



ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE

PROCLAMATION
FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF
DIACONAL MINISTRY
IN THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE



WHEREAS: the Order of the Permanent Diaconate was restored by the Second Vatican Council on September 29, 1964, and by Pope Paul VI on June 18, 1967 for the Church in the West; and

WHEREAS: Archbishop James Byrne restored the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Dubuque in March 1975 followed by the appointment of Father Paul Steimel as the first director on May 12; and

WHEREAS: Archbishop James Byrne ordained the first fifteen men to the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Dubuque on November 5, 1978; and

WHEREAS: Permanent Deacons, as ministers of the altar, preside at public prayer, baptize, assist at marriages and bless them, give viaticum to the dying, and lead rites of burial giving witness to the Christian life; and

WHEREAS: Permanent Deacons, as minister of the Word, proclaim the Good News of God's Kingdom to the world, bringing hope and peace to the people they serve; and

WHEREAS: Permanent Deacons, as ministers of charity, bring the presence of Jesus to the workplace, through word and action, by their love and service to those in need, while at the same time calling forth others to live out their baptismal call; and

WHEREAS: Permanent Deacons, if married, recognize and cherish their sacramental partner who loves and supports them in family life and ministry, and who, through their own faith and love for God perform many works of charity:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Most Reverend Michael Jackels, Archbishop of Dubuque, do hereby, in honor of forty years of diaconal service, proclaim a year-long celebration of the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and call upon all the people of the Archdiocese to celebrate this gift of ministry and service to the Church.

Signed this day: December 26, 2017

Michael Jackels

ARCHBISHOP OF DUBUQUE