

# OUR LADY

## *Star of the Sea*

CATHOLIC CHURCH

### DEACON DAN REFLECTS on Life in the Permanent Diaconate

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*Deacon Dan and Peggy Scrone  
on a recent trip to Jerusalem*

#### *“It’s All Couched in Love”*

While it was something of a winding path that brought Deacon Dan Scrone to his vocation in the permanent diaconate, it is certainly clear that God was present throughout the journey. How fortunate we are here at Our Lady Star of the Sea that the Lord not only called Deacon Dan to serve His Church, but that he also brought him here to sunny Florida to be with us!

Deacon Dan grew up in Morristown, N.J., and attended Catholic grammar school and high school. Following his high school graduation, he enlisted in

the Marine Corps. While he eventually decided to leave the military, he is thankful for the personal and spiritual growth that his three years with the Marines brought him.

“I grew up there for sure,” he says. “I learned discipline and other things like that. It was towards the end of my hitch in the Marines that I made a real adult decision to follow Christ. As everyone who is raised in the faith eventually has to do, I made that decision as an adult.”

Thinking that he might have a call to the priesthood, Deacon Dan then went to study philosophy at St. Mary’s College in Kentucky and Seton Hall University in New Jersey. When his spiritual director advised him to pursue a vocation to marriage, Deacon Dan followed his advice and soon married his wife, Peggy.

Deacon Dan first met Peggy when he was a senior in high school. In the hospital for an emergency appendectomy, he was smitten by the blond candy striper who brought him a drink of water. The two didn’t see each other again for several years, and when they reconnected after Deacon Dan had left the seminary, they both knew it was meant to be.



OUR LADY STAR  
OF THE SEA

# DEACON DAN REFLECTS

## on Life in the Permanent Diaconate *continued from front cover*

“I guess God knew what he was doing,” says Deacon Dan of the couple’s second meeting. “I knew she was it for me. We just celebrated our 52nd anniversary on April first. When we were planning our wedding, you couldn’t get married during Lent, so Peggy said, ‘Let’s make it the first Saturday after Easter’. She didn’t realize it was April Fool’s Day!”

When The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) restored the permanent diaconate, Deacon Dan began to feel called to this vocation. He applied to the diaconate program in the Paterson Diocese in New Jersey in 1978 and was ordained a permanent deacon in 1982. At the time, life was busy: Deacon Dan was working full-time in the business world, and he and Peggy had three young children.

Despite the many demands on their time and energy, the Scrones continued to nurture a strong marriage by keeping their faith at the center of life together.

“Your primary responsibility as a married couple is to let your love grow, and the way to do that as Catholics is to pray together,” says Deacon Dan. “I like to make it clear when I do marriage counseling: you fall in love and all your attention is on each other, but before you know it, everything is about the kids, and you can’t let that happen. Your marriage has to come first.

“When our kids started coming and we started to drift, Peggy and I made a commitment to pray the Rosary together,” he continues. “Something like that only takes fifteen minutes a day, and your love will grow and will overflow to the kids. And whatever happens, you are peaceful and together.”

Reflecting on his 37 years in the permanent diaconate — including the decade he has served here at Our Lady Star of the Sea — Deacon Dan knows that his vocation in the Church has been made possible by his supportive wife.

“If you don’t have 100% support from your spouse, you wouldn’t be able to be a permanent deacon,” he says. “I certainly couldn’t do it without Peggy. She is the main part of it—without her prayers and love and support, God only knows where I’d be.”

Now almost 80 years old, Deacon Dan’s days of service are still full: in addition to helping out with baptisms, weddings, and preaching at Our Lady Star of the Sea, he also teaches religion at our parish school. It is this latter role of teacher that has most captured his heart. Believing that children are the future of our Church, Deacon Dan enjoys the chance to be present in the lives of our youngest parishioners.

After a lifetime of focusing on the faith, Deacon Dan has learned that it all comes down to one thing — love.

“I think the more you get to know Jesus Christ and understand Scripture and the Church He founded, the more you realize it’s all about relationships,” he says. “Pope John Paul II said that heaven is a relationship. It’s a relationship with the blessed Trinity. So heaven starts here, in your relationships with your spouse, your children, the parish. I also have a family in the kids at the school. It’s all couched in love. As Jesus said, ‘Love one another as I love you.’”

In the 11 years since they first arrived here in Ponte Vedra, the Scrones have truly made our parish and community their home. Two of their children and four of their grandchildren live in the area, and they have made many dear friends among our parishioners. Both are grateful for the many opportunities they have found to live out Christ’s love in relationship right here at Our Lady Star of the Sea!

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*A Letter from Our Pastor*

# Honoring Our Lady in May

Dear Parishioners,

As people of faith, we often refer to May as “the month of Mary.” For centuries, Catholics throughout the world have included special devotions to Mary in their activities during this month. Best known, I’m sure, is the widespread and ever-popular practice of May Crowning — crowning an image of Our Lady with flowers.

May is certainly a beautiful time — it is, after all, a month full of renewal and celebration. For many Americans, cold March winds and dreary April showers have given way to blooming flowers and trees. Yet, it’s not only flowers and trees that reflect the newness and joy of May. Many students in junior high, high school and college are celebrating their graduations, and will soon be moving on to new phases and exciting opportunities in their lives. And of course, it is the month when we celebrate Mother’s Day, honoring and extending our gratitude to the women who have faithfully raised and nurtured us.

And May is most certainly a month of joy for all of us who claim the Church as our spiritual home. This

year, we spend the whole month in the Easter season, which closes with Pentecost in June. Thus, the joy of the Resurrection and the glory of the Ascension are the themes that fill our Christian calendar this month.

As we rejoice with Mary at her Son’s triumph over sin, Satan and death, we also remember her faithfulness to God’s will throughout her life. Indeed, she can be viewed as the model of Christian stewardship. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops pointed to her in their pastoral letter on stewardship: “After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 41).

As we enter into the month of May, let us take the time to gratefully reflect on the newness and joy that surrounds us. And in doing so, let us follow the Blessed Mother’s example



of total dedication to God as we rejoice in the blessings He gives us, this month and beyond!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Keith Brennan  
Pastor



## *Mission House* Meeting Needs of Area

*“We’re all brothers and sisters, and we do the best we can, where we can. Sometimes, it’s as simple as driving by and seeing someone on the corner panhandling, and you pull out what cash you might have for them. You may have extra clothes in your closet, and canned goods that Mission House can find a great use for. Make time and effort to pass it on.” — Carole Bayer*

While Carole Bayer’s work as a realtor at Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty in Ponte Vedra Beach centers on helping others buy and sell their homes, she finds great comfort in assisting at Mission House and helping those in our community who have no home.

Mission House, at 800 Shetter Ave., Jacksonville Beach, is a day shelter serving adult homeless through daily meals, shower facilities, counseling and medical care. Our Lady Star of the Sea is a partner with the agency. Lori Anderson, executive director, is a parishioner here.

In her travels around the state, and right here in the Jacksonville area, Carole had seen and was troubled by the many homeless persons on the streets. But it was a visit to Washington, D.C. in 2016 that compelled her to put her concerns into action.

“Washington, D.C. is horrible,” she says of the homeless numbers there. “There are so many homeless, and this is our capital. And it was so cold and miserable. I was so struck by it – realizing that the homeless are not just here where it is warm. When I came home from

Washington, I felt called to do something.”

So Carole reached out to Mission House and asked where she could volunteer. She was told she could help with the Closet, the space used to provide clean clothes to the clients. There also was a need for someone to work the desk on Clinic Night when area medical professionals volunteer to care for the clients. She decided to work both areas, and did so for a year until she realized that two nights was too much.

“Life is full,” she says. “So now I just work Clinic Nights.”

Carole works the front desk, greeting everyone who comes in, and directs them to the clinic or other areas in the building.

“I just help out,” she says. “I answer the phones and help where I’m needed depending on the evening. It’s always different. It’s very fulfilling. I feel very blessed in working there.”

The clients can come in for lunch and dinner Monday through Friday — on Saturday and Sunday, there is just one meal served. Two hours before the meals are served, the clients can take a shower and

receive clean donated clothing. Men make up the largest share of clients, although there are some women who are served. Between 50 to 60 persons are served at each meal. The free medical clinic is offered on Tuesday nights and on Saturdays.

If a client comes in for meals and showers for at least a week, he or she is required to meet with a case manager. Support services are available to help determine the client’s needs and what will be required to help them back to self-sufficiency and a home. An Alcoholics Anonymous group also meets at the Mission House.

Although each client who walks through the door has a different situation, Carole is able to see Christ in each person.

“You realize that it could be you as easily as them,” she says. “They’re your brothers and sisters, and we’re all His creation. People we know, we’re all extensions of Him. We’re all brothers and sisters, and we do the best we can, where we can. Sometimes, it’s as simple as driving by and seeing someone on the corner panhandling, and you pull out what cash you might have for them. You may have extra clothes in

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# Beach Homeless — And We Can Help, Too

your closet, and canned goods that Mission House can find a great use for. Make time and effort to pass it on.”

One way we can help is by attending or serving as a sponsor for the Compassion by the Sea Soiree set for Sept. 26 at the 3 Palms Grille. Carole was recently asked to assist with the agency’s annual fundraiser by gaining sponsors and donation of auction items for their silent auction.

Other ways we can help Mission House is by donating clothing. During the colder months, there is a need for scarves, hats and gloves. A group of individuals can work together to prepare one of the meals. Donations of non-perishable foods are always needed. Toiletries, such as individual hotel packets, are needed.

Volunteer time is also needed to sort and distribute the clothing in the Closet, a space that was built with money donated by one of our parishioners. Medical professionals may volunteer to help with the clinics.

“They are always looking for volunteer help,” Carole says.



## Mission House SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

# Compassion by the Sea Soiree

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 | 3 PALMS GRILLE

5:30—9:30 PM | HORS D'OEUVRES AND CLOUD 9 | RESORT CASUAL

**Mission Statement**

*To empower individuals affected by homelessness in the Beaches area by providing food, clothing, medical care and support services with an avenue to self-sufficiency.*

<b>Title Sponsor</b>		
26 TICKETS LOGO RECOGNITION ON INVITATIONS	<b>\$25,000</b> LOGO PLACED ON WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA & POSTERS THROUGHOUT EVENT	COLOR AD/LOGO IN PROGRAM COMPLIMENTARY WELL DRINKS
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<b>Mantles</b>		
10 TICKETS LOGO RECOGNITION ON INVITATIONS	<b>\$7,500</b> LOGO PLACED ON WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA & POSTERS THROUGHOUT EVENT	COLOR AD/LOGO IN PROGRAM COMPLIMENTARY WELL DRINKS
<b>Starfish</b>		
8 TICKETS LOGO RECOGNITION ON INVITATIONS	<b>\$5,000</b> LOGO PLACED ON WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA & POSTERS THROUGHOUT EVENT	COLOR AD/LOGO IN PROGRAM COMPLIMENTARY WELL DRINKS
<b>Sand Dollar</b> <b>\$2,500</b>	<b>Clam</b> <b>\$1,000</b>	<b>Coquina</b> <b>\$500</b>
6 TICKETS RECOGNITION ON INVITATIONS COLOR AD/LOGO IN PROGRAM COMPLIMENTARY WELL DRINKS	4 TICKETS RECOGNITION ON INVITATIONS COLOR AD/LOGO IN PROGRAM COMPLIMENTARY WELL DRINKS	2 TICKETS RECOGNITION ON INVITATIONS COLOR AD/LOGO IN PROGRAM COMPLIMENTARY WELL DRINKS

*Those wanting to volunteer can go online to [www.missionhousejax.org/volunteers](http://www.missionhousejax.org/volunteers) for the form. Training is also required. Those wishing to donate to Mission House or learn more about the September event can log onto [www.missionhousejax.org](http://www.missionhousejax.org) and click on the links provided. To contact Carole Bayer regarding the silent auction, email her at [bayer4jax@gmail.com](mailto:bayer4jax@gmail.com).*



## This Month, We Reflect on *Mothers and Stewardship*

**W**e celebrate the month of Mary during May, and during this month, we also celebrate Mother's Day. It seems fitting that we honor our mothers during May, since Mary is given to us by God as the example of true Christian motherhood.

Those who are called to be mothers have been blessed by God and called to fulfill a very important responsibility. Mothers are the vehicle through which God brings new life into this world. When we talk about Christian stewardship, we talk about sacrificially returning to God what we have been given. What can more clearly be a demonstration of complete sacrifice than the relationship between mother and child during the nine months of growth in the womb? During these nine months, the child's life depends on the actions of the mother as her energy and nourishment goes directly to the growing baby.

Although this relationship may change to some extent after the child is born, a mother's sacrifice for her child is far from over after the birth. The role of the mother is critical

in the child's development — both spiritually and physically — throughout life. Mothers provide the comfort, nurture and support necessary for their children to become productive citizens and responsible Christians.

The vocation of a mother is not an easy one. This is a fact that Mary, the mother of Jesus, knew very well. She worried when her young Son appeared to be lost, only to find Him later in His Father's House. She was probably concerned as Jesus began His public ministry — not knowing what difficulties and rejections He would encounter along the way. And Mary must have experienced great anguish as she watched her Son's body being crucified to a cross.

May all mothers look to Mary as their model for motherhood and ask her intercession as they strive to fulfill their God-given role in their children's lives. During the month of May, let us all take some time to express our appreciation to our mothers for allowing us to come into this world, for loving us, and for serving as an example of what it means to be a steward for life.

# *Sealed with the Holy Spirit:* The Sacrament of Confirmation

**D**ifferent images come to mind when reflecting on the Sacrament of Confirmation. Maybe you remember the bishop giving you a “tap” on the cheek, as a reminder to be willing to suffer for Christ. Perhaps the scent of chrism, in the sign of a cross on your forehead, is one you’ll never forget. Or maybe picking a sponsor or a Confirmation saint was a decision that you gave lot of thought. But regardless of what stands out in your mind, when you received the Sacrament of Confirmation, you were anointed with oil, sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and strengthened in the grace you received at Baptism.

Each year, a group of young people from our parish and school join the ranks of the fully initiated, receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. This year, 80 students from our Faith Formation program and Palmer Catholic Academy receive this sacrament on Saturday, May 11.

“The Sacrament of Confirmation enables the faithful to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, strengthening them in their Christian life,” says Dina Voutour, our Director of Faith Formation who coordinates the Confirmation preparation program. “In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives them the increased ability to practice their Catholic faith in every aspect of their lives and to witness Christ in every situation.”

The Confirmation preparation process takes place over two years, during students’ seventh and eighth-grade years. The students learn about the doctrine of the faith, as well as how to apply it in their lives. Mrs. Monica Begeman has served as a Confirmation catechist for the past three decades.

“It’s an exciting time for the students, because they are now saying, “This is what I believe and my life is going to be guided by this choice I’m making to follow Christ and be a confirmed Catholic,” Monica says.

In addition to the time spent in the classroom, students also spend time giving back to the community through service.



*If you would like more information about the Confirmation preparation process, please contact Director of Faith Formation Dina Voutour at 904-285-2698 or dre@olsspvb.org.*

“Christ came down, not as a king, but as a servant and He wants us to do that, too,” Monica says. “We hope service becomes part of who they are, and they want to serve, they want to participate. It’s part of following in Christ’s footsteps.”

“Most children fall in love with helping other people,” Dina adds.

Students also participate in a daylong Confirmation retreat, leading up to the big day.

“At the Confirmation retreat, all the students come together in community,” Monica says. “They come

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## The Sacrament of Confirmation *continued from page 7*

together and share in this great experience of praying together and applying some of the things they've learned."

Through the process of preparation and reception of the sacrament, students are empowered to live the faith in their everyday lives, for years to come.

"I pray that they know how much the Lord loves them," Dina says. "I pray that the students continue to come to Mass weekly and continue to be involved in service to the parish. I also hope that they join the high school youth group for the ongoing faith development. I pray that the preparation for this sacrament brings the students closer to God and that they begin to be more involved in the Church."

"I hope they have established the importance of having Christ and their faith as part of their decision-making process, so when things come up and they have to make choices, they're not just leaning on their

knowledge, they're not just leaning on friends and family, they're leaning on Christ, as well," Monica adds.

Dina and Monica ask the parish to remember our confirmandi as they approach their big day.

"We can all continue to pray that our newly confirmed continue to grow in their faith and that they continue to respond to God's call to be a witness for Christ and the Church," Dina says.

"Pray for the students to have the open heart and open mind to receive Christ as fully as they possibly can, so they can use the gifts given to them to now be a better example of Christ as they go out into the world," Monica adds. "Pray they are always open to that, so that when they go out into that crazy world, they have Christ with them to help them through it."

For additional information, please refer to *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1285.

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

*Saturday Vigil* - 5:30 p.m. | *Sunday* - 7:30 a.m.; 9:00 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

*Daily (Monday to Saturday)* - 8:30 a.m. | *Wednesday* - 7:00 p.m.

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: Wednesdays* from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

*Saturdays* from 4:00-5:00 p.m.