



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

2025 Diaconate Retreat & Convocation

February 21-23, 2025

Speaker

[Deacon Dominic Cerrato, Ph.D.](#), will present *Grow in the Gift of Your Diaconate*. He is director of both Diaconal Ministries and the Diaconate for the Diocese of Joliet, and editor of Our Sunday Visitor's *The Deacon* magazine. He has taught theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Duquesne University and Holy Apostles College and Seminary. While at Franciscan University, Deacon Cerrato also established and developed the distance learning Masters in Theology program. He has nearly 30 years of experience in catechetical and pastoral ministry on the diocesan and parish levels. Ordained in 1995 as the first permanent deacon of the Diocese of Steubenville at the age of 35, Deacon Cerrato is a national speaker, author and retreat master. Dominic and his wife Judith have been married for 40 years and have seven children and many grandchildren.

Location

[Doubletree by Hilton](#)
2100 Bush River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

Schedule

Friday, February 21

3:00-6:00 pm	Check In/Dinner on your own
6:30-7:00 pm	Evening Prayer/Welcome
7:00-8:30 pm	<i>Introductory Session</i>
8:30-10:00 pm	Hospitality & Fellowship

Saturday, February 22

7:30-8:30 am	Breakfast
8:30-9:00 am	Morning Prayer/Welcome
9:00-10:30 am	<i>Relationship to Christ the Servant</i>
10:30-11:30 am	Prayer
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Box Lunch
1:00-1:30 pm	Deanery Meetings
1:30-3:00 pm	<i>Identity in Christ the Servant</i>
3:00-4:00 pm	Prayer and Personal Reflection
4:00-4:30 pm	Break

4:00-4:30 pm Deacons moved into DOC in last year meet with Dcn Stocker
4:00-4:30 pm Formation Class of 2026 meet with Dcn Justice
4:30-6:00 pm **Mission with Christ the Servant**
6:00-7:00 pm Evening Prayer, personal reflection, prep for banquet
7:00-9:00 pm Banquet
9:00-10:00 pm Fellowship

Sunday, February 23

7:30-8:30 am Breakfast
8:30-9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:00-10:00 am **Wrap Up with Deacon Dom**
10:00-10:30 am Final Announcements/Closing Prayer
10:30-11:00 am Checkout/Prep for Mass
11:00 am-12:00 pm **Holy Mass with Bishop Jacques**
12:00 pm Departure

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Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. – Romans 12:12