

**Deacon ordination day (June 3) is fast approaching. Bishop McGovern wants to ensure that the lay faithful of your parish have an opportunity to submit input regarding the suitability of your candidate to him before he calls them to orders.**

**The following men, all members of the Deacon Formation Class of 2023, have been recommended to Bishop Michael McGovern, Bishop of Belleville, for Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate on June 3, 2023. A permanent deacon must be a man of humility, prayer, and service. The lay faithful serve a vital part in the selection, calling, and ordination of deacons, who must be faithful to the Magisterium, the teaching authority of the Church. Therefore, Bishop McGovern invites the faithful to submit any comments concerning the worthiness and suitability of any candidate listed below directly to him. These comments should be submitted in writing to arrive by Tuesday, February 28, 2023.**

**Mr. Jay Fowler - St. Anthony, Beckemeyer  
Mr. Brad Haar - St. George, New Baden  
Mr. James Keepes - St. Mary, Mt. Carmel  
Mr. Anthony Kellerman - Sacred Heart, Du Quoin  
Mr. Daniel Kimutis - St. Clare, O'Fallon  
Mr. Daniel Laquet - St. Mary, Centralia  
Mr. Douglas Lugge - Cathedral of St. Peter  
Mr. David Mills - St. Edward, Fairfield  
Mr. David Miskell - SS Peter and Paul, Waterloo  
Mr. William Mueller - St. James, Millstadt  
Mr. Leonard Ratajczyk - St. Clare, O'Fallon  
Mr. Thomas Ritzheimer - St. Mary, Trenton  
Mr. Fred Sterns - St. Ann, Nashville  
Mr. Justin Wolfslau - St. George, New Baden**

**Please send your letter or email to:  
The Most Reverend Michael G. McGovern  
Bishop of Belleville, 222 S. Third Street  
Belleville, IL 62220  
Email: [bmcgovern@diobelle.org](mailto:bmcgovern@diobelle.org)**

**Thank you,**

**Fr. Steven Pautler  
Director of Deacon Formation**