



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

May is a wonderful time for families and members of families celebrating accomplishments in academia. Colleges across the nation are holding their commencement exercises these days. My cousin's daughter graduated last week from law school and is busy studying for her boards. Grade school and high school students are finishing up their class work, counting down the weeks to graduation. Let's remember in our prayers all graduates in our community.

Students wouldn't have reached these joyous milestones without the work, vocation, and support of the dedicated faculty that have challenged and inspired them throughout their school career. May the teachers know of the appreciation, often unspoken, of the students who have grown and matured with their guidance and encouragement.

May is a wonderful time of year in the Archdiocese of Chicago when the ordination rites are celebrated for those in the seminary, preparing to serve the Church as ordained ministers and priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

St. Mary's is blessed to have three permanent deacons that have served our community with faith and generosity. Retired Deacon Joe Krakora and active deacons Jack Herrmann and Bob Thomas. Permanent deacons are able to preach God's word, celebrate baptisms and weddings, minister to the people of God, and officiate at prayer services leading the faithful. Transitional deacons are moving ever closer to being ordained priests to serve the local Church.

Cardinal Blase Cupich will ordain the following men as transitional deacons for the Archdiocese of Chicago on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at 3:00pm at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

Kevin Michael Gregus
Michael Charles Mehringer
Jesus Raya Custodio

Daniel Joseph Korenchan
Francisco Javier Pagan Portalatin

We are invited to pray for these men as they serve the local Church as transitional deacons, preparing over the next twelve months to be ordained priests for the Archdiocese of Chicago in the Ordination Class of 2023.

The Ordination Class of 2022 is less than half of the size of the current class of 2023. On Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 10:00am, Cardinal Cupich will ordain Deacon Colm Mitchell and Deacon Joseph Brom, SJC as priests to serve the local Church. Joseph Brom is being ordained as a member of Canons Regular of St. John Cantius and will be assigned to serve that community. Colm Mitchell will be assigned a church in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The above paragraphs portray the reality of the shortage of vocations to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Chicago greater than any lengthy article. Let's pray for these men being ordained in the coming weeks. May families and the local Church foster and support vocations in our Church.

Fr. Radley and I share the same ordination day, 28 years apart. Fr. Radley celebrates his 5th anniversary and I celebrate my 33rd anniversary on May 20. Thanks for the encouragement, prayers, and support you offer us in our ministry.

I will be traveling on pilgrimage with Deacon Bob and parishioners this week in the Footsteps of St. Paul. We will be remembering you and your intentions at every Mass we celebrate on pilgrimage. Please pray for a safe spiritual journey for all pilgrims.

Sue Robb is the Pastoral Associate for Justice & Life at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Kansas City, Missouri. She wrote the following prayer which I pray will guide us in the Easter season.

"Jesus, help me open my heart and set aside my image of what the Church should or shouldn't be. Give me the zeal of the apostles so I may be a builder of a Church that is at peace, a Church where all feel the Spirit's consolation, a Church that is growing and healing the brokenness of our world. Heal and fill me so I may do the same for others. Amen."

May God bless us as we walk with Jesus in newness of life,