



## SOME THOUGHTS ON THE COMMEMORATION OF ST. PHOEBE:

The role of women in the Church is indispensable and, as we see in the New Testament, has been from the beginning. It is hard to imagine what any parish or chancery would be like without women serving in significant roles of leadership and ministry, both as employees and volunteer ministers.

Since the 1970's, the official role of women in the Church has greatly expanded. Some examples would be: lectors, eucharistic ministers, communion ministers to the sick/shut-ins, lay ecclesial ministers, parish administrators, pastoral associates, diocesan chancellors, and heads of Vatican departments. The upcoming Synod in Rome will include women as full voting members for the first time in history.

Among the topics the Synod will address is the possibility of opening the diaconate to women. The syntheses of most of the Continental Assemblies and several Episcopal Conferences who submitted their findings gathered from the massive number of listening sessions across the world to Rome last summer recommended the question of women's inclusion in the diaconate as a matter to be discussed. Indeed, it is listed as an agenda item the Synod delegates will discuss and discern when they meet this October and into 2024.

It is important to know that major changes in our understanding of the diaconate occurred at Vatican II (1962-1965). The Council requested that the diaconate be restored as a distinct order of the Church as it was centuries ago, no longer limited only to men on their way to the priesthood. Pope Paul VI implemented this request. By restoring this order with its own status, it opened the door to men, most of them married, as a permanent state of life. With more information emerging about what appears to be evidence of women being ordained to the diaconate in the first millennium of the Church, the growing pastoral need for more ordained ministers in many places in the world, and the heightened sensitivity in societies where women are seen as equals to men, the question of this order being restored to women has become a timely topic for discussion.

St. Phoebe, mentioned by St. Paul in his Letter to the Romans (16:1) as a deacon (Greek: diakonon) and the only person named so in the New Testament, male or female, is considered the patron of the significant role women play in the life of the Church and a role model of diaconal ministry by women for the first 11 centuries of the Church. We commemorate her on the day set aside on the Church calendar to remember her, September 3, and ask her to intercede for the Church, especially during the Synod, as we continue to discern the vital role of women in the Church.

We will hear more next weekend about St. Phoebe and the encouragement the upcoming Synod has generated for those who seek a fuller participation in the life of the Church that a women's diaconate symbolizes. The outcome of the Synod on this issue remains unknown and ultimately rests with the Pope, but the fact this issue will be discussed is indeed a fascinating development.

-Fr. Michael



Diocese of Raleigh Office of Communications

## Registration for the Diocese of Raleigh's Eucharistic Congress to be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the Raleigh Convention Center is open. [Click here.](#)

There is no charge to attend the Eucharistic Congress, but pre-registration is required. Please download the 2023 DOR Eucharistic Congress app from the App Store or Google Play Store. By signing up and logging into the mobile app, you are automatically registered for general event admission and can choose individual sessions.

**Stephen Ministry** - Experienced a recent loss or a life transition? Stephen Ministers are here for you. Ministers are volunteers who offer confidential Christian care. Contact Kathleen Owen at [kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:kathleen.owen@stfrancisraleigh.org) or 919-847-8205x234.

A click away If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org).

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## THE FRANCISCAN GARDEN



### August 26/27 Franciscan Garden Campaign

[Click here](#) for a special video message from Fr. Michael about our Franciscan Garden.

[\(Click here to donate\)](#)

### August 27 - Is God Calling You to Join the RCIA Team?

10:20am. We are seeking more parishioners to assist with our [RCIA ministry](#). We are hosting a no-obligations information session on Sunday, August 27 immediately following the 9:00am Mass in Founders, facilitated by Msgr. Clay and the RCIA Team. Questions? Contact Kathy Sales at [kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### August 26/27 - Parish Ministry Fair

After all Masses this weekend, in Clare Hall

### August 31 - ONE Wake Internal Assembly,

7:00pm. [More Info](#) - Advocate for the common good of all: Affordable Housing, Transportation, Mental Health. Register today for in-person or virtual participation.

[Register](#) Contact Nancy Dilger, [ndilger3@gmail.com](mailto:ndilger3@gmail.com).

### September 1 - LGBTQ+ Ministry Potluck, 5:30pm

Family, friends and allies: join us for an informal gathering to kick off your Labor Day weekend. Email Jane to RSVP and for more information:

[Paris.mizjane@gmail.com](mailto:Paris.mizjane@gmail.com).

### Sep 5-Nov 14: Season 2 of "THE CHOSEN" at

**St. Francis of Assisi** Every Tuesday 9:45am in the Padua Rm. Angel Studios-THE CHOSEN is the first ever multi-season series about the life of Christ.

Contact Tina Morgan, [tandmmorgan@earthlink.net](mailto:tandmmorgan@earthlink.net).



Every summer, parents search for ways to get their children some experiences during their summer break that are engaging and interesting. What is more interesting than our faith and more engaging than the chance to put that faith into action? At St. Francis of Assisi, there are...

[Read more](#)

**Through Sep 5 - Farm to Church CSA Sign Up (Fall Veggie Box)**

Support farmers of color and caring for the Earth. Enjoy the taste of local, organic, healthy fall produce and support social justice in our food system. Subscribers get local, fall veggies every week for 8 weeks to be picked up at St. Francis on Saturday mornings. Contact Elizabeth Kearse, [eskearse@gmail.com](mailto:eskearse@gmail.com), 919-270-3043 [Sign up here](#).

**Sep 10 - Why Faith? St Phoebe and the Synod.** 10:15am in Founders.

Join Gladys Whitehouse's talk on St. Phoebe and the Synod, sharing insights on St. Phoebe and how St. Paul identified her as a deacon of the church. She will also give an update on the Synod. Refreshments will be served. Contact Stacey Shine, [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**Sep 10 - Knights of Columbus Youth Soccer Challenge, 1:00pm**

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in this annual local penalty kick competition hosted by our Knights of Columbus Council 9709. On the TFS soccer field. Contact Will Austin, [will.austin@gmail.com](mailto:will.austin@gmail.com).

**Through September 10 - Preschool-Aged Faith Formation (CROSS STEP) Registration Open for 2023-2024**

(Preschool-Aged Faith Formation) Register via Realm through Sep 10. Cross Step is a ten-month program that provides weekly liturgical lessons during the 9:00 am Mass for children, ages one (and walking) through age five, who are not enrolled in kindergarten. [More information](#) / [Register](#)  
Contact Andrea Javier, [andrea.javier@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:andrea.javier@stfrancisraleigh.org)

**Sep 11 - "Creation at the Crossroads" Weekly Book Webinar**

Every Monday, 7:00pm, 9/11/23 until 11/27/23. Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral's Laudato Si' Circle and NCCCCH is offering a Monday night webinar series for the entire diocese covering the book, "Creation at the Crossroads", by Monsignor Edward Ciuba, responding together to the cries of the earth and the poor. Parishioners must purchase book themselves. Register now by emailing [socialconcern@hnojnc.org](mailto:socialconcern@hnojnc.org).

**Sep 12 - Grief's Journey-Coping with Loss of a Loved One,**

10:30am-12:00 every Tuesday in Anthony Conference Rm. An eight week series that offers hope following the loss of a loved one through death. [Register](#). A safe place to share your own journey with grief and to learn from others. Intended for those who are three months or more after the death of their loved one. Contact [dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org)

**Sep 12, 10:00-11:30am and Sep 21, 7:00-8:00pm Estate Planning Seminar.**

In Founders Room. Offered free by the Diocese. Topics include legal steps required in personal planning, understanding wills and trusts, Catholic Advance Medical Directives, and beneficiary designations. To register email [chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org)

**Sep 13-Oct 25: Sr. Ilia Delio Book Discussion Groups**

**Registrations Open!** Sr. Ilia Delio will be presenting at the the 3rd Annual Franciscan Spirit & Life Convocation on October 28. Registrations are open in Realm for three groups who will discuss Sr. Ilia's book, "The Hours of the Universe." Contact [shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:shannon.hoffman@stfrancisraleigh.org)

**Tuesday Sep 12 (7:00 pm) to Tuesday Oct 24 (8:30 pm)**

[Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner registration](#)

**Wednesday Sep 13 (1:00 pm) to Wednesday Oct 25 (2:30 pm)**

[Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner registration](#)

**Wednesday Sep 13 (7:00 pm) to Wednesday Oct 25 (8:30 pm)**

[Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner registration](#)

**Parishioner Owned Businesses Ad Page**

Support our local parishioner-owned businesses

To advertise email: [diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org)

Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parishioner-businesses/>

**Sep 13, 2023 - May 1, 2024: Women's Ministry****Bible Study - Walking With Purpose: Opening Your Heart**

"Opening Your Heart," a Women's Catholic Bible Study, will help us transform our lives by bringing us closer to the heart of God and the love of Christ. Come, share your faith journey with other women and experience God's plan for us during this year-long study.

Contact [marisa.ferrara@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:marisa.ferrara@stfrancisraleigh.org)

[Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner registration](#)

**Sep 16 - Women's Ministry Retreat; Be Inspired:****Believe in your Giftedness as Women,** 9:00-11:30am

As women, how can we learn to see ourselves and one another as God sees us? Small group discussions, personal reflection, and our keynote speaker, Casey Stanton. Contact Rosemary Czejkowski, [czejkowskir@gmail.com](mailto:czejkowskir@gmail.com) [Parishioner registration](#) / [Non-Parishioner](#)

**Sep 19-Oct 31 & Sep 20-Nov 1: Adult Virtual Bible Study - Isaiah**

**Part 1 - Tue PM or Wed AM Sessions** Registration is open on Realm for adult bible studies on either Tues. evening or Wed. morning. The Book of Isaiah gives witness to the story of God's judgment upon Israel and an enduring promise of divine redemption. No cost to register-purchase book from Liturgical Press or Amazon. Facilitators: Barbara Efrid, Cindy Cardello & Diane Rosendahl.

[Register for Tuesdays](#) / [Register for Wednesdays](#)

**Sep 19 Registration Ends for Nov-Feb Youth Basketball League**

Join us for the 33rd season of the St. Francis Youth Basketball League. This program is open to girls and boys grades 1 thru 8, in 6 different divisions. [Registration](#) is open! Regular registration ends Sep 19 and late registration runs thru Oct 3. Contact Mary Arleth, [Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org), 919-847-8205x358

**October 1 - FrancisFest 2023, 12:40pm.**

Our annual parish wide celebration of our patron saint. Join us for a day of fun with Live Music and Entertainment, Game Truck, Crafts and games, Inflatable Zone, Food Truck Rodeo, and Franciscan Tasting Room (Local and regional beers and wine).

Contact [Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org)

**October 12 and 14 - Called & Gifted Spiritual Gifts Discernment**

Oct 12, 6:30-8:30pm and Oct 14, 9am-4pm [Register](#) Discern the presence of charisms in your life. Charisms are abilities given to all Christians by the Holy Spirit to be God's goodness for people.

Contact [chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org), 919-870-8205X222.

**Oct 16-20: St. Francis Inn**

Consider joining our October 16-20 trip to St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia for a mission of solidarity, hospitality, and compassion to the poor and hungry of Philadelphia. There is no cost for attending this trip. Contact John Budway, [budwayji@bellsouth.net](mailto:budwayji@bellsouth.net), (305) 205-5104. [Information](#)

**October 28 - The Heart of Matter: Encountering Christ in all Creation | 2023 Convocation, 8:30am** Save the Date!

Contact Stacey Shine, [stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org).

**Employment Opportunities**

Coordinator of Liturgy and Sacraments, Coordinator of Middle School Formation, Director of Pastoral Care. Substitute Teachers for the 23-24 school year. See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>  
Contact Trish Adamkowski, [trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org)