

Report of the Deacon Council to Annual Convention, Diocese of El Camino Real, 2024

El Camino Real has 12 deacons serving in our three deaneries. We are down 2 active deacons who moved out of the area (and country). They are sorely missed!

Our deacons are involved in a variety of ministries: parish ministry, preaching, campus ministry, chaplaincy, community involvement, food and clothing outreach programs, and more, as discerned with God. There are as many ministries as there are deacons. Most importantly, our deacons encourage and bring local community outreach opportunities to our parishes so parishioners may serve the community in which they live.

- Deacons are involved in immigration and Latinx ministries.
- Deacons provide home communion services to a local assisted living facility.
- A deacon is chaplain for Canterbury Bridge Episcopal Campus Ministry at SJSU. Many SJSU students access Canterbury's assistance to access food and housing.
- A deacon is chaplain for Canterbury Woods, an Episcopal retirement community in Pacific Grove.
- A deacon is vice-chair of People Acting in Community Together (PACT) whose mission is to "...empower everyday people to create a more healthy and just society....".
- A deacon is a mentor for the Preaching and Deacon formation classes in the West Coast Collaborative School for Ministry.
- Deacons are or have been involved in jail ministry.

El Camino Real's deacon community needs new vocations, and you may be one!

- When you renew your baptismal promises, are you particularly drawn to the last two covenant statements: "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons . . .?" and "Will you strive for justice and peace . . .?"
- Are you attracted to and participate in activities in your parish or in other community organizations which provide services to the vulnerable people in your community?
- Do you have the skills and interest to lead your parish out of the church doors to serve the wider community?
- Do you have the skills and interest to advocate in government assemblies for those whose voices are seldom heard?

Perhaps God and your faith community are calling you to be a deacon!

Our bishop and the Commission on Ministry (COM) encourage everyone to prayerfully consider if you or someone in your parish might be called to formation, ordination, and service as a deacon. If yes, please speak to your rector, review COM's "Steps to Ordination" (<http://www.realepiscopal.org/commission-on-ministry/>), and sign-up for the Lay Preaching course with the West Coast Collaborative (<https://www.realepiscopal.org/west-coast-collaborative/>).

Lastly, two members of our retired deacon community died the past year: the Rev. John Avery Palmer, formerly from St. Francis, Willow Glen; and the Rev. Canon Robert Seifert, formerly with St. Luke's, Jolon. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Respectfully submitted

The Rev. Robin M. Poppoff and the Rev. Susan Arnold

Deacon Council

09 October 2024