives.

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Subscriptions—The PeliDeacon is a free magazine published digitally by and for The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. To be added to the mailing list or update your address, please email Karen Mackey at kmackey@edola.org.

