

# The PeliDeacon

*a newsletter for and about deacons  
in The Episcopal Deacons of Louisiana*



Vol. 2023, No. 4  
February 16, 2023

---

## A Message from Archdeacon Charlie

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, an embodiment *diakonia*, taught this important spiritual formula:

*The fruit of silence is prayer.*

*The fruit of prayer is faith.*

*The fruit of faith is love.*

*The fruit of love is service.*

*The fruit of love is peace.*

Notice how fundamental silence and prayer are to a Christlike life of service. This is why I make a silent retreat an annual priority. Our diocese is sponsoring a guided **Silent Retreat**, led by Father John Pitzer, at the **Solomon Episcopal Conference Center February 24-26, 2023**.

Please join me and others from our diocese for a time of silence, prayer and spiritual renewal.

Archdeacon Charlie

The Ven. Charles deGravelles



### CONTENTS

Deacon Calendar of Events—P2

Spring Gathering—P2

A Deacon's Story (Joey Clavijo)—P2

Deacon Saints and Heroes—P4

## DEACON CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 24-26—Silent Retreat at SECC  
Feb 26-Mar 26—Bishop’s Lenten Reflections  
Feb 27—LGBTQ Inclusion Eucharist at Trinity N.O. 6pm  
Feb 10-11—AED Life and Work of Deacons Conference (Zoom)  
Mar 23-25—AED Archdeacon and Deacon Director Conference (Zoom)  
Apr 22—Earth Day; Creation Care of Service  
Apr 29—SECC 30th Anniversary Event  
Jun 9-19—ECW Annual Gathering  
Jun 10— Gay Pride Parade  
Aug 4-6—Addictions Recovery Retreat

---

### 2023 Deacon Spring Gathering

We haven’t nailed down a date yet, but we are aiming for one Saturday in June for our first deacon gathering of the year. The theme will be *The Life and Living Legacy of Frances Joseph Gaudet*. It will include visits to St. Luke’s and St. Anna’s in New Orleans. Thanks to Deacon Charmaine Kathmann for planning this event. Stay tuned.

#### A Deacon’s Story

#### *A Continuing Series about the Deacons of Louisiana*



*All Louisiana deacons are encouraged to write and submit a story about a time in their ministry in which they felt they were living into their diaconal calling. Our third in this series by and about Louisiana deacons is by **Deacon Joey Clavijo**.*

### The Origins of “Grace at the Green Light”

*Deacon Joey Clavijo*

On a beautiful sunny spring day in 2014 I decided to attend a Noonday Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral. As I drove up and parked on St. Charles Avenue, Dean David du Plantier was standing outside the cathedral (as usual) ready to greet guests as they arrived for the service.

I shook hands and exchanged greetings with David, and as I went into the chapel a thought entered my mind which went something like this; “David, I don’t think we can simply stand outside of the church and expect people just to come in anymore”. After the Eucharist I walked next door to the cathedral offices to attend a session with my EFM class which started at 1 pm.



This was my fourth and final year of EFM with a group of six cohorts led by a wonderful mentor, Bill Foreman, who had led EFM groups for years at the cathedral. I have since lost memory of what we were studying specifically during that session, but suffice it to say that it had something to do with formation for mission within the church. At some point during the class, I was prompted to recall my thoughts as I had entered the church earlier.

Immediately after sharing that story one of my cohorts piped up and said, “You know Joey, I have been driving up and down St. Charles Ave. for years, encountering the homeless encampments along the way. I’ve stopped many times to help these folks with either money, blankets, food, etc. We need to do more, and I’m going to do something about it. I’m going to reach out and find a place and the people to offer food and other services for our unhoused neighbors in the city.”



*Deacon Joey in a moment of prayer.*

Sure enough, within weeks Chris Beary reached out to the community to begin plans for the soon to become Grace at the Green Light, a 501 (c) (3) organization offering the New Orleans unhoused population choices while providing for their basic needs (water, food, clothing and community) in a loving manner that embraces the human spirit.

Since Chris founded this outreach in Central City New Orleans in 2014, Grace at the Green Light has distributed 245k meals, 1m bottles of water, 2749 participants have been reunited with their families through the “Going Home” program, and 5775 articles of clothing have been distributed. I have had the privilege of serving on the board of Grace at the Green Light and standing alongside the unhoused community in New Orleans, working with the hundreds of volunteers who show up daily 7 days a week to be “One With” our unhoused neighbors.

It does not, in fact, matter to me if it was coincidence or insight or the source behind my consciousness to hear the whispers that told me to tell that story at EFM. All I know is that I’m glad as hell that I said it. I don’t need there to be anything special about it, but as one who believes that mysteries like these swell the womb of every given moment, I’ve made to a point never to preclude it.



## Please Join AED

If you are not already a member of the Association of Episcopal Deacons, please join. The organization has been at the center of education and promotion of the diaconate for many years and offers excellent resources for growth as a deacon,, and a strengthened relationship with Episcopal deacons in other dioceses will help to deepen and enrich our own ministries. Here’s where you can join: <https://www.episcopaldeacons.org/join---aed-membership.html>



---

# Deacon Saints and Heroes

---



## David Pendleton Oakerhater *A Deacon Warrior for Peace*



*From a period of his Pendleton's service at the Whirlwind Mission near Fay Oklahoma, where he served from 1887 to 1918. Both photos care of Pendleton papers at the Oklahoma State University Library,*

David P. Oakerhater (born around 1850) was a warrior and leader of the Cheyenne Indians of Oklahoma, and led a corps of fighters against the United States government in a dispute over Indian land rights. In 1875 he and 27 other military leaders were taken prisoner by the U S Army and sent to a military post in Florida. There, thanks to the efforts of a concerned Army captain, they learned English, were encouraged to earn money by giving art and archery lessons to visitors, and encountered the Christian faith. David and three others were moved to become Christians and to go north to study for the ministry. David was baptized in Syracuse, New York, in 1878, and ordained to the diaconate in 1881. He returned to Oklahoma and there founded schools and missions, and continued to work among his people until his death on 31 August 1931. When he first returned to Oklahoma in 1881, he said:

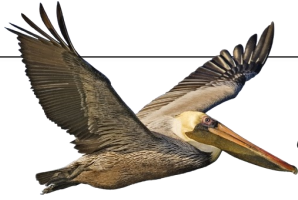
*You all know me. You remember when I led you out to war I went First, and what I told you was true. Now I have been away to the East and I have learned about another captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he is my leader. He goes first, and all He tells me is true. I come back to my people to tell you to go with me now in this new road, a war that makes all for peace.*



### **PRAYER (contemporary language)**

O God of unsearchable wisdom and infinite mercy, who chose a Captive warrior, David Oakerhater, to be your servant, and sent him to be a missionary to his own people and to exercise the office of a deacon among them: Liberate us, who commemorate him today, from bondage to self, and empower us for service to you and to the neighbors you have given us; through Jesus Christ, the captain of our salvation; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Bio and prayer from *Episcopal Lectionary*. Oakerhater is remembered on September 1 of every year.



## The PeliDeacon

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



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](http://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.

Publisher: The Rt. Rev. Shannon Rogers Duckworth ([sduckworth@edola.org](mailto:sduckworth@edola.org))  
EDOLA Communications Director: Karen Mackey ([kmackey@edola.org](mailto:kmackey@edola.org))  
Editor and Art Designer: The Ven. Charles deGravelles, Archdeacon EDOLA  
([charlesdegravelles@cox.net](mailto:charlesdegravelles@cox.net))

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](mailto:kmackey@edola.org).

