

EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

August 30, 2026: **Annual SSDCA Picnic, Cayuga Lake State Park**
September 11-13, 2026: **Annual SSDCA Retreat, Notre Dame Retreat House**
October 1, 2026: **Continuing Formation Report due**

The **SSDCA Picnic** is scheduled for **Sunday, August 30, 2026** from **12:00PM-5:00PM** at **Cayuga Lake State Park, 2678 Lower Lake Road, Seneca Falls**. We gather at the Lodge. There is a parking fee for the nearby parking lot. SSDCA provides the food, but you are kindly asked to bring a dessert to pass and to bring your own beverages. If you plan to attend and have not already let the Tomandls know, please do so at john.tomandl@dor.org so that provisions can be arranged.

<https://parks.ny.gov/visit/state-parks/cayuga-lake-state-park>

Father Bob Kennedy will be our retreat leader for the **Annual SSDCA Retreat** at **Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Road, Canandaigua, September 11-13, 2026**.

EMBRACING MERCY

With the help of psalms and parables of mercy, the meditations of this retreat will explore the ways God embraces us with mercy and the ways we embrace the mercy God offers us.

Notre Dame Retreat House has provided the following information regarding fees and registration:

\$360 / Couple for two nights
\$180 / Couple for one night
\$250 / Single for two nights
\$125 / single for one night
\$70 / Commuter

Here is the payment link: <https://bit.ly/SSDCADeaconsandWives2026>

With the advent of a new fiscal year, you may wish to send in your **SSDCA dues** and/or consider a contribution to the **St. Lawrence Fund**. Suggested dues are \$40/couple and \$20/single. If you are sending in dues or a contribution, kindly make the check payable to the Diocese of Rochester

and note in the memo line if it's for SSDCA dues or the St. Lawrence Fund. Please send them to my attention for processing: Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester NY 14624. Thank you.

The diaconate seems to be a hot topic in the publishing world. In addition to the recent books by Deacon Dominic Cerrato and Monsignor Marc Caron, which I shared in the last Community Update, I've just learned of another new one that you may wish to consider for your continuing formation. Deacon Hilmar M. Pabel has authored "*Empowered by the Spirit - Deacons and Ministerial Communion in a Synodal Church*."

[Empowered by the Spirit: Deacons and Ministerial Communion in a Synodal Church: Hilmar M. Pabel: 9798400802492: litpress.org : eBook](https://www.litpress.org/9798400802492/empowered-by-the-spirit-deacons-and-ministerial-communion-in-a-synodal-church-hilmar-m-pabel/)

Here's information on an upcoming conference that may be of interest:
<https://stpaulcenter.com/events/deaconsconference2026>.