

Introducing the Deacons of Heart of Jesus Parishes



Meet Deacon Jim Doolittle

Semi-Retired Deacon at Sacred Heart/St. Mary's in Norfolk Family members:

Wife, Nancy ,Sons: 2 ,Daughters: 1 Grandchildren: 11

Deacon Jim was ordained a Deacon 47 years ago on October 28, 1979 in the first class of Deacons outside the Omaha area.

What first attracted you to the Diaconate and how did you know that God was calling you?

Deacon Jim credits his mother for instilling a love for Scripture within him. From the time he was a small child, his mother read Bible stories to him that he stated was very formative in his early faith development. When he was in his 20's, God interceded in Jim's life in another very powerful way, providing the opportunity for him to meet his wife, Nancy, in Omaha. Deacon Jim knew that he was going to marry Nancy after their very first visit. However, she was Catholic and she wouldn't marry anyone but a Catholic, so Jim became very interested in Catholicism.

The Lord continued to lead Deacon Jim and he followed. He was invited to a prayer group at the Nursing Home and was later invited to attend a Cursillo weekend, now referred to as a Christians Encounter Christ (CEC) weekend. The Holy Spirit continued to nudge Deacon Jim to pursue additional spiritual growth. He responded to this nudging as he felt himself becoming increasingly interested in sharing his faith. As it would happen, he was encouraged to join the Diaconate by a friend from Pierce, so he applied and was accepted.

What are your duties within your Parish or our Family of Parishes?

Currently, Jim holds a bi-weekly religious Communion Service with residents at the Regional Center. He serves at wake services by request, only, and subs when asked. For the past 40 years, Jim has led a men's Bible study/prayer group in his shop. The men in the group focus on reading/studying the Scripture readings for the following Sunday.

In the past, Jim served at the Altar, assisting the priest, took Holy Communion to the hospital, held a prayer group at Immaculata, took Holy Communion to the Homebound, baptized babies, delivered sermons and led many wake services.

What is your favorite part of being a Deacon in our Parishes?

Jim enjoys taking Holy Communion to shut-ins, weekly.

He also enjoys spending time with the Lord in daily Adoration and mentoring other Deacon