

Meet Our Deacons

Santos Santiago, Deacon

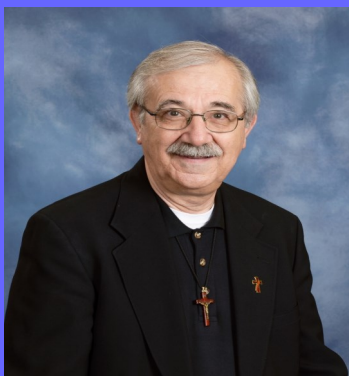


Deacon Santos was born in Puerto Rico but, came to the U.S. with his parents when he was 6 months old. He graduated from High School and decided to serve his country by serving in the military. He came out of the military, went to college and received a degree in accounting. He married his present wife in 1969 and has two children, a son Brian who is a policeman in Pensacola, Florida and a daughter, Linnette, who is the manger of Perioperative-Services at Munroe Regional Medical Center.

Deacon Santos was ordained a permanent deacon in the Diocese of Orlando in 1988 and was assigned by the Bishop to serve at St. Jude Catholic Church in Ocala [Marion Oaks].

At the present time he is serving both St. Jude and St. John the Baptist at the invitation of Fr. Emmanuel Akalue. He feels fortunate to include St. John the Baptist as one of his parish family. At St. Johns he has truly found a second home. The community has welcomed him with open arms and he feels that the love of God and the Holy Spirit is surely present here

T. Eric MaKoid, Deacon



Deacon Eric was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania. He graduated from high school and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1966. During the Vietnam War, Deacon Eric distinguished himself by his service and was awarded the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal.

After the war, he attended college and received a degree in business administration. He married his wife Clara in 1975 and has 2 children, a son Michael, who is a manager with AT&T Wireless, lives in PA, and has 4 children, and a daughter Mary Alice, who lives in Citrus Springs, FL, is married, and is a stay at home mother with 2 children.

Deacon Eric was ordained a Permanent Deacon in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1997, and was assigned by the Cardinal to serve at Sacred Heart Parish in Swedesburg, PA.

At the present time, deacon is serving at St. John the Baptist Parish at the request of the Pastor, Rev. Jean Desir, and by appointment by Bishop John Noonan. Besides assisting the Pastor, Deacon Eric serves on the Parish Pastoral Council, Liturgy Committee, Ministry of Evangelization, and Ministry to the Poor and needy. Deacon Eric has always considered it an honor and a privilege to serve God's people.

What Is the Deacon's Role?

In the simplest sense, a deacon is known as a servant. Deacons are responsible for many things, and his ministry should be present at home, in the parish, and in the secular world. Deacons are called to be Sacramental signs of the servant, as Christ is the servant to all.

Deacons should always be seen in one of three ministries:

- Ministry of Charity and Justice: Deacons must be involved in one or more ministries in the community as a direct response to Christ's call to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick and visit those in prison (Mt. 25:35-36). Deacons are called to encourage all those baptized to participate in these ministries.
- Ministry of the Word: Deacons must evangelize and teach others to live a life of true Christian discipleship. He proclaims the Word of God in such a way that he first witnesses its empowerment in his own life.
- Ministry of Liturgy: Deacons must be a connection between sharing the Lord's Eucharistic table and serving the many hungers felt by all of God's children.

Deacons are ordained ministers and thus receive the sacrament of Holy Orders. There are also different kinds of deacons. Permanent deacons are those called to be deacons for the rest of their lives. Many permanent deacons are married. Transitional deacons are men who are ordained to the diaconate and will soon be ordained to the priesthood. Transitional deacons are single.

Deacons may administer the Sacrament of Baptism and officiate at the Sacrament of Marriage.