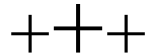


The PeliDeacon

a newsletter for and about deacons in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana



Louisiana Clergy to Meet at Solomon Jan 9 - 11, 2023

Episcopal clergy of the Diocese of Louisiana will meet at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center January 9-11, 2023. Keynote speakers, the Rev. Canon Michelle W. Bolt and the Rev. Giulianna C. Gray, will explore the theme: "Leadership Literacies to Nurture the Possible and to Prepare for the Probable." Reservations can be made by calling SECC at 985-748-6634.

Deacons to Meet on Tuesday During Clergy Conference

During the conference, deacons will have a chance to gather separately for their first community-wide meeting of the new year. "My hope and expectation is that all of our deacons, retired or active, will be able to make this conference. said Archdeacon Charles deGravelles. "It's been a long time since we've all gotten together as an order, and it's equally important for us to be well represented at a clergy-wide conference."

The Community of Deacons (all deacons of Louisiana, retired or active) will meet in the SECC Conference Room from 3 pm to 5 pm on Tuesday, January 10. Agenda items will include catch-up time for all deacons, a look at the Council on Deacons' organizational responsibilities, and a review of possible letters of agreement for deacons in a parish setting and guidelines for deacons in the diocese.

Deacons Join in Celebrating Consecration of Bishop Duckworth

Louisiana deacons joined a packed Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans on Nov. 19, 2022 to celebrate the ordination and consecration of the Rt. Rev. Shannon Rogers Duckworth as the 12th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. Duckworth is the first woman to serve as bishop since the diocese was formed in 1838.

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry served as the chief consecrator. Co-consecrators were Bishop Morris K. Thompson Jr., the preceding bishop of Louisiana; Rio Grande Bishop Michael Hunn;

Bishop Duncan Gray III, retired bishop of Mississippi; Western North Carolina Bishop Jose McLoughlin; Texas Bishop Suffragan Kai Ryan, and Bishop Michael Rinehart of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Deacon Elaine Clement served at deacon of the mass for the service, and newly appointed Archdeacon Charles deGravelles read the Gospel reading.

Bishop Appoints Archdeacon and Council on Deacons

Among her earliest appointments, newly consecrated Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Shannon Duckworth, named an Archdeacon and a Council on Deacons for the Diocese of Louisiana. Deacon Charles deGravelles, ordained to the diaconate in 1995, is a long-time minister to those in prison and formerly incarcerated people.

Deacon deGravelles is also currently helping to lead worship at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Rosedale. "It's a great honor to be asked to serve under Bishop Duckworth, Deacon deGravelles said. "Her faith, energy, and vision are inspiring." "She knows deacons and sees their value. She understands the untapped potential of the diaconate in our diocese."

A newly appointed Council on Deacons has already met with Bishop Duckworth to begin laying the groundwork for a stronger and better organized diaconate. Members of the Council are:

- Archdeacon Charles deGravelles
- Deacon Jay Albert
- Deacon Elaine Clements
- Deacon JoAnn Garma
- Deacon Michael Hackett
- Mark Hudson
- Deacon Charmaine Kathmann
- Deacon Cindy Obie
- Deacon Debbie Scalia
- Deacon Carol Spencer
- Kristen Wheeler, a postulant for the diaconate

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Deacon Stories
A Continuing Series of the Deacons of Louisiana

Deacon Cindy Obier had an idea. To fully understand what a deacon is requires more than a textbook definition. You need to hear their stories. "Every deacon lives out his or her calling in a unique way," Obier said. "To fully appreciate what a deacon is means to hear the stories of what they do."

Louisiana deacons are invited to write and submit a story from their ministries, some event or story from your personal experience that captures for you what it means to be a deacon. These stories will be published in the PeliDeacon and will be compiled into a single publication for use both within and without our diocese to help educate others about deacons.

Stories can be anywhere from a page or two to up to five or so pages. Please submit your stories to Charles deGravelles at charlesdegravelles@cox.net.