



A Welcome Message from Deacon William Newhouse

I have spent almost my entire life in the Greensburg Diocese. I was born in Greensburg and grew up in the communities of Wendel and Herminie. I attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania and graduated in 1976 with a BS in Ed. I then spent the next two years discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

In July of 1979 I began my career at Charley Brothers (later Supervalu and currently UNFI) and worked there for forty years until my retirement on October 1st, 2019. I spent the majority of my time there as a Transportation Supervisor/Superintendent, while also serving for a short time as the Risk Control Manager.

Also in 1979, on November 17, I married Mary Ann Honeychuck and we settled in Hempfield Township near Greenburg. We have three grown children, Patrick, Lauren and Sean. Patrick and his wife Jackie, who reside in Davenport, Iowa, are the parents of our five grandchildren, Morgan, Grace, Christian, Anna and James. Our daughter Lauren resides in Swissvale, while freelancing in the film industry, and Sean, our youngest, is a journalist in Washington D.C.

I began my formation to become a Permanent Deacon in 2006. I earned a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry from Seton Hill University in 2009 and a Master of Arts in Ecclesial Ministry from St. Vincent Seminary in 2012. Since earning my degree in 2012, I have continued my education by earning a Certificate in Health Care Ethics from The National Catholic Bioethics Center and I am currently working on a Certificate from the Theology of the Body Institute. I was ordained by Bishop Lawrence Brandt on June 13, 2015.

Prior Diocesan Assignments:

- + *Deacon—Ascension & Sacred Heart Parishes, Jeannette*
- + *Assistant Episcopal Master of Ceremonies—Bishop’s Office*
- + *Associate Director—Office for the Permanent Diaconate*
- + *Administrator—Ascension & Sacred Heart Parishes, Jeannette*
- + *Director—Family Life and Pro-Life Ministries*
- + *Director—Office for the Permanent Diaconate*

In this latest assignment, I am truly looking forward to serving and working with the wonderful people of Our Lady of Grace and St. Benedict churches. Together, may we give witness to the Gospel of Christ in our words and in our actions to everyone that we meet and especially to those who need to hear it!

Blessings, Deacon Bill

The Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese

The Permanent Diaconate is one of the three degrees of ordained ministers in the Church: Bishops, Priests and Deacons. Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Greensburg will have participated in a formation program for at least 5 years.

As Ordinary Ministers of the Word, Deacons: **Proclaim the Gospel** at liturgical celebrations; **Direct the Liturgy of the Word**, particularly in the absence of a priest; **Guide the people** by giving them instructions; From their service of charity, **announce the intentions** of the Universal Prayer; **Preach and teach** in the name of the Church

As Ordinary Ministers of Sacrament and Prayer, Deacons: Administer the Sacrament of **Baptism**; Function as Ordinary ministers of the **Eucharist**, Assist the Bishop and the Priest during liturgical actions; Bring the Eucharist as **Viaticum** to the dying, Impart to the people **Benediction** with the Blessed Sacrament; Witness **Marriages** outside of Mass; Administer **Sacramentals** and **Blessings** as prescribed in the liturgical books; Officiate at **Funerals** and **Committal Services** outside of Mass; Pray the **Liturgy of the Hours**, the daily prayer of the Church, and lead and encourage participation among the People of God

As Ministers of Charity, Deacons: Identify the needs of others, and then organize the Church’s resources to serve those needs; Provide spiritual direction and counsel (if properly trained); Carry out, in the name of the Bishop, the duties of **Parish Administration**.

The Attire and Title of the Permanent Deacon: The liturgical vestments of the Deacon and those of the Priest are similar, but different. Both wear a stole, but the stole of a deacon is worn diagonally over the left shoulder. Both wear an outer liturgical vestment. That of the deacon is a dalmatic—it has sleeves unlike the Priest. In the Diocese of Greensburg, the proper formal non-liturgical attire of the deacon is a black suit, white shirt and black tie. Bishops, Priests and Deacons are considered clerics (members of the clergy in the Catholic Church). Just as a Priest is normally addressed as “Father”, a Deacon is addressed as “Deacon ____ (first or last name as the deacon prefers).”