

## Deacon Steve Kramer

### Education

#### Degrees

**Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, *South Hamilton, Massachusetts***

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) in Preaching and Communication, 2006

Dissertation: “A Post-Ordination Seminar in Effective Preaching for Roman Catholic Deacons”

Advisors: Dr. Haddon Robinson, Dr. Sid Buzzell

**Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, *Huntington, New York***

Master of Arts in Theology, 2001

Thesis: “Conversion in the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel and How We Recognize and Celebrate Conversion Today Through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults”

**Dowling College, *Oakdale, New York***

Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, 1977

New York State Provisional Teaching Certificate, Secondary Education – Social Studies

## Publications

- *"The Word of God in Advent: A diaconal perspective to the season's unique homiletic opportunities"*. Deacon Digest, November/December 2019. Vol 2, No. 3, (pg.10-12).
- *"Evangelization and Welcoming: What We Can Learn from the Business World"*. The Deacon, March/April 2020. Vol 2, No.5, (pg. 36).
- *"Marriage and Preaching: A Match Made in Heaven"*. The Deacon, May/June 2020. Vol 2, No.6, (pg. 19-22).
- *"God is Calling – Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening"*. The Catholic Herald, April 9, 2020. Article in the form of an interview geared towards recruitment and vocation. <https://catholicherald.org/catholic-herald/god-is-calling-speak-lord-your-servant-is-listening/>
- Kramer, Steven. 2020 *"Preaching with Reverence: Listening to the Old Testament Prophets"*. The Deacon, July/August 2020, pg. 36.
- Kramer, Steven. 2020 *"Listening with the Heart of Christ"*. The Deacon, November/December 2020, pg. 64.
- Kramer, Steven. 2021 *"The Necessity of Feedback"*. The Deacon, March/April 2021, pg. 36.
- Kramer, Steven. 2021 *"Preaching to a Masked Assembly"*. The Deacon, July/August 2021, pg. 36.
- Kramer, Steven. 2021 *"Preaching the Same Homily in Multiple Parishes"*. The Deacon, November/December 2021, pg. 64.
- Kramer, Steven. 2021 ***"Diaconate Preaching: The Necessity of Shema"***, Virtual Catholic Conference: An Online Gathering for Permanent Deacons. A national video presentation (14 written pages in length) that was "published/copyrighted" by the Virtual Catholic Conference. This was one of 25 (30-minute contributions given by various members of the national diaconate community. The copyrighted video focused on how Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (The Shema) forms the deacon's preaching in light of his life within his family, workplace, and ministry. (November 5-7, 2021).
- Kramer, Steven. 2022 *"The Journey of Discernment"*. The Deacon, March/April 2022, pg. 36.
- Kramer, Steven. 2022 *"Diaconal Relationships Surrounding the Hour of Death"*. The Deacon, July/August 2022, pg. 36.

- Kramer, Steven. 2022 *"Discerning the Appropriate Age for Ordained Ministry"*. The Deacon, November/December 2022, pg. 52.
- Kramer, Steven. 2023 *"The Necessity of Ongoing Formation in Preaching"*. The Deacon, May/June 2023, pgs. 26-31.

## **Conference Creation**

- Designed, initiated and brought to fruition through a six-month process: ***The First Annual SHSST Preaching Conference***. Over 60 Priests and Deacons from around the country attended a two-and-a-half-day conference which featured a national speaker as the keynote presentation as well as five breakout sessions led by priests and deacons of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. (January 8-10, 2018).
- Designed, initiated and brought to fruition ***The Second Annual SHSST Preaching Conference: "Preaching Profound Possibilities in the Lukan Parables"***. There were 51 priests, deacons and seminarians from around the country who attended. The conference was designed to dovetail with the "Power of Parabolic Meaning" USCCB grant that Dr. Russell received. There were five presenters who shared various implications of parables in the preaching task. (January 7-9, 2019).
- Designed, initiated and brought to fruition ***The Third Annual SHSST Preaching Conference: "Hearing the Hebrew Scriptures with a Heart for Homiletics"***. There were 42 priests, deacons, faculty, and members of the Jewish community from Milwaukee and around the country who attended. The conference had presentations from both Jewish and Catholic clergy. A total of seven presenters shared their expertise in Jewish exegesis and preaching. (January 6-8, 2020).
- Designed, initiated and brought to fruition ***The Fourth Annual SHSST Preaching Conference: "The Power of Passionate Preaching While Presiding at the Funeral Rites"***. There were 60 priests, deacons, seminarians, lay ministers, and SHSST staff/administrators from Milwaukee and around the country who attended. There were five presenters who spoke on issues surrounding preaching at the

funeral home/funeral Mass, as well as formulation of the homily and the importance of relationships with hospice, caretakers, and nursing staff. (January 3-5, 2022).

- Designed, initiated and brought to fruition ***The Fifth Annual SHSST Preaching Conference: “The Beginning and the End: Constructing Effective Introductions and Conclusions for Homilies”***. There was a record-breaking crowd of 70 priests, deacons, seminarians, staff, and faculty who attended the conference. Five different presenters shared their methods of constructing engaging/exciting introductions and conclusions to both Sunday and weekday homilies. (January 3-5, 2023).

### **Courses (taught from 2014-2022)**

- LS 600 - Fundamental Preaching Skills
- LS 610 - Preaching the Word of God (2 credit course)
- LS 630 – Deacon in the Liturgy
- PS 500 – Interpersonal Communication
- ESL-C 400 – Communication in Ministry
- LS 510 – Fundamental Preaching Skills
- PF 620 - Sacramental Rites I
- LS 611 – Preaching the Word of God (3 credit course)
- PF 625 – Sacramental Rites II
- FE 625 - Diaconal Preaching Placement
- LS 625 – Liturgical Preaching
- SS 593 – Interpreting, Analyzing and Preaching Luke/Acts (team teaching with Fr. Vien Nguyen, SCJ).
- Formation Group: Theology III
- PS 597/DT 597 – Presbyterate and Diaconate: A Collaboration in Ministry
- Formation Group: Theology II & III (Fall 2020 – Spring 2021)

- Specialized Pastoral Placement Program (Alex Sutachan) Fall 2020. This was a *nine-credit*, 136 contact hour pastoral program including parish ministry, preaching and Teaching Assistance in the Sacramental Rites (PF 620) course.
- PF 510 – Intro to Pastoral Formation
- PF 511 – Ministry Leadership & Parish Communication
- PP 530 – Intro to Parochial Activities

## **Presentations and Retreats/Convocations**

- **Presentation:** *“Comforting the Afflicted”*. Saturday morning workshop at St. Jerome’s parish in Oconomowoc for those engaged in hospital, nursing home, home visitations and St. Vincent DePaul home visits. (January 16, 2016)
- **Presentation:** *Ministry of Lector* – Workshops for the Permanent Diaconate program for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. These two days prepared the diaconal candidates in theory and a practicum experience in public speaking, articulation, voice projection and nonverbal communication skills prior to being instituted as Lectors for the Church. (Saturday, January 23 and Saturday February 6, 2016)
- **Presentation:** *“Effective Preaching: What’s in Your Toolbox?”* Continuing Formation of Clergy – Archdiocese of Milwaukee. As part of the continuing education program for priests and deacons, this two-and-a-half-hour workshop focused on critical verbal and nonverbal skills necessary for preachers to effectively communicate with their congregations (February 9, 2016).
- **Retreat:** *“How Do We Bring Christ To Others as Men Of Faith”* I facilitated a Lenten men’s retreat for forty participants given at St. Alphonsus (Greendale, WI) on Saturday March 5, 2016. Focus was on bringing Christ to others in schools, work place, sports and various parish ministries.
- **Presentation:** At St. Matthew Church (Oak Creek, WI) I presided and preached an extended talk at the annual *Spring Prayer Service for the Bereaved*. All who have lost a

loved one in the past year were invited. The presentation focused on grief and loss. (May 17, 2016).

- **Workshop:** I gave a personal three-day workshop on renewal of preaching skills for Fr. Ron Kreilein from Rockport, Indiana. It was a conglomeration of one to one teaching/mentoring, actual ministry (Funeral/Committal service), and classroom participation in the LS 510 - Fundamental Preaching Skills class. (October 3-5, 2016)
- **Presentation:** *"The Homily"*. A one-hour presentation at Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa, WI. My talk was geared to inform parishioners as to what the homily is, how it is constructed and what our seminarians are being taught in preaching classes. There were approximately 30 participants. (October 23, 2016).
- **Presentation:** *"Preparing for the Coming of Jesus: Preaching During the Season of Advent"*. Continuing Formation of Clergy – Archdiocese of Milwaukee. A two-and-a-half-hour presentation for priests and deacons where we discussed the themes of Advent and how to prepare a preaching plan for the season. Given at the Cousins Center in St. Francis, WI. (October 25, 2016).
- **Retreat:** I facilitated a men's Lenten retreat at St. Matthew Parish in Oak Creek, WI. There were 28 men who attended. The retreat was entitled, *"Bringing Mercy and Forgiveness to others"*. The focus was how we as men of faith share mercy, compassion and forgiveness with our family members and the people we work with. (March 4, 2017).
- **Presentation:** *"Preaching the Paschal Mystery through the Christian Funeral Rites"*. Continuing Formation of Clergy – Archdiocese of Milwaukee. As part of the continuing formation of clergy program, this two-and-a-half-hour presentation focused on preaching at the funeral Mass, funeral services outside of Mass, services at the funeral home, wake services and committal/burial services. (March 20, 2017).
- **Presentation:** I presented a Lenten talk to the SCJ community at Monastery Lake in Franklin, WI. There were 30 members of the Priests of the Sacred Heart in attendance. The topic was *"Mercy and Forgiveness in Lent and Beyond"*. After the talk the men had a series of questions to reflect on. After quiet time there was a period of sharing, questions and answers. (March 23, 2017).
- **Presentation(s):** Rabbi David Cohen and I gave a talk entitled *"So, You Want to Get Married? – Journeying with Couples as they Prepare for Interfaith Marriage"*. The focus

was to shed light on the unique situations that clergy face when people of different faith backgrounds decide to marry. This was in conjunction with the annual Lux Center/Dehon lectures for 2017. This presentation was given twice. Once in the morning and again in the afternoon as part of a series of breakout sessions. (March 29, 2017).

- **Presentation:** At St. Matthew Church (Oak Creek, WI) I presided and preached an extended talk at the annual *Spring Prayer Service for the Bereaved*. All who have lost a loved one in the past year were invited. The presentation focused on grief and the time just prior to death. (May 18, 2017).
- **Presentation:** “*An Evening for Lectors*”. I gave a two-hour lecture and training for the lectors of Holy Apostles Church in New Berlin. (May 31, 2017).
- **Retreat:** I gave the 5-day Canonical Retreat for the 11 candidates who will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Portland, Maine on September 16, 2017. The retreat was presented at the retreat house operated by the Brothers of Christian Instruction in Alfred, Maine. (June 24-28, 2017).
- **Presentation:** I gave an hour and a half presentation to the 25 Confirmation candidates at St. Matthew Parish in Oak Creek. The talk was geared towards the gifts of the Spirit and recognizing the presence of God in your life. (August 6, 2017).
- **Presentation:** I gave a half day presentation to the parish staff and heads of ministry at St. Alphonsus Church in Greendale, WI. The theme of the talk was *Working Together to Bring Christ to Others*. (September 9, 2017).
- **Presentation:** “Day of Recollection for All SHSST Seminarians”. My daughter (Jana Kramer, RN) and I gave an all-day presentation entitled, *Intimate Moments – Effective Communication at the End of Life*. The talks centered on verbal and nonverbal communication and spiritual practices with those who are dying, their families and caregivers. This was presented at the SCJ Conference Center at SHSST. (November 1, 2017).
- **Conference Presentation:** I presented a one-and-a-half-hour presentation to priests and deacons at the First Annual SHSST Preaching Conference entitled: “Preaching Hope through the Funeral Rites”. Held at SHSST, Hales Corners, Wisconsin. (January 9, 2018).

- **Presentation:** *"Discipleship: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"*. I gave a two-hour presentation at St. James parish in Franklin, Wisconsin. There were 58 people in attendance, most of whom were parish liturgical ministers and staff. (January 31, 2018).
- **Presentation:** At St. Matthew Church (Oak Creek, WI) I presided and preached an extended talk at the annual *Spring Prayer Service for the Bereaved*. This service is for members of the parish who have lost a loved one over the past year. This year's focus was on the role of caregivers and their grief/relief after the death of the one they cared for. (May 17, 2018)
- **Presentation:** *"Preaching God's Word in Tragic Situations"*. Continuing Formation of Clergy – Archdiocese of Milwaukee. As part of the continuing formation of clergy program, this two-and-a-half-hour presentation focused on preaching in the areas of suicide, mass shootings, murder, drug overdoses and military deaths. Presented at the Cousins Center – St. Francis, WI. (October 2, 2018).
- **Presentation:** I gave two one and a half hour talks to the diaconate community of the Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania at their Annual Study Day. *"Bringing God's Mercy to Others"* and *"Preaching God's Word from a Diaconal Perspective"*. (October 19-20, 2018).
- **Retreat/Presentations:** I facilitated the annual retreat for deacons and wives for the Diocese of Superior at the St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon City, WI. There were four presentations – *"Minister of Word, Sacrament and Charity"*, *"Sent to Serve as an Instrument of God's Mercy"*, *"Preaching the Word of God: a Diaconal Perspective"* and *"Minister of Humble Charity"*. (October 26-28, 2018).
- **Conference Presentation:** I presented a one hour talk on *"Preaching the Parables in Everyday Life"* at the Second Annual SHSST Preaching Conference. Held at SHSST, Hales Corners, WI. (January 8, 2019).
- **Presentation and Homilist:** I preached at the weekend liturgies at St. Frances Cabrini, Saint Mary's Immaculate Conception and Holy Angels parishes in West Bend and was their guest speaker at the *10-year Anniversary of the Mary Queen of Angels Adoration Chapel* celebration. In honor of this anniversary I gave a presentation on Saturday and another on Sunday regarding Eucharistic Devotion, Adoration, Benediction and Exposition. (February 9-10, 2019).
- **Retreat:** I gave a Men's pre-Lenten retreat for the Holy Name Society of St. Matthew's Parish in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. The focus was *"Listening to Jesus in Prayer, Scripture*



*and Adoration*". Twenty-five men were present for this Saturday gathering. (February 23, 2019).

- **Presentation:** "*Sacrament of Marriage and the Sacrament of Holy Orders: Service as a Way of Life*". As an Eagle Scout (from 1971) and Deacon, I was asked to give a presentation to the Boy Scouts of the Greendale area who are studying for the *Ad Altare Dei* medal which can be earned by Roman Catholic Scouts. This was a one-hour presentation with Q&A afterward. This presentation was given at St. Alphonsus, Greendale, WI. (March 3, 2019).
- **Presentation:** "*Pastoral Care and Communication from Life to Death to New Life*". Dr. Cindy Nosacek MD, Jana Kramer RN, CHNP (my daughter) and I gave a two-and-a-half-hour presentation for the Continuing Formation of Clergy for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The presentation focused on communicating and ministering to those who are critically ill and/or dying and their families/caregivers. Issues were looked at from the perspective of physician, hospice nurse and pastoral care director/chaplain. The lecture was given at the Cousins Center, St. Francis, WI. (March 19, 2019).
- **Retreat:** I gave an RCIA retreat for 15 members of St. Matthew's parish (Oak Creek). The candidates focus was on God's continuing call of conversion in their lives. The retreat was held at SHSST, in the IHM chapel. (March 23, 2019).
- **Presentation:** At St. Matthew Church (Oak Creek, WI) I presided and preached an extended talk at the annual *Spring Prayer Service for the Bereaved*. All who have lost a loved one in the past year were invited. This year's focus was "Supporting those Who Grieve". (May 16, 2019).
- **Presentation:** "*End of Life Issues*". My daughter Jana Kramer, RN, CHNP and I gave a presentation at St. John the Baptist parish in Plymouth, Wisconsin. There were 25 participants who attended our talk on pastoral and palliative care for the sick and dying. (August 10, 2019).
- **Presentation:** "Reflection on Pain and Healing: Deacon and Deacon Wives Listening session on the Clergy Abuse Crisis". I gave a one-hour presentation on ways to address the sexual abuse issue from the pulpit as well as pastorally. The talk was given at Holy Apostles Church in New Berlin, WI. (September 21, 2019).
- **Retreat:** "*The Spirituality of Diaconal Preaching*". I preached the annual retreat for the deacons and wives of the diocese of Portland, Maine. There were forty people attending the retreat. I gave five, two-hour presentations on the Transformative power of preaching God's Word. The event was held at the Marie Joseph Center in Biddeford Pool, Maine. (October 18-20, 2019).

- **Diaconate Convocation:** I led and preached the diaconate convocation for the permanent deacons of the diocese of Marquette, Michigan. The theme was *"What's in Your Homiletical Toolbox"*. I gave five two-hour presentations on various aspects of preaching the Word of God to thirty-five attendees. The event was held at the Terrace on the Bay Hotel in Escanaba, Michigan. (October 24-26, 2019).
- **Presentation:** I gave a two-and-a-half-hour presentation for the priests and deacons of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Continuing Formation of Clergy). The title of the talk was *"The Spirituality of Preaching"*. It was held at the Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center in St. Francis, WI. (November 5, 2019).
- **Conference Presentation:** I gave a one-and-a-half-hour presentation with Rabbi Steven Adams (of Milwaukee) at the Third Annual SHSST Preaching Conference. The lecture was entitled: *"The Binding of Isaac – Did Abraham Pass the Test? Homiletic Insights on Genesis 22"*. Held at SHSST, Hales Corners, WI (January 6-8, 2020).
- **Parish Mission:** I gave the Lenten Parish Mission for the three parishes in Cumberland, Wisconsin (St. Ann, Sacred Heart, and St. Anthony Abbot). The title of the mission was *"The World is Starving: What can Each of Us Do to Feed the Hungry"*. The four presentations focused on Lent and Evangelization. The community is beginning a major evangelization push and there are over fifty men and women committed to the endeavor. Held in Cumberland, WI (March 1-3, 2020).
- **Retreat:** I gave the keynote address at the Annual Day for Men at St. Alphonsus parish in Greendale, WI. The topic of my presentation was *"Making Spirituality a Priority: Building Community and Discipleship in Our Lives"*. (March 14, 2020).
- **Online Presentation:** Gave an online webinar presentation entitled, *"What's in Your Homiletical Toolbox"* for the diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania on Monday, (November 9, 2020).
- **Online Presentation:** Gave an online webinar presentation entitled, *"Now that the Election is Over, How Do We Preach the Gospel?"* for the diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania on Thursday, (November 12, 2020)
- **Spirituality Presentation at the SHSST Dehon Library:** Gave a talk on *Diaconate Spirituality* which was taped by the library director. (November 17, 2020)
- **Presentation:** To Candidates & Catechumens, and RCIA team members of St. Matthew parish in Oak Creek on *"The Mass & the Celebration of the Eucharist"*. (Saturday, December 5, 2020).
- **Parish Mission:** I gave a virtual ([online](#)) Lenten mission for Sacred Heart Parish in Webb City, Mo. The focus was on Lenten Practices (1<sup>st</sup> night) and Evangelization (2<sup>nd</sup> night). *"How Do We Feed Ourselves and Others in a World Hungering for God?"* The pastor is Fr. Paco Gordillo (a former SHSST student). Two, one-and-a-half-hour presentations held on Monday, March 22 and Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

- **Parish Mission:** I gave a virtual ([online](#)) Lenten mission for St. Ann's Parish in Carthage, Mo. The focus was on Lenten Practices (1<sup>st</sup> night) and Evangelization (2<sup>nd</sup> night). *"How Do We Feed Ourselves and Others in a World Hungering for God?"* The pastor is Fr. Paco Gordillo (a former SHSST student). Two, one-and-a-half hour presentations held on Thursday, March 25 and Friday, March 26, 2021.
- **Annual Retreat:** I gave the annual retreat for the Diaconate Class of 2023 – Diocese of Belleville, Illinois. This weekend was focused on the deacon candidates and their wives as they reached the half-way point in their formation. I presented three talks: *"Ministry of Lector & Moving from Lector to Preaching the Word of God"*, *"Finding your Ministry of Service"*, and *"Knowing your Audience in Order to Offer a Message of Hope"*. Held at King's House of Retreats in Belleville, Illinois. (July 30 -31, 2021).
- **Annual Diocesan Retreat for Tucson, Arizona:** I gave the annual Diaconate retreat for the deacons of the diocese of Tucson, Arizona. The title of the retreat was *"Rebuilding Faith and Spirituality in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Post-Covid Church: The Deacon as First Responder"*. I gave a total of 6 presentations and preached the closing Mass. Retreat was held at the Redemptorist Retreat Center in the Sonoran Desert outside of Tucson. A total of 70 participants (deacons & wives) attended. (October 1-3, 2021).
- **Annual Diocesan Retreat for Milwaukee, Wisconsin:** I gave the annual Diaconate retreat for the deacons of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in addition to several members of the diocese of Madison, Wisconsin. The title of the retreat was *"A Diaconal Response to Rebuilding Spirituality and Community in Our Time"*. I gave a total of Four presentations and preached the closing Mass. The retreat was held at the Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc, WI. A total of 50 participants who attended. (November 5-7, 2021).
- **Presentation: Diaconate Community of the Diocese of Tucson, Arizona ([online](#)).** I gave a two-and-a-half-hour interactive workshop (via Zoom) addressed to the twenty newly ordained deacons of Tucson. The title of the presentation was, *"Diaconal Spirituality and Identity"*. (Saturday, November 13, 2021).
- **National Online Presentation:** In conjunction with *The Jordan Ministry Team* (A Collaborative Ministry of the Salvatorian Family), I gave an [online](#) interactive workshop for deacons across the country entitled, *"Preparing for the Coming of Jesus: Preaching During Advent"*. This one-and-a-half-hour presentation concentrated on the season of Advent as a time of waiting and preparation, and how the preacher looks at the themes

of the season to craft homilies which address the need for hope. (Sunday evening, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, November 21, 2021).

- **National Online Presentation:** In conjunction with *The Jordan Ministry Team* (A Collaborative Ministry of the Salvatorian Family), I gave a one and a half hour **online** interactive workshop/webinar for deacons across the country entitled, ***“Preaching Lent Through the Lens of Christian Initiation”***. This presentation explored the preaching themes of repentance, change, and conversion through the season of Lent. Additionally, we addressed the texts/rites of the RCIA and how the journey of the catechumen is applicable to the entire assembly. (Sunday evening, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, February 27, 2022).
- **Retreat:** I gave the annual ***“Morning for Men”*** retreat for the men of St. Alphonsus parish of Greendale, Wisconsin. The title of the presentation was: *“The Spiritual Challenges We Face Living at This Moment in History”*. Held in the IHM Chapel at SHSST. (Saturday morning from 8:00 am – 11:00 am, March 12, 2022).
- **Lenten Retreat:** I gave an afternoon retreat for the men of St. Matthew Parish in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. It was sponsored by The Holy Name Society. The focus of the day was, “How Can Men Recognize their Role in Bringing People Back to the Church”. (Saturday afternoon from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm, March 12, 2022).
- **Presentation:** *“Presbyterate and Diaconate – A Collaboration of Ministry”*. I gave a two-hour presentation with Fr. Brad Krawczyk at Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center in St. Francis, Wisconsin. This was part of the “Archdiocese of Milwaukee Continuing Formation of Clergy” education program. The talk centered on the uniqueness of the ministry of both deacon and priest and how they are co-workers in God’s vineyard. (April 29, 2022).
- **Diocesan Diaconate Formation Retreat/Workshop:** *“Communication and Interpersonal Communication Skills”* – A workshop/retreat for first year aspirants for diaconal formation for the Diocese of Portland, Maine. I gave this seven (7) day communication retreat for the deacon candidates and their wives. The first two days were candidates and wives. The last five days were candidates only. The focus was on communication skills and the necessity for solid communication in relationships and ministry. (June 11-17, 2022).
- **Deacon Convocation:** I gave the annual convocation for the Diocese of Tucson, Arizona. There were approximately 150 deacons from the southern part of the state of Arizona. The conference title was: *“Preaching the Good News in a time of Polarization and Politicization: The Deacon as Evangelizer and Unifier”*. I shared a one-hour presentation

on Friday evening and I gave two 2-hour presentations on Saturday. (August 26-28, 2022).

- **Presentations/Day of Recollection:** I gave the *SHSST Day of Recollection* reflections. The theme of the two talks were: *“The Catholic Understanding of Death, The Cross, and Resurrection: Our Individual and Communal Response to Death”*. The 45-minute morning session concentrated on our individual response to death and what the Church teaches about resurrection. The afternoon session focused on the communal aspect of death and the response of the parish community. Held at SHSST. (September 14, 2022).
- **Presentation: Archdiocese of Milwaukee Fall Clergy Day.** Invited to lead a breakout session for the Fall Clergy Day . Bishop Mark Seitz of El Paso was the main speaker. I gave a breakout session presentation to the Priests and Parish Directors entitled, *“Preaching Catholic Social Teaching and Social Justice in Our Age of Polarization”*. Held at Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, St. Francis, Wisconsin. (September 20, 2022 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm).
- **Presentation:** Fall Leadership In-Service. I gave a one-and-a-half-hour presentation to the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Standing Committees, and Pastoral staff of St. Alphonsus Parish in Greendale, Wisconsin. The theme was “Leaders as Listeners, Evangelizers, and Unifiers”. (September 20, 2022 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm).
- **Presentation:** A one-hour presentation to the Serra Convention on *“Later in Life Vocations”*. The talk was in conjunction with the Central Regional Convention of SERRA. This was held at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois. The convention was from October 7-8, 2022.
- **Presentation:** I gave a one-and-a-half-hour presentation at the *Fifth Annual SHSST Preaching Conference*. The talk was entitled, *“Major Characteristics of Effective Introductions and Conclusions”*. The focus was showing how essential an engaging introduction and conclusion is to one’s preaching. Even if the homilist is well known to a congregation, a preacher must continually open the minds of their listeners to the message God has placed on their hearts. (SHSST). (January 3-5, 2023).
- **Online Retreat:** *“A five-day Pre-Ordination Retreat for Candidate Dan Mahoney (and his spouse) of the Diocese of Portland, Maine”*. Deacon Peter Bernier, the diaconate director of Portland, Maine requested some assistance with a candidate who needed a retreat prior to a February ordination. I was able to put together a program that addressed many of the important issues surrounding the ministry of diaconal life. Scripture, preaching, pastoral counseling, family life, marriage covenant, and obedience to the bishop were some of the topics covered. We had to be creative and work around Mr. Mahoney’s time at the retreat house and my time on campus. [Online interactive presentation/retreat](#). (January 30 – February 3, 2023).

- **RCIA Retreat:** I gave a 4-hour (half day) RCIA retreat for the Catechumens, Sponsors and Team members of St. Matthew Parish in Oak Creek, in preparation for the season of Lent and their journey to the Rite of Election. Held at SHSST. (Saturday, February 11, 2023).
- **RCIA Retreat:** I gave an all-day retreat for the Candidates, Sponsors, and Team members of St. Alphonsus Parish in Greendale, in preparation for the season of Lent and their journey to The Rite of Continuing Conversion. Held at SHSST. (Sunday, February 12, 2023).
- **Presentation (Diaconate Formation):** I gave a weekend conference to the Aspirants for the Diaconate Formation Class of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois. The program consisted of eight (8) hours of instruction on *"Communication and Interpersonal Skills"* necessary for solid ministerial service as an ordained minister. Topics covered over the weekend included: Verbal and Nonverbal Communication, Perception, Conflict Resolution, Intercultural Communication, Oral vs Written Communication, Listening Skills, Self-Concept, and appropriate Self-Disclosure. Held at Villa Maria Retreat Center, Springfield, Illinois. (May 12-14, 2023).
- **Communication Workshop # 1 (SHSST English and Culture Studies Program):** I gave a two-hour workshop to 27 international priests, attending our 6-week summer program, which focused on Reading in English, Listening exercises, Articulation, Rate of Speech, and Pronunciation. Held at SHSST. ( July 6, 2023).
- **Communication Workshop # 2 (SHSST English and Culture Studies Program):** I gave a two-hour workshop to 27 international priests, attending our 6-week summer program, which focused on Verbal and Nonverbal Communication, Vocal Projection, Volume, Jargon, and Idiomatic speech. Held at SHSST. (July 20, 2023).
- **Diocesan Diaconate Formation Retreat/Workshop:** I gave a weekend formation retreat for a new class of deacon candidates and wives for the dioceses of Belleville, Illinois and Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri. This was the initial formation for these candidates (aspirants). Held at the cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville, Illinois. (August 11-12 2023).

## **External: In Other Institutions**

- **Diaconal Preaching Placement:** advising for deacons at St. Francis de Sales Seminary who have been assigned to Milwaukee teaching parishes. Working with Fr. Glenn Powers and meeting with the Saint Francis deacons in order that they will meet the requirements to satisfy their pastoral studies obligations at Saint Francis.

- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee:** (January 7 – March 18, 2017) I taught Preaching I for the candidates of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program. There were nine students taking their first homiletics course.
- **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the ordination of Fr. Dan Dorau - Diocese of Davenport, Iowa. (May 27, 2017).
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee:** (April 25 – July 18, 2017) I taught Preaching II for the candidates of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program. This course was a 12-week program focusing on Sacramental and Sunday Eucharistic preaching. There were nine students in the class.
- **Recruitment Trip:** I represented SHSST at the CMSM (Conference of Major Superiors of Men). Along with Dr. Blackwood, Kelly Kornacki and Fr. Knoebel (rector), we spent three days recruiting and meeting with the heads of various religious orders. The conference was held at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort outside of Phoenix, Arizona. (August 1-3, 2017).
- **Recruitment Trip:** Part of a four-person delegation recruiting potential sponsors for SHSST at the NCDVD (National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors) in New Orleans, Louisiana. This was a seven-day recruitment trip. (September 23 – 29, 2017).
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee:** (September 5 – November 21, 2017) I taught Preaching III for the candidates of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program. This was a 12-week course which focused on preaching at weddings celebrated outside of Mass and Sunday Eucharistic preaching. There were nine students in the class.
- **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the Transitional Deacon ordination of Rich Rhinehart – Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin. (December 17, 2017).
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (January 6, 20 and February 3, 2018). I prepared the candidates for the Permanent Diaconate class of 2020 for their receiving the *Ministry of Lector*. This was a series of three one and a half hour workshops.
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (January 6 – March 17, 2018) I taught Preaching IV for the candidates for the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This was a six Saturday course that was practicum based. Each candidate had to videotape a homily/reflection in a parish audience complete with congregation feedback. Candidates were then assessed by their peers and myself.
- **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the priestly ordination of Tuyen Do – Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas (May 25 – 27, 2018).
- **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the Transitional Diaconate ordination of Bill Evans – Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin (June 3-4, 2018).
- **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the priestly ordination of Rich Rhinehart – Diocese of Superior (June 24-25, 2018).
- **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the Transitional Diaconate ordination of Terry Ball – Diocese of Davenport, Iowa (June 30 – July 1, 2018).

- **Recruitment Trip:** There were five members of SHSST (Fr. Tom Knoebel, Dr. Chris McAtee, Kelly Kornacki, Kimberly Gardiner and myself) who attended the **CMSM** gathering at the Sheraton in St. Louis. Recruitment efforts were geared towards members of various religious orders. (August 2018).
  - **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the Transitional Diaconate Ordinations of Paul Wilkin and Virginus Osuagwu of the Salvatorians (Society of the Divine Savior) – Milwaukee, WI (August 18, 2018).
  - **Recruitment Trip:** As newly designated Director of Recruitment for SHSST I was part of a five-person delegation recruiting sponsors at the NCDVD (National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors) held in Scottsdale, Arizona. (September 17–21, 2018).
  - **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee:** (January 5 – March 16, 2019) I taught Preaching I for the candidates of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program. There were four students taking their first homiletics course.
  - **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the Transitional Diaconate ordination of Michael Johnson – Diocese of Madison, WI. (May 24-25, 2019).
  - **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the priestly ordination of Terry Ball – Diocese of Davenport, Iowa. (May 31 – June 3, 2019).
  - **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the transitional diaconate ordinations of Carl Schrage and Joel Seipp – Diocese of Belleville, Illinois. (June 6-9, 2019).
  - **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the priestly ordination of Bill Evans – Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin. (June 22, 2019).
- 
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee:** (April 30 – July 16, 2019) I taught Preaching II for the candidates of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program. This course was a 12-week program focusing on Sacramental and Sunday Eucharistic preaching. There were four students in the class.
  - **Recruitment Trip:** In addition to myself, there were four other SHSST members who attended the **CMSM** annual gathering. Fr. Tom Knoebel, Fr. Raul Gomez, Dr. Chris McAtee, Kelly Kornacki and I spent four days in San Antonio, Texas recruiting potential students for SHSST. (August 5-8, 2019).
  - **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee:** (Sept. 3 – Nov. 19, 2019) I taught Preaching III for the candidates of the Permanent Diaconate Formation Program. This course was a 12-week program focusing on Sacramental and Sunday Eucharistic preaching. There were four students in the class.
  - **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (January – March, 2020) I taught Preaching IV for the candidates for the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This was a six Saturday course that was practicum based. Each candidate had to videotape a homily/reflection in a parish audience complete with congregation feedback. Candidates were then assessed by their peers and myself.



- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (*January 11, 25 and February 8, 2020*). I prepared the candidates for the Permanent Diaconate class of 2020 for their receiving the Ministry of Lector. This was a series of three one and a half hour workshops.
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (January – March 2021) taught Preaching I for the 16 candidates for the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This was a six Saturday course that was primarily lecture based, but included candidates giving their first homilies.
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (May 22, 2021) Gave a three-hour presentation/practicum class focusing on “Sunday Celebrations of the Eucharist in the Absence of a Priest”. Held at the Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center in St. Francis, WI.
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (April – July 2021) taught Preaching II for the 16 candidates for the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This was a 12-week course that focused on preaching principles and allowed the students to preach multiple times.
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (Sept. – Nov. 2021) taught Preaching III for the 16 candidates for the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This was a 12-week course that focused on preaching principles and allowed the students to preach multiple times.
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (*January 8, 22 and February 5, 2022*). I prepared the candidates for the Permanent Diaconate class of 2024 for their receiving the *Ministry of Lector*. This was a series of three one and a half hour workshops.
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (January 8 – March 19, 2022) I taught Preaching IV for the 16 candidates for the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This was a six Saturday course that was practicum based. Each candidate had to videotape a homily/reflection in a parish audience complete with congregation feedback. Candidates were then assessed by their peers and myself.
- **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the transitional diaconate ordination of Simon Tipps and Mark Foley of the Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin. (May 13, 2022).
- **Archdiocese of Milwaukee:** I assisted the archdiocese in drafting possible homily helps/preaching points for priests and deacons for the possible overturning of Roe vs. Wade. (May 2022).
- **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the priestly ordination of Simon Muema SDS. Milwaukee, WI. (May 28, 2022).
- **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the transitional diaconate ordination of Isaiah Schick, Dan Tracy, and Julian Druffner of the Diocese of Superior. Superior, WI. (May 29, 2022). Also, attended First Masses on Monday, May 30, 2022.
- **SHSST Seminary Representative:** For the transitional diaconate ordination of Matthew Solarz, Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana. (June 30, 2022).

- **Recruitment Trip:** As Director of Recruitment, I represented SHSST at the CMSM (Conference of Major Superiors of Men). Fr. Mark Mastin, Fr. Raul Gomez and I spent three days in Buffalo, New York recruiting potential students for SHSST. (August 2-4, 2022).
- **Recruitment Trip:** As Director of Recruitment, I represented SHSST at the NCDVD Conference (National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors) in Baltimore, Maryland. Fr. John Mack, Jenny Drzewiecki, and I spent four days recruiting and meeting with vocation directors from around the US. (September 5-8, 2022).
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (January – March 2023) taught Preaching I for the 11 candidates for the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This was a six Saturday course that was primarily lecture based, but included candidates giving their first homilies.
- **Teaching for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee** (April – July 2023) taught Preaching II for the 12 candidates for the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This was a 12-week course that focused on preaching principles and allowed the students to preach multiple times.