



*Office of the Bishop*

# *Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda*

23rd January 2016

My Dear Fellow-Catholics,

I would like to cordially invite you to come to our Cathedral on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2016 at 11:00am to attend the Mass at which three of our brothers in faith, Matthew Arnold, Andrew Moulder and David Swain, will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate. It is going to be a new reality in the life of our Diocese for they will be the first Catholic permanent deacons to minister on our Island since the Ordination of Rev. Mr. Edward Outerbridge in 1975. It makes this event very special and historic. I want to ask everyone from our Catholic Community to pray for these men and to implore God's blessing and grace upon them and their service to our Church.

The Permanent Diaconate dates back to Apostolic Times and had been flourishing in the Church up to the fifth century. Then it slowly disappeared and was re-discovered by the 2nd Vatican Council. The number of the permanent deacons is presently around 25,000 married men in the world of which 70% minister in North America.

A deacon is a clergyman who assists the Bishop and the priests. He is ordained, not to the priesthood, but to service which has a three-fold role:

1. Charity, in which he is of service to the community;
2. Word, in which he proclaims the Gospel and preaches;
3. Liturgy, in which he assists at Mass; is an ordinary minister of the Eucharist (i.e. he distributes the Holy Communion during the Mass; brings Communion to the sick; leads the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with the final blessing); baptizes; witnesses (blesses) marriages; leads the community in prayer and presides at funeral services.

A deacon cannot hear Confession, celebrate the Mass, administer Confirmation, anoint the sick nor bring the Viaticum to the dying.

Please let us be united in prayer for Matthew, Andrew and David, and let us meet in the community of the Church to celebrate their Ordination.

*Bishop Wes Spiewak, C.R.*

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