

At Holy Name we are blessed with four men who felt the call to be a Permanent Deacon and completed the program and are ministering in our parish. Deacons Jamie Tiu, Richard Beaven, John Prough and Joe Loeffler. We also have one man who is finishing up the program and will be ordained soon, John Knight. This weekend we want to take the opportunity to thank them for their ministry and commitment to the Church. I asked them to write a brief message about their ministry and what they most enjoy about their ministry.

Deacon Jamie Tiu-Since childhood, I have always enjoyed going to church. I was always fascinated with what I saw and experienced during that time. I loved going to mass even though I did not fully understand it at that time. I always enjoyed going to our weekly Marian devotions, benedictions and town processions, especially with my mother. As a boy, I always dreamed about being an altar server. Sadly, however this did not happen. I did not get discouraged. As I was growing up, studying in the big city, I continued to hope and pray that one day God would call me to do something for Him. After several decades, God finally answered my prayer. Today, I am a permanent deacon in our church. Every time I serve in the mass, conduct prayers and devotions, do monthly benedictions, meet with our parishioners both seniors and youth to talk about the Gospel, I feel so fulfilled and happy. These ministries make me feel closer to God. In small and humble ways I have the chance to serve Him in the capacity that I can. Prayers strengthen my relationship with God. All that I do in His name to serve our faith community is an expression of my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received from God. God is always good to me. He loves me and cares for me.

Deacon Richard Beaven-I will always be humbled by the fact that God blessed me with two vocations. Upon graduation from high school I started attending daily Mass. I would pray that God would guide me in whatever direction he would lead me. I SIMPLY prayed for a wife or a vocation. I received both! I got a beautiful wife who blessed me with two wonderful children and a vocation to the Diaconate. Since ordination, I have witnessed two weddings, five baptisms, three funerals, numerous funeral vigils, and I have preached monthly. I love to preach because it always takes me back to my ordination. My most memorable sermon was preaching at my grandmother's funeral. Grandma lived to almost 100. There were a lot of grandchildren, and great grand-children at her funeral. My extended family is broken like so many other families. Grandma had dementia for about thirty years and did not remember anyone at the end of her life. I remember asking everyone there that day to come forward at communion to receive our Lord or to receive His blessing that there were no judges there, only family. Grandma had willingly accepted her cross of dementia for the love of her family. I feel that I was able to make all present that day feel Grandma's love that she had for each of us. The grace to deliver that sermon came from God which was granted to me the day I was ordained. Our God will not be outdone in generosity!!!

Deacon John Prough-Some people refer to me as a Cradle Catholic. I was born to Catholic parents, was baptized as an infant, and went to Catholic School through the 12th Grade, married a fine Catholic girl, and the story goes on. Prior to moving to Kentucky I had participated in almost every ministry available to a lay Catholic. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would become an ordained minister until Fr. Ed Bradley said he thought I would make a good Permanent Deacon. It's hard to believe that it's been over 7 years since my ordination and I pray that I am living up to Fr. Bradley's belief. My most enjoyable moments have been baptizing a Grandson and looking forward to baptizing our newest granddaughter, witnessing my Son's marriage, and preaching at my Father-in-Law's and my Brothers funerals. I look forward to many more years of serving the good people here at Holy Name and please know that you are in my prayers every day.

Deacon John Loeffler-One of the reasons why I became a deacon was I wanted to have more opportunities to serve the Church and the members of our parish. I also wanted to broaden my own spirituality as well. One of my ministries is to take communion to those in the hospital. I have often left a hospital room with the gratitude of the person that I have just brought the Eucharist to. Earlier this year I was able to experience how this felt, being the person in the hospital bed. I was always very grateful, especially when it was not expected. I try to remember this when I am serving.

Fr. Larry McBride