

# Introducing the Deacons of Heart of Jesus Parishes



## Meet Deacon Patrick Roche

Ordained a Mustard Seed Missionary Permanent Deacon

Jacob's Ladder Mustard Seed Communities, Archdiocese of Kingston, Jamaica

Date of Ordination: July 27, 2018

Deacon in Residence: Heart of Jesus Parishes, Archdiocese of Omaha

Family Members: Wife, Teresa; 4 Sons; 1 Daughter; 15 Grandchildren

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

Twenty-five years ago, in 2001, Deacon Roche traveled to Jamaica with his daughter on a Mission trip to the Mustard Seed Communities in Jamaica. He has traveled to Jamaica every year since then because he was attracted to serving the Church and the poor. Mustard Seed Communities is an apostolate that serves abandoned or disabled children, pregnant teenagers and adults in need. Their primary charism is service to the most vulnerable of society. Monsignor Gregory Ramkissoon, Founder of the Mustard Seed Communities, invited Patrick to become a Deacon in 2013. Deacon Patrick discerned this calling and every time he was a bit discouraged or uncertain about his "yes", he received a call or sign from God confirming him in the call to the Diaconate.

### **What are your duties in our parishes and at the Mustard Seed Communities?**

In our Family of Parishes, I help with baptisms, funeral vigils, and taking Holy Communion to and visiting with the home bound. I serve at the Altar, take turns leading Stations of the Cross, lead Baptism classes each month, and serve as chaplain for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Like our other deacons, I am also available to our priests for other assignments as needed. Previously, as a deacon, I served as a Chaplain at Faith Regional Health Services.

As a Mustard Seed Missionary, I serve the Mustard Seed Communities in many of the same ways that I do here. There I also assist with the care of our children and residents, lead and provide spiritual support to our mission teams and am currently working on the documentation of the Spirituality and History of the Mustard Seed Missionaries and Mustard Seed Communities.

## **What is your favorite part of being a Deacon in our Parishes & in Kingston, Jamaica?**

My favorite part of being a deacon is having the ability to serve others, especially the most vulnerable. It is a privilege to serve at the Altar, and in other ways, at our parishes and in our Mustard Seed Apostolates around the world. I often tell people that I have the “best of both worlds”. . . I am able to serve both at home and as a missionary in our Mustard Seed Apostolates!

\*\*In addition to serving as a deacon within our Parishes, Deacon Patrick has published a book on behalf of Mustard Seed. It is entitled, Thank You Lord: Simple Thoughts for a Complicated World. It is available on Amazon. Check it out.