

Introducing the Deacons of Heart of Jesus Parishes



Meet Deacon Ted Coler

Semi-Retired Deacon at Sacred Heart/St. Mary's, Norfolk, NE

Date of Ordination: October 23, 2010

Family Members: Wife, Linda

Son: Jeff Daughter: Jesse Grandkids: 2

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

I received obvious signs from God indicating to me that I was being called to serve. My first inclination that I was being called to the Diaconate was when God placed someone in my life who saw something in me and recommended that I attend a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Training in Omaha. In 2000, I received a very powerful inclination. I was experiencing medical challenges and was diagnosed with a serious medical condition by two surgeons. I was convinced that I was going to die. I prayed and asked St. Therese of Lisieux to intercede to God on my behalf since I knew that St. Therese promised to spend her heaven doing good on earth by sending a "shower of roses" as a sign of heavenly intercession and answered prayers. The next day, I saw a rose in the fog and knew that I was going to be ok. The following day, I met with the surgeons and they were dismayed that my medical condition was much less serious than previously thought. Fr. Joe Wray was also instrumental in my path to the Diaconate by encouraging me to become involved in a Denver Bible Study. He presented me with a copy of the Old Testament and the Scriptures came alive for me; I really began to better understand them.

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

The first fifteen years that I served as a Deacon, I led Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and Baptism classes. I also served as a Hospice volunteer. I assisted the priests at the Altar, visited shut-ins in their homes and in the nursing homes and was the Chaplain for St. Vincent de Paul. Currently, I lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet the first Sunday of the month, visit one person within their home and help with funeral vigils, services, and internments.

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

I have truly enjoyed taking Holy Communion to shut-ins and being able to share Christ's blessings with them.