



WITH PRAISE AND THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD
MRS. JOHN LEE RAMSEY
JOYFULLY ANNOUNCES
THE ORDINATION OF
JOHN DAVID RAMSEY
TO THE ORDER OF THE DIACONATE
THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF HANDS
AND THE INVOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
THE MOST REVEREND
FRANCIS XAVIER DILORENZO
BISHOP OF RICHMOND
SATURDAY, THE EIGHTEENTH OF JULY
TWO THOUSAND AND NINE
AT HALF PAST FIVE IN THE AFTERNOON
SAINT THERESA CHURCH
709 BUFFALO STREET
FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA





John David Ramsey
St. Joan of Arc Church
315 Harris Grove Lane
Yorktown, VA 23692

To My Wonderful Friends at St. Theresa's:

I want to thank each and every one of you for making the occasion of my ordination to the diaconate a truly warm, wonderful and Spirit-filled event. The weeks since have only increased my joy, both in becoming a deacon in Christ's Church, and in the joyful time we all had together.

St. Theresa's has been my true home for more than nine years. I had always wanted to be ordained in the midst of my St. Theresa's family, and the experience for me was more beautiful than I could have imagined. Not only the perfect cooperation of everyone involved in planning the Mass and the reception, but even more, the warmth and joy, so typical of St. Theresa's, made the whole weekend like a family reunion for so many people so dear to me.

Everyone I have spoken to has remarked on how much they enjoyed being at St. Theresa's, how beautiful the church is, how warm and welcoming everyone was, how beautifully done the reception was. Know that you have many new friends from across Virginia and beyond who hold St. Theresa's in the highest regard!

And as for me, I haven't had such a good time in a very long time, if ever!

You will always be my family; St. Theresa's will always be my home. Wherever the Lord takes me, please know that my heart will never be far from you, and I look forward to coming back whenever I can in the years to come.

And I look forward to seeing all of you at my priestly ordination at the Cathedral in Richmond on January 16, 2010!

With love and blessings,



(Deacon!) John David Ramsey

Dear Father James,

I want to thank you and the family of St. Theresa's Church for your love and kindness in helping to make John David's Mass of Ordination such a fine success and experience. It meant so much to him to have this done at St. Theresa's among so many people he loved. Please thank the women of the church for their love, and hard work, they gave to John David in preparing the beautiful reception. Thanks to all the others who helped to make this occasion so perfect.

Please keep us in your prayers. God bless you, and St. Theresa's Church family.

Sincerely,
Irene Ramsey

August 6, 2009

New priest told to 'stay close to Jesus'

BY STEVE NEILL

Of The Catholic Virginian

The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart was filled Saturday morning, Jan. 16, for the ordination to the priesthood of John David Ramsey, a former professor at Hampden-Sydney College.

"A lot of people are here today from all parts of the diocese," said Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo. "It shows the deep respect for our priests and the needs of our diocese for men to come forth to serve our Christian community."

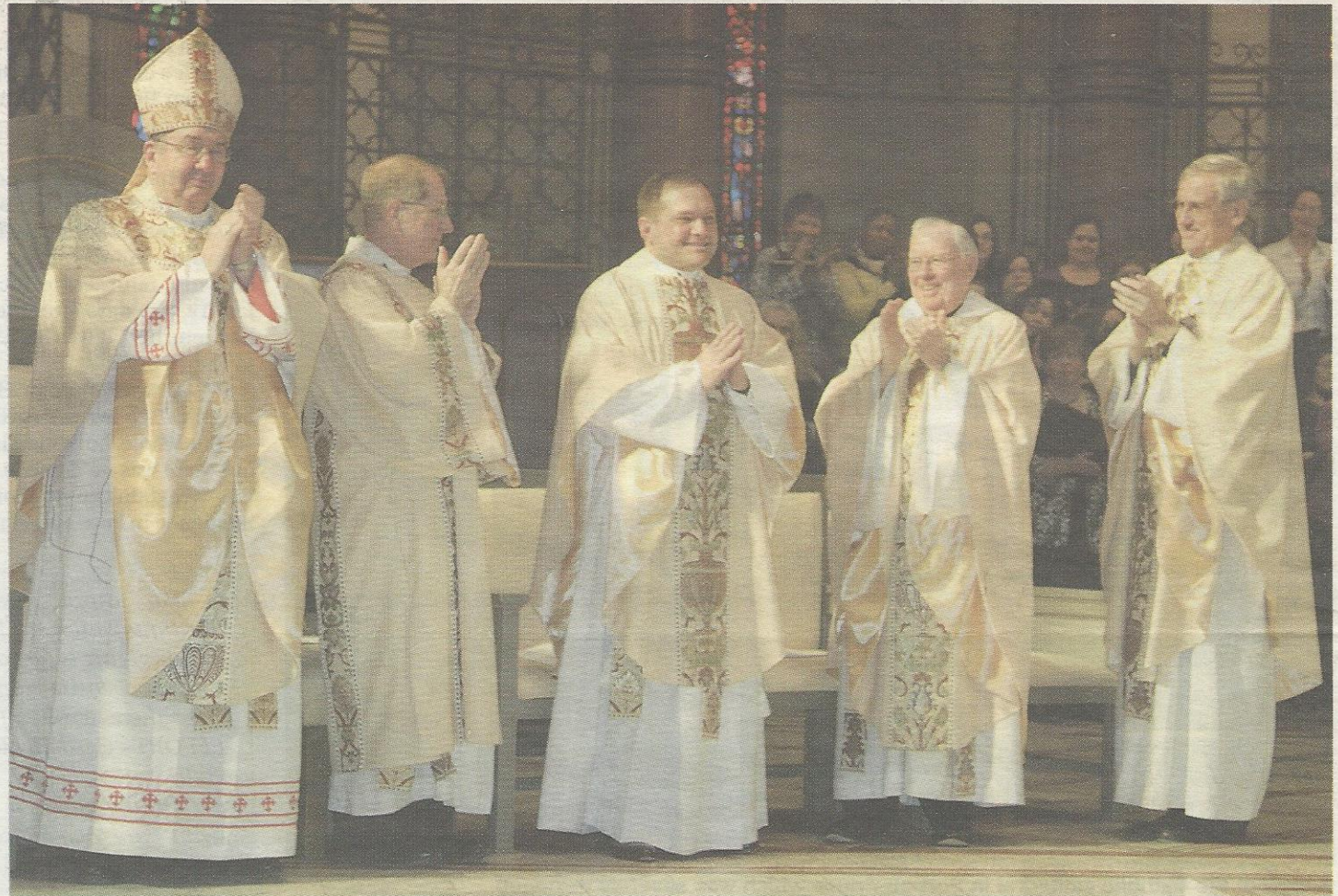
Father Ramsey comes to the priesthood with more formal education than is the norm for priests at ordination. This was a point humorously made by Father Michael Boehling, pastor of the four Portsmouth Cluster parishes, who gave the homily.

"I remember when he first arrived at the seminary (Theological College of Catholic University of America) and the faculty discovered that, with his doctorate in systematic theology and moral theology, John David could be teaching the classes the rest of us were required to take!" Father Boehling said.

"To say the least, the faculty was perplexed. 'What do you do with this guy?' he asked rhetorically as the congregation chuckled.

On a more serious note, Father Boehling urged the man about to be ordained to "stay close to Jesus."

This advice was given to him by a Filipino bishop who had visited his



Father John David Ramsey beams as he acknowledges prolonged applause upon his ordination to the priesthood. Others, from left, are Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo, Deacon David Stanfill, Msgr. Thomas Shreve, Vicar General, and Msgr. Mark Richard Lane, Vicar for Clergy.

With praise and thanks to Almighty God

Mrs. John Lee Ramsey

joyfully announces the Ordination of

John David Ramsey

to the Sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ

through the Imposition of Hands

and the Invocation of the Holy Spirit

by His Excellency

The Most Reverend Francis Xavier DiLorenzo

Bishop of Richmond

on Saturday, the sixteenth of January

Two thousand and ten

at half past ten o'clock in the morning

The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

811 Cathedral Place

Richmond, Virginia

parishes in Portsmouth as he left to return home.

"It was great advice — timely advice — and I want to share it with you today, John David, as you begin your new life as a priest.

"Stay close to Jesus. In the weeks, months and years ahead, you will face many challenges. Simply, stay close to Jesus."

Father Boehling reflected on the readings of the ordination

Simply put, there is no other way.

"In the years to come, you will look back on this day and ponder the great mystery of your vocation," Father Boehling continued.

"As you do so, remember these words from the Rite of Ordination, 'You have been chosen from among God's people and appointed to act for them in relation to God. . . Always remember the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd, who came not to be served but to serve, and to offer his life as a ransom for many.'

In conclusion, Father Boehling repeated some advice he got from Bishop DiLorenzo when he came to install him as pastor of the Portsmouth Cluster parishes.

"Buckle up, it's going to be a wild ride!" the Bishop told him and Father Kevin Segerblom.

"John David, buckle up — it's going to be a wild ride!

"May the Lord bring to completion the good

liturgy, particularly the Gospel of John.

"It reveals the heart of both the Christian life and the priestly life: the need for an intimate relationship with God that comes only through prayer," he said. "Above all else, the priest must be a person of prayer, living a Eucharistic life, in communion with Christ and His Church.

work He has begun in you this day. May you always stay close to Him."

Many who had come for the ordination knew Father Ramsey from his early days as a Catholic after he completed the RCIA at St. Theresa Church in Farmville to his last assignment at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Yorktown.

"I was a witness to his coming through the RCIA," said Deacon Emmett McLane of St. Theresa's. "Believe me, we used him as a resource and mentor to the Hampden-Sydney students because he just had a spirituality and he was willing to share it."

Alex and Ann Cipriani, of St. Joan of Arc, were joyful at the ordination liturgy and at the Mass of Thanksgiving Father Ramsey celebrated the next day at St. Benedict Church in Richmond.

"He's such a remarkable individual," Mrs. Cipriani said.

"We've lived all over the world and John David epitomizes what you'd hope to have in a priest and a friend," her husband told The Catholic Virginian.



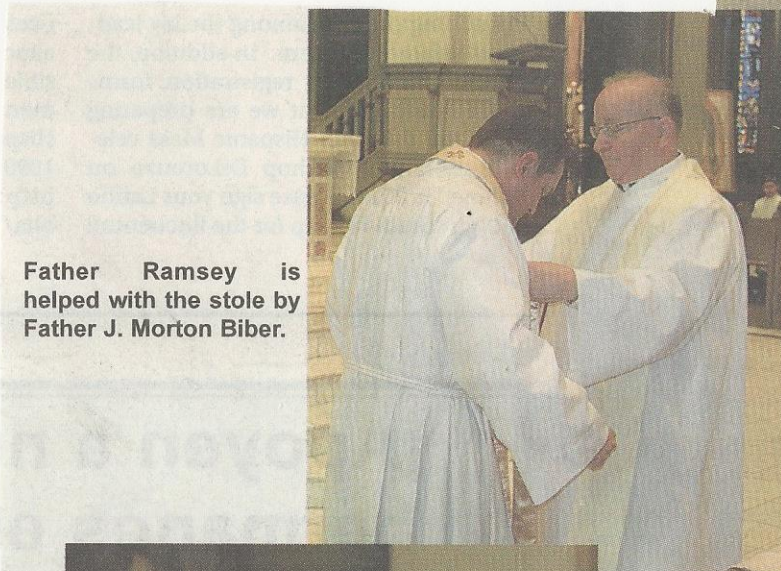
Bishop DiLorenzo lays hands on the head of Father Ramsey.



Father Ramsey makes the promise of obedience to Bishop DiLorenzo.



Father Ramsey lays prostrate at the foot of the Cathedral altar while the congregation prays the Litany of the Saints.



Father Ramsey is helped with the stole by Father J. Morton Biber.



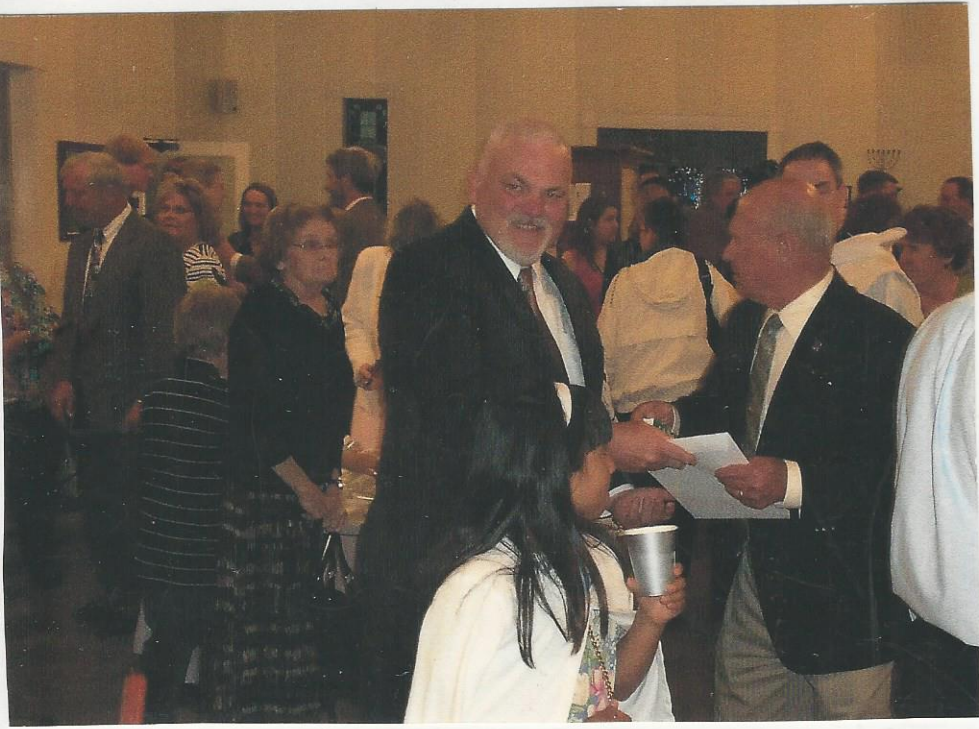
Bishop DiLorenzo congratulates Father Ramsey.



Mrs. Irene Ramsey, the new priest's mother, carries the gold paten to the altar, assisted by Deacon Jonathan Goertz. Seminarian Brian Capuano holds the chalice. The paten and chalice used at the Mass were a gift in memory of John Lee Ramsey, the new priest's late father who died 25 years ago.

Connie Hom, Buckingham Greenery, provides the seasonal florals, Christmas trees and green foliage that grace the inside and outside of the church.





RCIA







