



From our Archdeacon

There is a revolution going on in The Episcopal Church, and it is called the Jesus Movement! Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is leading the charge and inspiring the church each time he is asked to preach or speak. The concept of outreach and evangelism are now one and the same as we learn 'to be present with' those we serve instead of 'ministering' to them. This is seen repeatedly in many of the ministries that are being raised up in this Diocese, and our Vocational Deacons and Deacons in Formation (Postulants and Candidates) are right in the midst of this activity!

The revitalization of the Diaconate is alive and well in this Diocese as we currently have three Candidates to be ordained in June, and three Postulants. There are several very serious Aspirants who are also discerning calls to the Diaconate and could approach the formation process in the very near future. As I continue to go to different parishes in our Diocese to preach about the nature of the Diaconate, I have been focusing on the perspective of Deacon as Interpreter as well as Servant. The servanthood part of this ministry of diakonia (service) has been an

obvious part of this sacred order since it's rebirth 31 years ago. It has been manifested in our prisons, street ministry, hospital and college chaplaincy, nursing homes, and soup kitchens. It has been shared within this Diocese as well as throughout the world in places like Romania, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic.

There is now a new movement within the Diaconal calling that is rising up after years of birthing through the struggles of the growth of this ministry in The Episcopal Church. This movement is about embracing the interpreter role for the deacon. It has been mostly dormant with only a few deacons being able to serve as advocates for the poor, the oppressed, and the needy. In trying to promote the understanding of this function for diaconal ministry I have come to adopt the phrase 'community organizing that is rooted in the Baptismal Covenant.' Deacons are called to be 'gatherers' of all orders in the church – lay, priest, and bishop.

"Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"

We are helping to raise up new ministries in our communities through Church of the Advent's ministry to people with autism and participating in the Amazing Grace mission in the Adult Correction Institute.

"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

We are called to go out into the world to observe the injustices that are surrounding us and raise up ministries to address these situations – whether it be collecting money for St. Mary's School for Children during our 30th Anniversary year or collecting toiletries for the Syrian refugees in Rhode Island.





It is about respecting the dignity of every human being by continuing to persevere with the street ministry in Providence through the Church Beyond the Walls, and continuing to strive for the dismantling of racism in our communities.

It is about rallying people in Haiti to support the initiative of creating new jobs for those who are without sustainable employment.

“Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?”

We continue to preach the Good News of God’s love through Christ to students on campus through feeding their bodies and their souls. We continue to preach the Good News to those who are left alone in nursing homes without support outside of the staff through being present to them to listen and care about their souls. We continue to reach youth that are at risk, the unemployed through sharing job postings, and through countless individual efforts of selfless giving of time and talents.

Yes, the Jesus Movement is alive and well in more ways than I can describe in one short article for Risen. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! And let us continue to seek and identify those who are being called to this Sacred Order of Deacons to be a cornerstone ministry in this movement.

- *The Venerable Jan Grinnell
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