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ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

The Quincy Deanery *A Leading Force of Stewardship*

The invisible structures of the Church bind us together in a shared mission of stewardship. Here at St. Anthony, we are connected to the other Catholic churches in the counties of Adams, Pike and Brown as fellow parishes in our deanery.

“The church is a well-structured organization, and the deaneries are part of that structure,” says Msgr. Leo Enlow, the pastor of St. Peter’s who also serves as the dean for the Quincy Deanery. “They keep us working together.”

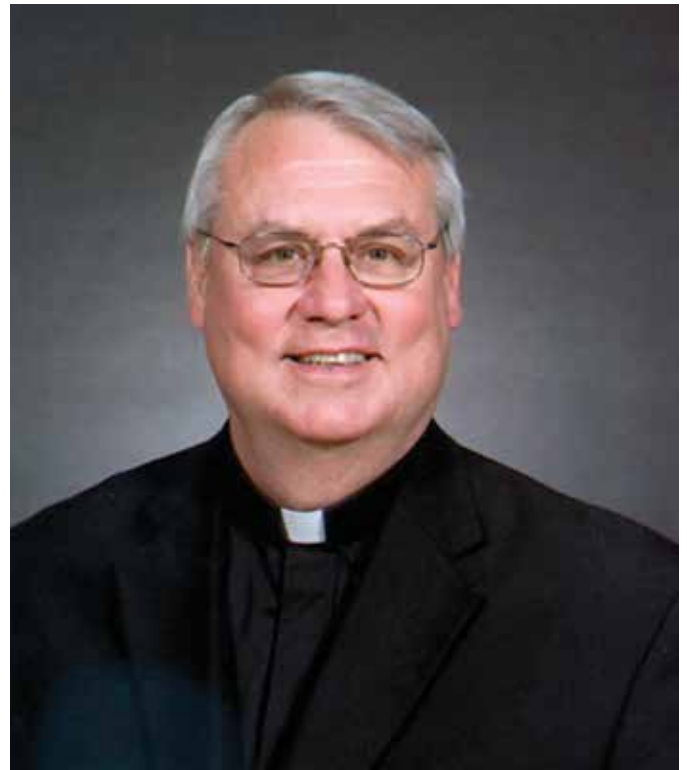
Though many of us are familiar with structural terms like a “diocese” and an “archdiocese,” we might not be familiar with what a deanery is, how it operates and who presides over it.

A subdivision of a diocese, the deanery consists of a cluster of parishes presided over by a dean.

“A diocese is divided into areas, and our particular area is the Quincy Deanery,” says Msgr. Enlow. “There are seven deaneries in the Diocese of Springfield.”

The Quincy Deanery consists of St. Thomas, St. Bridget, St. Edward, Holy Family, St. Mary, and the Catholic churches of Quincy, including St. Anthony.

According to the *Code of Canon Law*, the bishop appoints a “vicar forane” or a dean to preside over the deanery for a determined period of time. The bishop “selects a priest whom he has judged suitable after he has considered the circumstances of place and time” (554).



Msgr. Leo Enlow

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The Eucharist and Stewardship as a Way of Life

More than 20 years ago, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a pastoral letter titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. This document was an invitation to follow Christ Who gave of Himself for us. Each of us is called to serve our neighbors and to be stewards of God's creation and of all that has been entrusted to us. However, to truly understand stewardship, we must look to the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist is the total gift of our loving Savior to us. Stewardship is our response to that gift.

Even the word "Eucharist" implies stewardship. The word "Eucharist" finds its roots in the Latin word *eucharistia*, which in turn came from the Greek word *eukaristos*, which meant, quite simply, "gratitude" or "thanksgiving." How fitting that we, who are called to be a stewardship people, celebrate at the focal point of every Mass an act of thanksgiving and gratitude — namely, the reception of Jesus' gift to us — the Eucharist.

In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the bishops speak of the Eucharist in this way: "The Eucharist is the great sign and agent of this expansive communion of charity... we enjoy a unique union with Christ and, in Him, with one another. Here His love — indeed, His very Self — flows into us as disciples and, through us and our practice of stewardship to the entire human race."

When we receive Christ's Body in the Holy Eucharist, we hear the minister say, "The Body of Christ." To this, we respond, "Amen" — which means in Hebrew, "Yes; it is so." This is the

essence of stewardship. We should enter the Church for Mass out of "gratitude." We recognize the presence of the Lord in Holy Communion, and then we truly receive the Lord. What is left for us to do is the fulfillment of stewardship — that is, sharing what we have received in love of God and neighbor. Our entire experience speaks to stewardship — we are grateful; we recognize the real presence of the Lord; we receive the Lord; and then we share what we have received.

Christ's gift to us through the Eucharist is an invitation to us. We are called to give beyond what is convenient or what may be comfortable. We are called to forgive even when forgiveness may not be deserved; we are called to love even when that love is not returned. We are called to love as God loves us.

The Eucharist is stewardship celebrated. The Mass is more than a ritual. It is an actual encounter with God, with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We need to respond to the Eucharist with our complete selves. What we experience in the Eucharist should, in turn, translate into our daily lives. We are committed to the Church, which is Christ's body. We show our love for His body by acts of charity and generosity. We spend time in prayer, expressing our gratitude and our love.

God's greatest gift to us is Christ's great love for us — this was shown when He was crucified on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to give us eternal life. God's love for us is without limit, and He offers Himself to us in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Stewardship is how we respond to that gift.

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A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

We Are Blessed as a Church and a Nation

Dear Parishioners,

The month of July may seem like a bit of an “in-between” month. Of course, it sits in the middle of summer. During this last month of June, we shared in a number of solemnities and celebrations – these served to remind us of the incredible gifts we have received as Catholics, from the Holy Trinity to the Body and Blood of Christ.

Now, a look at the calendar shows us that all of the Sundays this month are in Ordinary Time. We know that Ordinary Time is anything but “ordinary,” even though it might seem that way – especially after a month of celebrations.

However, one thing happens this month that is certainly unique to us as Americans – Independence Day. We are Catholics, but we also are Americans, and we should be proud to be both – grateful for the gift of faith, and equally grateful for the gift of liberty we receive as American citizens.

Yet, to be Catholic and American should not mean choosing one over the other. These allegiances should be complementary. Our Catholic faith states that we need to work together as fellow citizens for the common good of everyone in this great country. Through the Constitution, our Founding Fathers guaranteed us of religious rights to contribute to our common life together.

Freedom is a special inheritance we have received, fought for by many at a great price, and it is a heritage that must be guarded – we are truly stewards of the gifts of freedom.

In 1886, just over 140 years ago, Bishop James Gibbons of Baltimore was made the second American Cardinal. He attributed the progress of the Church in America to the “civil liberty we enjoy in our enlightened republic.” He continued to say that “in the genial atmosphere of liberty, the Church blossoms like a rose.”

July is not just a time for us to celebrate – it is also a time for us to blossom. It is not a time to cease praying or working to build the Kingdom of Christ. Rather, it is a time to work even more diligently to express our appreciation for our many gifts, and to share them with others. We are blessed – by the gifts of our faith and the gifts of freedom – and we must always remember to thank God for that.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Donovan
Pastor



ST. ANTHONY'S FR. TOM DONOVAN

How Is God Calling You to Serve Him?

As a child, Fr. Tom Donovan would occasionally accompany his grandmother, a member of the Legion of Mary, as she brought cookies to the homes of parishioners who had drifted away from the Church.

“Who would turn down my grandmother with a plate of cookies asking you to come back to the Church?” Fr. Tom says. “What an influence she was on me. It takes a certain type of steel soul to go door-to-door like that. She was fearless.”

On July 1, Fr. Tom transitioned from serving as St. Anthony's Pastoral Administrator to becoming our faith community's Pastor. As he reflects on the past 12 years of his

priesthood, Fr. Tom compares being a priest to being a surgeon.

“God has equipped me, as a doctor of the soul, to do the unique things priests need to do,” Fr. Tom says. “I am the instrumental means there to offer His forgiveness – to say, ‘*This* is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.’”

Fr. Tom was raised in a Catholic family as the oldest of four children. His parents came from farming families, and though they lived in town with their children, they owned a farm in the country.

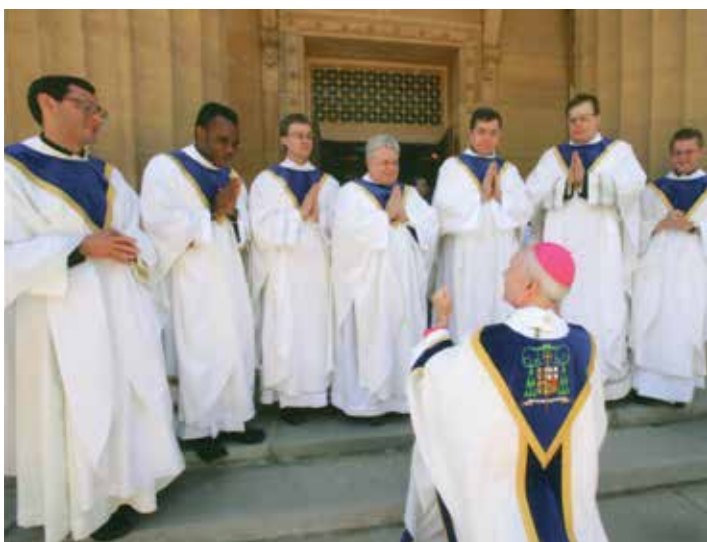
“I did a lot of mowing and walked the bean fields,” Fr. Tom says. “In a way, I grew up in two worlds with the farm 10 miles outside the city,

and yet, we had cable television in town.”

Through high school Fr. Tom attended Catholic schools and remembers seeing the priest as a “larger than life” figure.

“At Catholic school, the question of ‘how is God calling you to serve Him’ is always in front of you,” Fr. Tom says. “You are choosing between different paths, different goods, but seeking the greatest good, the good engineered for you by God before time.”

Though Fr. Tom thought of the priesthood as early as when he began preparing for his First Communion, he wouldn't enter the seminary until after he had



Bishop George J. Lucas after receiving a first blessing from his seven new priests



Fr. Tom Donovan's ordination – (from left) Fr. Daren Zehnle, Fr. Dan Willenborg, Fr. Jeff Stone, Fr. Aloy Ndeanefo, Fr. Joseph Havrilka, Fr. Michael Haag, Fr. Tom Donovan

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completed college and graduate school, where he received his master's in Biology.

"Eventually I took that decisive step, but the idea of the priesthood was always there," Fr. Tom says. "It was there in grade school, high school, college – as I look back, it was there all along."

Fr. Tom entered the seminary in the fall of 2000, and there, a devout group of fellow seminarians affirmed him in his vocation. At the same time, Fr. Tom worked in a sleep lab at a local hospital and then at a few different locations in Chicago.

"It was a tremendous job, and I had friends and associates in the field," Fr. Tom says. "I remember thinking that this is good, but I am leaving this at the altar to choose something better."

In 2005, on a cloudless and picturesque day, Fr. Tom was ordained alongside six other seminarians from the Diocese of Springfield.

"We seminarians had a saying – 'God, I'll do my best, if you make up the difference,'" Fr. Tom says. "It was a wonderful day for the diocese."

As St. Anthony's new Pastor, Fr. Tom would like to thank the faith community for their ongoing support, for their affirmation of him in his vocation to the priesthood.

"This is a parish that pastors would dream of," Fr. Tom says. "This is a community of people who want to go forward and see God and make Him visible sacramentally in the works that they do."



Fr. Tom Donovan celebrating his first Mass

"This is a parish that pastors would dream of. This is a community of people who want to go forward and see God and make Him visible sacramentally in the works that they do." – Fr. Tom Donovan



The seven candidates at the beginning of Mass

Deacon Harry Cramer Reflects on His Call to Serve

“When I’m asked if I like the diaconate, I say it’s far more than I ever thought it was going to be. There are moments – oftentimes very small moments with people – when you know in that moment in time that that was exactly where God wanted you to be and what He wanted you to do. So, it’s a very humbling and incredible experience. Being with people and with the parish in moments of need or excitement is something very special.” – Deacon Harry Cramer

Long before he was ordained a deacon in 2012, Deacon Harry Cramer was living a life of service. During his junior year of college, as a sociology major interested in law enforcement, Deacon Harry went on a ride along with the sheriff’s department. That night – which would provide him the opportunity to get involved in several interesting cases – inspired him to pursue a career in law enforcement that would last 30 years. Today, Deacon Harry is a professor of criminal justice at Quincy University. But even from his early years, his interest in public service has always gone hand in hand with a desire to serve the Lord and His people in a place of worship.

In fact, even before Deacon Harry’s conversion to the Catholic faith in the early 1980s, he had long contemplated devoting himself to church ministry.

“In my first years of college, I was attending a Methodist church and I began to hear a call to Methodist ministry,” he says. “So much so that I was sent to a License to Preach School for people embarking on their ministry. So, I was always interested in the church. Years later, when I became Catholic, I became a reader right away and my wife and I became involved with the youth group, so we were very active in the parish.”



Deacon Harry Cramer

In those days, the lectors for each Mass sat up near the altar, and his position in such close proximity to the priest during the Liturgy of the Eucharist contributed to Deacon Harry’s growing love for the sacraments. Some time later, he found himself on the Web looking up the Diaconate Program for the Diocese of Springfield, but the page was still under construction. Then, about 15 years ago, he met a Catholic deacon who was visiting from another

diocese, and he felt his call to the diaconate sparked once again.

The next step that would lead Deacon Harry to the diaconate program began with a simple trip to the bookstore.

“My wife, Cindy, was on a Cursillo weekend and I had stopped by our university bookstore for a book a priest had written on a peace prayer,” he recalls. “I had purchased the book as a gift to my wife and afterward I had to stop by my office, and lo and behold – as I’m getting off the elevator,

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Deacon Harry Cramer Reflects on His Call to Serve

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there is the priest who wrote the book! So, I asked him if he would autograph the book, and he asked me to tell him a little bit about my life in the Church. And afterward, he asked why I wasn't in the diaconate. When I said I didn't know, he offered to hook me up with the liaison. So, I got a call from the deacon at the Diaconate Formation Program at Quincy College where I worked and started the application process."

In the five years since his ordination, Deacon Harry has felt blessed to be a part of the Mass and always finds the liturgy to be an incredibly special experience. He also especially enjoys hospital ministry, finding it similar to his previous work on the police force – being paged during emergencies and supporting people in difficult times.

Though Deacon Harry and Cindy were parishioners at Blessed Sacrament for many years, following his ordination, he was assigned to serve here at St. Anthony. The couple has had a great experience getting to know the parish and has found the parishioners here to be extremely generous and faith-filled people.

"They were very welcoming when we came," Deacon Harry affirms. "They are a 'get-it-done' parish – if Father says he needs something, almost before it gets out of his mouth, it's done! There are a lot of gifts and diverse talents in the parish, and a very 'can-do' spirit."

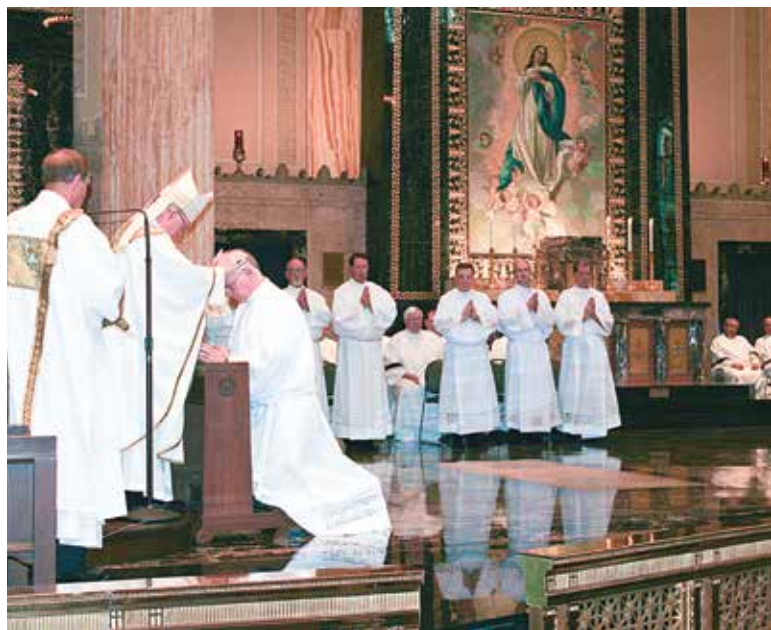
From a life of public service to one of service in the Church, Deacon Harry has found great joy in living a life devoted to stewardship. Recently, he has been told that there is a possibility he could combine these two forms of service by serving as a police chaplain in addition to continuing to serve the diocese in the role of deacon.

No matter what God may have in store for the future, Deacon Harry looks forward to serving God's people wherever and whenever he is needed.

"When I'm asked if I like the diaconate, I say it's far more than I ever thought it was going to be," he says. "There are moments – oftentimes very small moments with people – when you know in that moment in time that that was exactly where God wanted you to be and what He wanted you to do. So, it's a very humbling and incredible experience. Being with people and with the parish in moments of need or excitement is something very special."



Deacon Harry and Cindy Cramer



Deacon Harry Cramer was ordained by Bishop Kevin Vann in 2012

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The Quincy Deanery *continued from front cover*

“The dean is a representative for the bishop in each of these areas,” Msgr. Enlow says. “The dean represents the parishes on a diocesan level and supports the priests of the parishes.”

The duties of the dean include responsibilities such as coordinating pastoral activities in the deanery, ensuring that the rectories are maintained, seeing that religious celebrations are observed with “the prescriptions of the sacred liturgy” and even serving in the place of a priest in the case of sickness or death (555).

On July 1, Msgr. Enlow began his appointment as the dean for the Quincy Deanery. He anticipates serving the respective faith communities and bringing the vision of stewardship to a broader level across the deanery.

“One of the beautiful parts about our deanery is that we are a leading force of stewardship,” Msgr. Enlow says. “Our parishes, and especially the Quincy parishes, are at the forefront of stewardship and discipleship in the diocese.”

Let us support Msgr. Enlow with our prayers as he begins his new appointment, and likewise remember to

pray for the other parishes that constitute the larger faith community of the Quincy Deanery.

“When we are individualistic, it weakens all of us,” Msgr. Enlow says. “When we work together and pray together and celebrate together, we are ‘being church,’ and we are stronger.”

“One of the beautiful parts about our deanery is that we are a leading force of stewardship. Our parishes, and especially the Quincy parishes, are at the forefront of stewardship and discipleship in the diocese.”

– Msgr. Leo Enlow

To learn more about stewardship at St. Anthony of Padua, please contact the Stewardship Committee at stanthonystewardship2015@gmail.com.