

BISHOP BARRES 2023 DIACONATE ORDINATION REMARKS

May 20, 2023

I want to congratulate our newly ordained deacons – Deacons Paul Cavanagh, Michael Hoonhout, Cary Klivan, Douglas Moran, Michael O’Brien, and James Totino.

I want to congratulate your wives, your families, your pastors, your parish communities and your formators.

I thank Deacon Art Candido, Director of Deacon Formation and our team of Deacon Formators which have included Deacon Larry Mulligan, Deacon Ed Grieb, Deacon Mario Gomez and Deacon Jim O’Brien. I thank Bishop Richard Henning and Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski for their special roles in the formation of these men. I also thank Deacon Larry Faulkenberry, the Director of Deacon Personnel. I thank our Vicar of Clergy and Pastoral Planning, Fr. Lachlan Cameron, and our Vocation Director, Fr. Sean Magaldi. Both Fr. Cameron and Fr. Magaldi are sons of permanent deacons. They and their permanent deacon fathers illustrate the important role that permanent deacons have in fostering and promoting vocations to the priesthood.

Deacons: Your ordination occurs at a time of Eucharistic Revival in the United States.

In *Deus Caritas Est* 14, Pope Benedict XVI called us to a “sacramental mysticism” that is “social in character” and *agape* driven.

Harnessing the power of the Mass and rediscovering the vertical or worship dimension of the Catholic liturgy and harnessing this “sacramental mysticism” leads the Church to a new era of effective evangelization.

In his 2003 encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, Pope St. John Paul II said that he wanted each of us “to rekindle our Eucharistic Amazement”¹ and to once again

¹ Pope John Paul II’s April 17, 2003 encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (*On the Eucharist*), 6.

realize that every Mass has a “cosmic character”² and that every Mass “is celebrated on the Altar of the World.”³

Eucharistic Revival is an effective catechesis of the theology and spirituality of the Catholic Mass that moves the hearts, minds, souls and imaginations of the People of God.

Eucharistic Revival is a rekindling of Pope Benedict XVI’s insight that every period of Church reform and effective Catholic evangelization and mission throughout history can be traced to a rediscovery of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.⁴

Pope Benedict, of course, would remind us that a Eucharistic Revival requires a Biblical Revival since all of our Catholic theology and spirituality of the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist are grounded in the Sacred Scriptures.

In his Apostolic Exhortation *The Word of the Lord*, Pope Benedict writes: “Word and Eucharist are so deeply bound together that we cannot understand one without the other: the Word of God sacramentally takes flesh in the event of the Eucharist. The Eucharist opens us to an understanding of Scripture, just as Scripture for its part illumines and explains the mystery of the Eucharist.”

The daily rhythm of your future diaconal ministry to the mission of our evangelizing parishes, your service to missionary marriages and families, is a Biblical rhythm, a Eucharistic rhythm and a Missionary rhythm.

May the Word of God and the Eucharist be a light and a lamp for your diaconal ministries, your wives, your families, and your service to the Church and the World. (Ps. 119)

May the Eucharist be the true way of all your loves upon earth. (Tolkien)

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!

St. Lawrence, pray for us!

² *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* 8.

³ *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* 8.

⁴ See Pope Benedict XVI’s 2017 Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis* 6: “Every great reform has in some way been linked to the rediscovery of belief in the Lord’s eucharistic presence among his people.”

