

A Mini Retreat for Yourself or in a Group
Designed for Deacons ▫ 30-45 Minutes



Colors of Autumn

Leader: Autumn settles gently over our parishes with changing leaves and a cooling wind, inviting us as deacons to remain attentive and faithful. Autumn is God's call to us in ministry: Wake up! Stay present! Be ready to serve with renewed, colorful hearts. The colors of autumn can offer a rich source of spiritual inspiration for us as deacons, reminding us of the beauty, mystery, and transformative power of God's

grace within our ministry. These colors mirror our journey of service, sacrifice, and renewal in Christ.

- **Red** reflects the charity and sacrifice poured out in our service at the altar and among God's people.
- **Orange** symbolizes balance in our vocation, warmth in our relationships, and the freedom that comes from faithful obedience.
- **Yellow** reveals the joy of the Gospel we proclaim and the hope we bring into the lives of those we serve.

God has gifted us the trees as a witness to steadfastness in our calling, standing tall and rooted in faith. They remind us to remain attentive to the needs of our parish communities and to God's presence before us. Through stillness, prayer, and gratitude, we as deacons grow spiritually awake and ready to serve.

Reader 1: "You are called to serve as light in the world, revealing the mercy and love of God in every act of charity. Do not hide your calling, but live it openly, colorfully. Stand firm in your ministry, proclaim the Gospel boldly, and let your service shine before others, so that all may encounter the goodness of our heavenly Father."

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader 2: "Let us come before the Lord with thanksgiving and serve him with joyful hearts." As the leaves fall and the air grows crisp, Autumn invites us as deacons to reflect on our ministry. It is a season to consider the blessings of service, to examine our hearts, and to embrace the beauty of change in our vocation and spiritual lives.

Our Change in Autumn

Autumn Prayer –

All: God of all seasons, you have called us to serve as deacons in your Church. In this season of change, give us courage to grow in holiness and in service.

God of Autumn, as the trees release what has been theirs, help us to let go of our burdens, discouragements, and all hindering our ministry. Strengthen us to serve with renewed purpose.

God of falling leaves, our lives and ministries form patterns of grace. Help us to recognize where you are guiding us and to grow through every experience of service and sacrifice.

God of quiet days and longer nights, draw us deeper into prayer and reflection. May we find you present in every moment of our diaconate calling.

God of harvest, bless the fruits of our ministry. When we feel weary or uncertain, grant us patience and hope, trusting that you are at work in every act of service.

God of love, enter deeply into our hearts as deacons. Transform us through this season so that we may serve your people with humility, compassion, and joy. We thank you for walking with us always. Amen.

Meditate, Journal and Share:

Meditate on each question, use the lined paper at the end of the retreat and journal your thoughts. Then share your thoughts.

- How do I feel about my ministry as a deacon at this moment, and where is God calling me to grow?
- What must I let go of in my parish life so that I may serve more freely and faithfully?
- How can I deepen my prayer life to strengthen my identity as a servant of Christ?

Reader 3: "The Lord blesses the work of our hands and brings forth fruit from our labors."

Autumn reminds us as deacons to remain grateful, even amid the challenges of ministry. We give thanks for the harvest of our service, remembering that every act of charity, every proclamation of the Gospel, and every moment at the altar is part of Christ's saving work.

Autumn Gratitude

A Gratitude of Autumn Prayer –

All: God of all seasons, we thank you for the gift of our diaconate ministry.

We thank you
for the call to serve your people with humble hearts,
for the grace to proclaim your Word and live it boldly,
for the opportunities to bring comfort and compassion to others,
for the strength you provide in times of challenge,
for the brotherhood we share with fellow deacons,
for the fruits of ministry that reveal your presence,
for the changing seasons that remind us of continual renewal.

God of all seasons, transform us through your Spirit so that we may serve with joy and fidelity.
Amen

Reader 4: "Unless a servant gives himself fully in love, his work bears little fruit; but when he offers himself in Christ, his service brings life to many."

For our ministry to bear lasting fruit, we must embrace transformation. Like Christ, we are called to self-giving love in our service. By surrendering ourselves to God's will, we become instruments of grace, bringing hope, healing, and joy to those entrusted to our care.

Meditate, Journal and Share:

Meditate on each question, use the lined paper at the end of the retreat and journal your thoughts. Then share your thoughts.

- How can I more fully surrender my ministry to God's will?
- In what ways can I share the fruits of my service with greater generosity?
- How can I remain aware of God's presence in both the joys and struggles of my diaconate life?

Closing

Prayer

All: Loving God, as the seasons change, renew us in our calling as deacons. Help us to let go of

