

EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

October 1, 2024:

**** Continuing Formation Report due for 7/1/23-6/30/24****

**Sunday, July 27th 2025,
State Park, Seneca Falls**

Noon to 5:00 – ANNUAL SSDCA SUMMER PICNIC, Cayuga Lake

September 5-7, 2025:

Annual SSDCA Retreat, Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua

The Deacon Personnel Board (DPB) appreciates the receipt of the required annual **Continuing Formation Report** from those deacons who have submitted it. There are still quite a few yet to be received, and the DPB would be most grateful to receive the reports that are still outstanding. Thank you for your conscientious response to this requirement.

Many of our parishes have signed on to the Steubenville Catechetical Institute's "Franciscan at Home" program to provide new and ongoing formation to parish staff, volunteers, and parishioners. If your parish has done so, and you have yet to sign up, I encourage you to visit <https://franciscanathome.com/diocese-rochester> to register for this resource.

The Chancellor's Office has asked that I pass along a reminder about the importance of submitting all required marriage paperwork promptly – preferably by the time of the rehearsal and no later than the date of the wedding. This is particularly important when you are witnessing a marriage at another parish, with the proper delegation – please make sure that the completed file gets back to the parish in a timely manner. Note that the DOR sacramental policies are available on-line at the DOR webpage: <https://www.dor.org/wp-content/uploads/Sacramental-Policies-Diocese-of-Rochester.pdf>. Thank you on behalf of the Chancellor's Office!

Deacon Frank Pettrone and the good folks at St. Mark's, Greece hosted a Holy Hour for Diaconal Vocations, followed by an information session, on October 3. We had a handful of interested men and their wives attend to hear from me and other members of our diaconate community. I'm working with Deacon George Welch to schedule a similar event in Elmira for interested men and their wives from the Southern Tier. Please keep praying for vocations to our Order. I asked Katey Bourne to create an updated pie chart of our ages, one for the "active" corps and the other for our total group, active and Senior Status. You'll see that we are aging! Please continue to be on the lookout among your acquaintances, parishioners, and families for folks who may be open to discerning a vocation to the diaconate. Thank you to those couples who have taken the time to meet with inquirers and their wives over a meal to discuss how you've journeyed together while balancing family, formation, and ministry. I do know that the inquirers and their wives find these personal get-togethers to be enlightening and informative. We are often the best ambassadors for the diaconate....

Kindly know that you can reach out to SSDCA leadership at any time with suggestions or questions. Lon Smith (lon.smith@dor.org) is still the president! Rick Rall (richard.rall@dor.org) is vice-president and Bernadette Rall (brall4@naz.edu) is secretary. Don Eggleston (donald.eggleston@dor.org) is the incumbent treasurer and webmaster, but at year's end he'll be turning over those reins to John Payne, who volunteered to serve as treasurer, and to Vince Franco, who volunteered to manage the SSDCA website.

SSDCA events are underwritten by your generous contributions of dues. If you would like to contribute (\$40.00/couple, \$20.00 single), you can mail a check to my attention at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester NY 14624. Please make the check payable to the ***Diocese of Rochester*** and note in the memo line SSDCA dues, or St. Lawrence Fund if you prefer that your contribution go to that fund. Thank you very much!

We are a few weeks from Thanksgiving, so in addition to my own personal gratitude for your selfless and generous ministry with and for God's people, I share this Thanksgiving Day Prayer from the USCCB. Safe travels if you are on the road or in the air to celebrate the holiday with your loved ones, and with prayerful remembrance of those women and men from our diaconate community who have returned to the Lord...

***Lord, we thank you
for the goodness of our people
and for the spirit of justice
that fills this nation.***

***We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the
land and the challenge of the cities.***

***We thank you for our work and our rest,
for one another, and for our homes.***

***We thank you, Lord:
accept our thanksgiving on this day.***

We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.