

EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

April 12, 2025: Phoebe's Friends Meeting and Service Project, 11:30AM, St. Rita's Church, Webster

May 20, 2025: Gathering of the Ministerium, RIT Inn & Conference Center – *register via SBSTM*

May 20, 2025: Widows Luncheon – Phoebe's Friends – details tba

May 31, 2025: Diaconate Ordination, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 10:00AM

June 14, 2025: Priesthood Ordination, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 10:00AM

July 27th 2025: ANNUAL SSDCA SUMMER PICNIC, Cayuga Lake State Park, Seneca Falls, 12:00PM-5:00PM

September 5-7, 2025: Annual SSDCA Retreat, Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua

October 25, 2025: Phoebe's Friends Day of Reflection – details tba

You may recall that when COVID nixed a community retreat the St. Stephen's Community Diaconal Association purchased a video series on prayer by Father Dennis Billy, C.Ss.R., hoping that we'd take advantage of the resource for personal reflection and ongoing formation. That resource still exists at this link, <https://vimeo.com/showcase/billyd1>, and the password is **f58L9M**. I share it again should you care to make use of it during Lent, either for personal reflection or adult faith formation sessions.

Along those same lines, Deacon Owen Cummings has just published a new book, *Deacons – Spiritual and Practical Formation*, which is available from Paulist Press. It's a pretty easy read, just under 100 pages, and you may wish to consider it for Lenten reading and/or ongoing formation. Here's the link: <https://www.paulistpress.com/Products/5730-3/deacons.aspx>.

On February 25 SSDCA coordinated a gathering of deacons and wives on the "west side," meeting at St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece for Evening Prayer, food, and conversation. Thanks to Mary & Don Eggleston for the advance work in pulling this gathering together! We had about 30 folks present, and SSDCA encourages the deacons and wives in other regions of the diocese to consider doing something similar in furtherance of community and mutual support. It was also Lon Smith's swan song, so to speak, as SSDCA President. On behalf of the community I extend to Lon and Susan our most sincere gratitude for their hard work for all of us in encouraging and fostering a sense of prayerful fellowship and action. See the group photo in the attachment.

Thanks to those deacons who are coming up to the end of a term for speaking with your pastor/supervisor. To date Bishop Matano has received several letters from pastors requesting that the deacons be reappointed to another term. If you're in this situation and haven't yet chatted with your pastor/supervisor, please do so! It will help the Deacon Personnel Board in assessing and recommending assignments to Bishop Matano.

Have a good Lent! Please remember to keep the Holy Father in your prayers.