



January 17, 2018

### **Reading the Bible and Journaling for the Deacons' School**

My name is Lynn Orville and I am the dean of the Deacons' School. Before the Bible Weekend (date TBD, likely April 2019), all Deacons' School learners are required to read anew the Bible in its entirety and journal about the insights they gain—even if the learner has read the Bible from start to finish before. I will be reviewing journals at the Orientation Weekend (date TBD, likely January 2019) before the April due date.

Because reading the Bible is an endeavor central to all Christians – whether as clergy, in formation for Holy Orders, or living out their discipleship as a layperson – those in discernment for the diaconate are welcome to begin this assignment whether or not discernment leads to postulancy and enrollment in the Deacons' School.

#### **Some guidelines and suggestions:**

- The Bible can be read in any order and it is sometimes helpful to read one or more sections of the Bible in a sitting rather than reading straight through.
- The biblical journal can be accomplished in many ways. Many don't like writing all the time and, for some, it's a hardship. Journals can be creative: drawing, writing, quilting, scrapbooking, a musical composition, a creative project of some other kind that demonstrates your reflections as you read and consider the breadth of scripture.
  - However, there is no requirement that the journals have a creative component. Rather, creative expression is an option that some might find a meaningful way to interact with the scriptures.
- In the past, journals have been hand-written or completed as a resource on the computer that can be referenced later.
- Journaling can be as simple as a notebook of thoughts and/or prayers, or a larger, more ambitious project. It need not be formally written.

Ultimately, what we're looking for is an interaction with the totality of scriptures and what that looks like for you.

Please drop me a line and let me know how you will be accomplishing your journal. If you have questions or concerns or if you would like some strategies for completing your reading and journaling, please feel free to contact me at [lynnorville98@gmail.com](mailto:lynnorville98@gmail.com) or (207) 667-1103. I look forward to hearing from you.

For more information on the Deacons' School, visit [www.thedeaconsschool.org](http://www.thedeaconsschool.org).