



Deacons in ACTION



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Grace in Married Life

It is hard to believe that I am completing my first year as your Director of Deacons. It has been a busy year with my personal visits with some of you, and in our times of gathering as a diaconate community. We have shared some struggles together, but we have also shared times of deepening our friendships, in praying together and in simply being present to each other as a community of deacons and wives. I look forward to the coming year, as we continue to reach out and serve the people of our parishes and diocese who we have been called to serve.

God Bless.

*Deacon Berkley Guthro
Director of Deacons*

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Banner Photo: Fr. Bedford Doucette thanks Deacon Tom and Bonches Sylliboy for their presentation to the deacons and wives on Mi'kmaq traditions and symbols.



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Retirement Celebration

of Deacons Fernand Boivin and Henry van de Wiel

*St. Joseph's Church, Port Hawkesbury,
Sept. 13, 2025*



Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick, with Deacon Fernand and Joan Boivin and Deacon Henry and Minnie van de Wiel



Bishop Kirkpatrick, with deacons and wives in attendance



Bishop Kirkpatrick with the deacons in attendance

Grateful Deacon

By Deacon Henry van de Wiel

Since my retirement from active ministry, I consider the journey through study, ordination and six years as a deacon to be a blessing in my life. With the rush of daily living one's spiritual life can so easily get lost in the turmoil. Having met new friends and living a life of prayer and service to others has helped to keep me focused on the more important things. Also my age and health issues remind me to be alert as one never knows when I might be called before a greater judge.

As I go about my service ministry I need to focus on those I meet in a loving, non-judgemental way. I need to listen closely to their needs, help if I can but most be a friend to the lonely. It seems that isolation is a great problem in the lives of many seniors and even non-seniors in today's society. I think it to be my call to open doors and extend a welcoming hand to those on the fringe of society. This way I can strive to live out the Peace Prayer of St. Francis.

Memories I will always treasure

By Minnie van de Wiel

Our time in Mabou with presenters, candidates, and Fr Bedford with his many stories. We had many laughs. The great food, skits, and the sing-a-longs on our Saturday evening socials

The many friendships we were blessed to have developed and our Sunday stops at the Irving Big Stop where we shared moments and thoughts of our weekend.

Our trips to Skipper Jacks, when we got a lobster club and a chicken club was ordered

It's hard to believe that it's 10 years already since we met. Thank you and God bless you all with his peace.

A Letter of Thanks

From Deacon Fernand and Joan Boivin

Joan and I would like to thank you for the kind words and beautiful retirement get-together.

It was a privilege to be part of the Diaconate group. Also would like to thank the community who were part of our journey.

While Joan and I will miss seeing all of you, we will be taking all these memories with us.

Thank you and God Bless each and every one of you.

We will be looking forward to our continuing formation.

Diaconate Retreat

Deacons and wives recently spent a weekend at Villa Madonna, Saint John, NB for their annual retreat. Retreat leaders were Deacon David and Paula Hasler.





Summer BBQ:

Deacon Lorne and Cheryl MacNeil hosted the diaconate summer barbecue at their home this year. It was a great time with lots of food and conversation



Installation of Lector:

Deaconate candidate Steve Cover was installed as a Lector on October 25 at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Sydney River. Here he receives a Lectionary from Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick.

Thoughts for the Day

“Never give up prayer, and should you find dryness and difficulty, persevere in it for this very reason. God often desires to see what love your soul has, and love is not tried by ease and satisfaction.”

(Saint John of the Cross)

“If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze.”

(Saint Catherine of Siena)