

**International Meeting
DEACONS IN A SYNODAL AND MISSIONARY CHURCH:
BEING WITNESSES OF HOPE**

**Addressed to: Bishops, Delegates/Representatives of Episcopal and Diocesan
Conferences, interested Deacons and their wives**

**Saturday, February 22, 2025
9:30 AM - 01:00 PM
Auditorium Conciliazione
Via della Conciliazione, 4 - Rome**

**Free participation with online registration by February 20, 2025,
at clerus.va,
subject to availability.**

Welcoming begins at 9:00 AM

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Opening Prayer and Welcome Remarks:

- **H.E. Cardinal Lazzaro You Heung Sik**, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Clergy
- **H.E. Bishop Andrés Gabriel Ferrada Moreira**, Secretary of the Dicastery for the Clergy

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

A snapshot of the current situation

Testimonies from Continents

Moderator: **Fr. Luca Garbinetto** (religious priest of the Pia Società San Gaetano, co-pastor, trainer, and theologian - Italy)

- Italy: **Fr. Claudio Baima Rughet** (episcopal delegate for the diaconate and responsible for the formation of deacons in the dioceses of Turin and Susa - Italy)
- France and Francophone countries: **Fr. Luc Forestier** (priest of the Diocese of Marseille, on mission in Lille, parish vicar, associate researcher at the Faculty of Theology of the Catholic University of Lille, France)
- Germany and Central and Northern European Countries: **Dr. Michael Quisinsky** (theologian, Professor of Systematic Theology in Karlsruhe, Germany)
- United States: **Rev. Deacon Gerald DuPont** (President of the International Center for the Diaconate - Galveston-Houston, Texas, USA)
- Spanish-speaking Latin America: **Rev. Fr. José Gabriel Mesa Angulo** (theologian of the Order of Preachers, Bogotá, Colombia)

- Brazil and Portuguese-speaking Countries: **Rev. Deacon José Oliveira Cavalcante** (President of the National Commission for the Diaconate of the Brazilian Episcopal Conference, Brazil)
- Asia and Oceania: **Rev. Fr. Gilbert de Lima** (Vice President of the International Center for the Diaconate - Bombay, India)
- Africa: **Rev. Fr. Aimable Musoni** (Professor of Ecclesiology and Ecumenism at the Pontifical Salesian University, Rwanda)
- Middle East: **H.E. Mons. Guy Noujaim** (Emeritus Eparch of Caesarea of Philippi and Patriarchal Vicar for Sarba of the Maronites, Lebanon)
- International Network of Spouses: **Mrs. Marie-Françoise Maincent** (Coordinator for the Network of Spouses at the International Center for the Diaconate - Lille, France)

11:00 AM – 11:20 AM

Break

11:20 AM – 11:40 AM

A framework for reflection

Dr. Serena Noceti (Doctor of Theology, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Higher Institute of Religious Sciences of Tuscany “S. Caterina” - Florence, Italy)

***The diaconal ministry in a synodal and missionary Church:
To be witnesses of hope***

11:40 AM – 12:00 PM

A path for the future

Fr. Dario Vitali (priest of the Diocese of Velletri-Segni; professor of Ecclesiology at the Pontifical Gregorian University – Rome, Italy)

The Ratio Formationis and the Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons: a path to be updated

12:00 PM – 12:20 PM

Voices from the audience

12:20 PM – 12:40 PM

H.E. Cardinal Lazzaro You Heung Sik, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Clergy

H.E. Mons. Andrés Gabriel Ferrada Moreira, Secretary of the Dicastery for Clergy

Launch of the online consultation on the ministry of the diaconate today

01:00 PM

Pilgrimage of participants, animated by the Dicastery for Clergy, to the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica

PRESS RELEASE

AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING FOR DEACONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE JUBILEE 2025

On the occasion of the Jubilee of Deacons (February 21-23, 2025), the Dicastery for the Clergy announces an International Meeting titled “*Deacons in a Synodal and Missionary Church: Witnesses of Hope.*” This event aims to provide a space for reflection and sharing among Bishops, Delegates, and Representatives of Episcopal Conferences and Dioceses, as well as Deacons and their spouses, to deepen the role and mission of the permanent diaconate in today’s Church.

The meeting will take place on the morning of Saturday, February 22, 2025, at the Auditorium Conciliazione and will serve as an opportunity for mutual listening on the ministry of the diaconate in the context of synodality and mission. Participation is free of charge, but mandatory registration is required through the official website of the Dicastery for the Clergy ([clerus.va](http://www.clerus.va)) until capacity is reached.

The event will open with a prayer and the institutional greetings of Cardinal Lazzaro You Heung Sik, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Clergy, and Monsignor Andrés Gabriel Ferrada Moreira, Secretary of the Dicastery. Following this, a series of testimonies from various parts of the world will offer a snapshot of the reality of the diaconate in different ecclesial contexts, highlighting the challenges and opportunities of this ministry today.

After a brief break, Prof. Serena Noceti will lead a theological reflection on the diaconate in a synodal and missionary Church, helping participants to consider how the diaconal service can increasingly be a sign of hope for the people of God. Subsequently, Rev. Prof. Dario Vitali will present a framework for updating the *Ratio Formationis* and the Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons (which date back to 1998), offering perspectives for the future of the diaconal vocation.

The concluding moment will feature interventions from the Superiors of the Dicastery, who will present the launch of a global online consultation on the ministry of the diaconate, inviting participants to contribute to the ecclesial reflection on this particular vocation.

The pilgrimage to the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica, led by the Dicastery for the Clergy, will mark the culmination of the meeting—a deeply spiritual moment of prayer and unity for all participants.

For further information and to proceed with free registration, please visit the official website of the Dicastery for the Clergy: www.clerus.va