

The Deacon's Bench

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Holy Saints and Holy Angels of the Lord!” Have you been following the Saints of the day for this past week? It has been jam-packed with great Saints and Angels from whom we can take great inspiration in their life stories and ask for their intercessions and prayers: St. Vincent de Paul, The Holy Martyrs of Japan, St. Jerome, St. Therese of the child Jesus, The Archangels- Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, The Holy Guardian Angels. Remember the Guardian Angel prayer? It's a prayer asking our Guardian Angel to watch over and protect us. It's a great prayer for parents and grandparents to teach their children and grandchildren. I was talking to someone the other day who said she was praying to her grandchild's Guardian Angel for help with her, as her grandchild was struggling with diabetes. As Christians that is what we are called to do- pray for each other. As I write this last bulletin article for St. Mary and St. Anthony parishes, that is what I am asking you to do for me- pray for me, asking especially my favorite Deacon Saints- St. Stephen, St. Lawrence, St. Ephrem, and St. Francis, for their intercessions for me as I start my new assignment.

As in the first reading today, “A man must leave his father and mother and cling to his wife,” many of us have experienced that or in some part left a job, school, friends, etc. Leaving is never easy. It's hard on the person leaving and the people being left. For the past eight years, you have welcomed me into your parishes and put up with all my stutterings and jokes. You have been a real blessing to me. You have all been a part of my growing as a Deacon and for that I am very grateful. With my work schedule I always felt that I was never doing enough for the parishes, and for that please forgive me. Even though I was busy working, I kept you all in my prayers, especially when we lost a parishioner, had a marriage, a baptism, or just praying for your health and salvation. Rest assured I will keep praying for all the wonderful people of St. Anthony and St. Mary parishes (some more than others- LOL). Thanks Again- I love you all and may God Bless You and keep you safe.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Dave

P.S. Please do not hesitate to ask me to assist at a funeral, marriage, blessing, etc. I would be willing if my schedule allows.