

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy autumn! Where did the summer go? Hopefully we are done transitioning back into our school routines, and adjusting to the days as they slowly get shorter (and cooler!)

Back in the spring, I contacted an old Navy buddy to congratulate him on a new position as Operations Manager of a mid-west utility plant. He said it was the completion of a life-long dream. He felt that he had reached the top of the ladder, and said he considered himself a success. I asked him where his family, kids, and grandkids fit into his success. He replied that he was able to buy them things that he was never able to have. Basically, he felt that his success made him a better grandparent. After we hung up, I scratched my head and thought, wow! I would rather spend less time at work, and more time with the grandkids. We have totally opposite views. Of course, being biased, mine sounds a lot more fun.

Whichever path we take in life, we need to remember to keep God #1. We have to be good stewards of the gifts He has blessed us with, along with our Time, Talents, and Treasures. We need to be honest and trustworthy in very small matters, and also in great matters. Praying always as St. Paul says, in every place, lifting up holy hands, offering prayers for everyone, especially those in authority. "We cannot serve both God and mammon."

Finally, I want to thank you, the parishioners of St. Mary and St. Anthony, for your prayers, kindness, and patience with your Deacon. I celebrated my 6<sup>th</sup> year ordination on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and I thank God for this vocation and continue to ask for His blessing and guidance in my ministries. Please keep those discerning a religious vocation in your prayers, as well as those in formation. God Bless.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Dave