



Deacons in ACTION



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Grace in Married Life

As a diaconate community, 2025 is an opportunity for us to reflect on the threefold role of a deacon as husbands, fathers and deacons. As a deacon, it is through our experiences within the home and workplace that we learn about our call to serve others. And it is through these encounters and relationships that enable us to speak, preach and act concerning matters of the family and of the world. It is my hope, that this year will be an opportunity for each of us as married deacons and the wives of deacons, to reflect on the graces we have received through our married lives and how they were strengthened through our ordinations. God Bless.

Deacon Berkley Guthro

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Banner Photo: Candidate Steve Cover, front centre, with Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick, Fr. Conrad Edwards, and deacons at the Celebration of Candidacy on Feb. 9, 2025.



Office of Permanent Diaconate
902-539-6188/1-800-656-5311
deaconberkley@gmail.com
antigonishdiocese/diaconate-program

Celebration of Candidacy

St. Joseph's Church, Port Hawkesbury,
Feb. 9, 2025



Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick, with Candidate Steve and Theresa Cover (above), and with Candidate Steve Cover and his pastor, Fr Conrad Edwards



Welcome, Steve and Theresa Cover !

Introducing our new candidate :

Steve & Theresa Cover moved from Walkerton ON to Sydney River, Cape Breton in March 2022 to be closer to their children, grandchildren and the rest of Theresa's family. They bought a house on the same street that Theresa grew up on.

Steve was born and raised in rural Ontario, living with his mother, father and one sister. He was excited to move "out East" and be part of a larger family. Theresa comes from a small Catholic family of 15, which now, with the addition of two more generations, has grown to 75. It has certainly been a fun adjustment.

Steve and Theresa were both very active in their former parish and the Walkerton community. Prior to leaving Walkerton, Steve was approached by his parish priest and was encouraged to look into the Diaconate program.

Once they were settled in Sydney River, Steve accepted a job with a wonderful company, Keltic Kubota, to grow their rental division. Steve did look into, and joined the Diaconate program and is now officially halfway through.

He is active in his new home parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Sydney River and has started a service ministry taking communion to over 45 residents of Harbourstone Nursing Home each Sunday.

Theresa is delighted to be "back home" after being away for almost 40 years. She enjoys spending time with their grandchildren, her siblings, nieces and nephews and driving visiting Ontario friends around the Island.

Steve and Theresa continue to look for ways to grow in their Parish and community involvement. They are thankful to have been so richly blessed with family, friends and their new East coast life.

Personal Thoughts on Death and Dying

By Theresa Riley

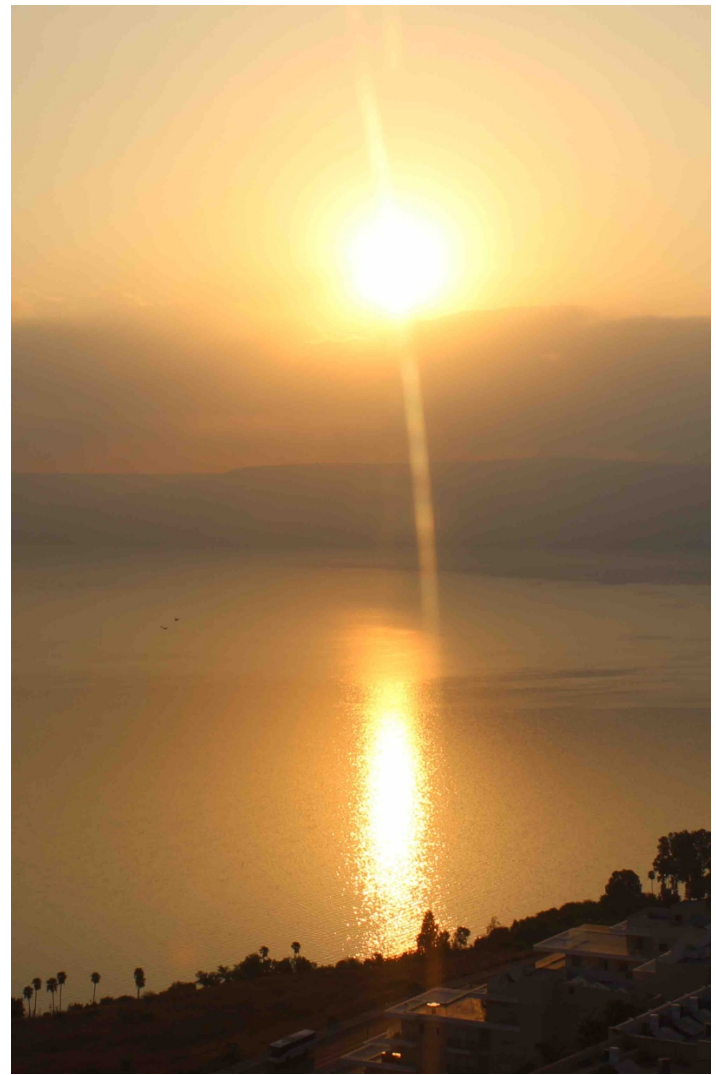
Spouse of Deacon Art Riley

As I approached my 80th birthday I wanted to share some thoughts on death and dying. To be exact, my death and dying!

I had just read the book *Die Wise* by Stephen Jenkinson which made me think. Ageing is not for the faint of heart! It's a time for adapting and reflecting. If we are Christian, it is a time to go deeper than ever into our faith to ask the questions that we have, perhaps, only skimmed over in the past.

My aim is to be united with God in this life and totally in the next.

- 1) To accept all stages of ageing with grace, embracing them as the means to my goal.
- 2) To instruct my family and my doctor to hold nothing back from me; I do not want to be protected from the knowledge of what is happening in my body, I wish to embrace it as it unfolds.
- 3) To be very clear about my wishes for my end of days.
- 4) No heroic or artificial measures: including forced feeding, resuscitation anesthetizing drugs, and no procedures for "more time."
- 5) To be lucid for as long as God wills so that I can talk and listen and pray with family and friends and say our goodbyes.
- 6) To have faithful witnesses to talk to me and allow me to talk and laugh and yes, cry or sing, but mostly to pray.



On the physical level we deal with basic questions of funerals, wills and perhaps even bucket lists. But there are deeper questions that arise; guilt and reconciliation in penance; settling debts of every kind; and letting friends and family members know how much they are loved.

It's easy to be brave when we are well, and so, I also reserve the right to change my mind at any point when the time comes!!

The best laid plans of mice and women!! Obviously, all of this is in the Lord's hands.

AMEN

Life of the Irish:

Deacon David and Doreen Lewis recently spent time in Ireland, visiting St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin and enjoying the sights (and tastes !) of the Emerald Isle.



Thoughts for the Day

“When deacons flourish,
the whole congregation flourishes.”
(Matt Smethurst)

“The married deacon and his wife
have “entered into a communion
of life.”
(Pope John Paul II)