

Pastor's Column

Deacon John and Mrs. Debbie Fredette and Madison, Grace, and Anna



It is with great joy that I am able to announce to our Parish that our Parishioner, John Fredette, will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate on Friday, May 25, by Bishop Robert Brom for service in the Diocese of San Diego, and specifically, for service here at St. Thomas More Parish.

John and Debbie are now completing an intense five-year preparation for his ordination. It is important to note that the wife of a Deacon-Candidate partners her husband throughout the entire five-year process of academic classes, prayer sessions, and retreats. This is so that the Deacon's wife knows precisely what will be involved in the life and ministry of the Deacon.

As many in our Parish know, Debbie and John and their daughters, Madison, Grace, and Anna, are already very involved in the ministerial life of our Parish. And with John's ordination, we look forward to even more deepened involvement.

John and Debbie also have two adult daughters: Shawna who lives with her husband, Aaron, and their two children in Texas, and Meghan who lives in Washington DC.

It is also important to note that a Permanent Deacon maintains his present job/career and that his ministry in a Parish is done without a salary or pay. Saying this, one can better understand the commitment that a deacon and his wife make in accepting God's call to the Permanent Diaconate.

I am putting John "to work" immediately! Deacon John will preach at all three Masses one weekend a month, every month; he will continue to oversee the Parish Men's Ministry that he has helped to begin; he will celebrate Communion Services at the four Assisted Living Facilities for which we are responsible—Aegis at Shadowridge, Emeritus at Oceanside, Emeritus at Carlsbad, and Pacific Place; he will be a part of our Baptismal process and will be interviewing the parents presenting their children for Infant Baptism; and he will alternate with Deacon Tom in celebrating the monthly Baptisms. Deacon John will also be available for any appointments that Parishioners may wish to set up with him.

The weekend of May 25, 26, and 27 will be a weekend of great joy for our Parish. The Ordination is at 4:00pm on Friday, May 25, at St. Thérèse of Carmel in San Diego.

Deacon John will preach at all the Masses on May 26 and 27.

After the 5:00pm Mass on May 26, there will be a dinner in honor of the Fredette family with Parish Staff and Leadership. (This is by invitation only.)

Then, after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, May 27, there will be a Parish reception on the Plaza.

For most of our Parishioners, the time to meet, greet, and thank our new Deacon will be at the reception on the Plaza after the 10:30am Mass on May 27. Please stop by!

Deacon John, Debbie, Madison, Grace, and Anna, you are a boon to the Faith Community of St. Thomas More!

And we give a special "Thank You" to John and Debbie's son, Owen, who died in 2007 at the age of 11. Owen, in his short lifetime, did much to help prepare his parents for lives of service!

F. Mike