

October 12, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is so good to gather as a Diaconate community! After a successful St. Francis Dinner, we wanted to keep the momentum going and are planning a half-day St. Stephen Symposium on November 13, 2021, at St. John Brebeuf Parish in Niles.

The symposium will include the Most Reverend Kevin Birmingham as the keynote speaker who will be talking about both the “new reality” phase of Renew My Church, as well as the Archdiocese’s participation in Pope Francis’ call for preparation for the Synod on Synodality. The “new reality” is about spreading the Good News. Synodality is about listening to the Holy Spirit’s plans for the Church. As co-presenter with Bishop Birmingham on evangelization and building the new reality, we are blessed to have Father Jason Malave joining in as part of this keynote presentation.

There also will be breakout sessions, Mass and a hot lunch. See the enclosed schedule and registration.

You will need to sign up for one breakout session. Our speakers will include Antonietta Colosanto, manager of social media, communications and public relations for the Archdiocese; Vince Gerasole, director of Multimedia Content; and Alejandro Castillo, director of Hispanic Communications. Bishop Birmingham also will lead a breakout session in Spanish.

The cost for the half-day symposium will be \$15. Please send in your registration form and check made payable to the Office of the Diaconate by **November 8**.

I look forward to once seeing each of you, breaking bread together and learning how we can be better communicators and evangelizers as we serve the Lord and his people in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Richard F. Hudzik
Vicar for Deacons