



✠ AN APPEAL FROM FATHER ARCOLEO ✠

MOST REVEREND JOHN O. BARRES

A NATIVE NEW YORKER WITH A PASSION FOR PARISH LIFE AND THE HEART OF A PARISH PRIEST



Dear Brethren,

God-willing, the Diocese of Rockville Centre will have a newly-installed Bishop (our fifth since the Diocese came forth from Brooklyn's womb in 1957) on 31 January 2017: The Most Reverend John O. Barres. According to our Diocesan website, Bishop Barres (a native New Yorker with a "passion for parish life and the heart of a parish priest") will be inheriting 133 parishes (plus one campus parish) in 115 different towns with a total Catholic population of 1,455,644 people. Those parishes, towns, and people are in turn serviced by 351 Priests in active ministry (208 incardinate, 89 externs, 54 Religious), 980 Religious Women,

67 Brothers, and 292 Permanent Deacons. (For more about our Diocese please visit www.drvc.org)

Just after Christmas, Father Walter Kedjierski/Director of the Diaconate Formation Program for our Diocese, sent the following message to his brother Priests:

Dear Brother in Christ,

The Diaconate Formation Program is preparing for next school year. Although the new class will begin in September, the requirements for application are so extensive that the process to apply extends over many months. To ensure that no one who wishes to apply is denied an interview, anyone who is interested in entering our program this year should be urged to contact our office immediately.

We cannot accept applications after January. Thank you for your time and devoted ministry.

*Father Walter Kedjierski
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The last Freeporter to pursue a call to the Permanent Diaconate was Joseph Zubrovich. That pursuit brought Joe to the Altar of Saint Agnes Cathedral where on 14 May 2011 he was Ordained a Permanent Deacon by Bishop Murphy. Deacon Joe continues to live in Freeport with his wife Cathy and their two children, and carries out his service as part of the Pastoral Team in *Cure of Ars Parish* in Merrick. And while the Parish of Our Holy Redeemer is blessed to have three active Permanent Deacons (Bruce Burnham, Cristobal Sanchez, Francisco Cales), there is no one currently from Our Holy Redeemer in the Diaconate Formation Program. And that isn't because Our Holy Redeemer is short on men with Diaconate qualifications. Over my nearly nine years as your Pastor I have reached out to nine men of Faith who I believe have "a passion for parish life" and have what it takes to answer the call; unfortunately none of them accepted the invitation.

God truly is calling men from Freeport to the Permanent Diaconate. Perhaps they have not yet been invited. Maybe **you** are the man that God is calling? Maybe you *know* the man that God is calling? Maybe you would at least consider the possibility of a call for you or a man you know? Maybe I am right?

If today you hear His voice; harden not your hearts: call Father Kedjierski and bring joy; not only to "the heart of a parish Priest", but of a Parish: the Parish of Our Holy Redeemer.