

Introducing the Deacons of Heart of Jesus Parishes



Meet Deacon Leon Gentrup

Date of your Ordination: April 17, 2017

Home Parish: Heart of Jesus Family of Parishes (Sacred Heart)

Family members: Wife: Beth Gentrup Children: Matthew (Adrienna) Gentrup Fremont, NE
Daira Gentrup - Pittsfield, MA

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

As I saw other men fulfill deacon duties in the parish and at retreats, etc, I felt called to do the same work. Beth and I discussed this and prayed for a deeper understanding if this was a true call. But the tipping point was when I was traveling with my Mom and Brother, out of nowhere Mom asked, "Have you ever thought of being a Deacon?" I was not sure how to answer, but said "Why do you ask?". Mom answered, "I think you would make a good one." So the journey started...

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

In addition to assisting at Mass, the Deacons perform:

Baptisms

Funeral Vigils

Preach homilies on Holy days and the 4th Sunday each month.

I share heading up our OCIA (formerly RCIA) program

I also am a sub for Baptism classes and bringing Holy Communion to the Hospital, nursing homes and the homebound.

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

All of the interactions with parishioners are great, but my favorite part is assisting with Liturgies, especially the Triduum and Easter Masses.

Two things that really stand out for me, have to be, I was able to witness the Consent and Exchange of Vows of our son Matthew and our daughter-in-law Adri at their Wedding and performing the funeral vigil for my own Mother.