

**Bulletin Announcement Insert for August 21, 2022
On My Retirement as a Permanent Deacon
By:
Deacon Bill Jordan**

On August 10, 2022 I wrote a letter to Bishop Ronald Gainer and Father Stephen Weitzel announcing my intent to retire from active duty as a Permanent Deacon of the Diocese of Harrisburg effective immediately.

As many of you already know, for the past three years I have had to deal with prostate cancer, long-term diabetes, and mild cognitive impairment that restricted my ability to perform my duties as a Deacon.

I have been under medical care, see my physicians on a regular basis, and I am overall doing well, considering my physical and mental deficiencies, except my ability to walk without assistance, or to stand for even a short while.

My diaconal service over the past 44 years has been extensive, and filled with variety. Listed in random order are some of the duties and responsibilities *I have done over the years that I have served as a Permanent Deacon – e.g. I served as Director of Education at SCI Dallas (a maximum-security facility); I was the Dean of Students at Bishop McDevitt High School; President of the Diocese’s Deacon Council, the Pardons Case Specialist who represented felons before the PA Board of Probation and Parole; Catholic Chaplain at SCI Camp Hill; Director of Catholic Religious Education at St. Francis Church in Harrisburg, Pastoral Associate at OLBS Church in Harrisburg, Elizabeth Ann Seton Church In Mechanicsburg, St. Peter Church in Columbia, Holy Rosary Church in Elysburg, and St. Richard Church in Manheim, where I started the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and served on occasion at Pleasant View Retirement Home and studied to be certified as a Hospital Chaplain at Lancaster General Hospital.*

I served as Founder and CEO of Compassionate House Aftercare, Inc. a home for recently released inmates from a variety of prisons throughout Pennsylvania and a 501 C (3) organization. Our ministry, which not only provided a place for men on Probation to live, but we provided educational training, professional counseling, job placement that paid an average wage, spiritual counseling, worked with their Probation Officers, and family rehabilitation (if needed), among meeting a variety of personal needs of our residents’.

When I studied in the Diocese’s Permanent Deacon Program, I could never have imagined the broad ministry I would serve over the years. My family and I (we have 6 grown children and 16 grandchildren) and we have been very blessed by the people we have encountered, and served in some capacity and we thank Almighty God for the opportunity – though unworthy – to make a difference in the world. Thank you for being a part of our lives! And please continue to pray for us as Rita and I live out the “autumn years of our lives”.