

DEACON'S CORNER

Boy does time fly by! Ten years ago, October 31, 1998, in the company of twelve others, I was ordained into the Order of Sacred Deacons. It was a grand day! It was the culmination of many, many years of serving the Lord and listening for His yearning for me and my service.

I will never forget how my class swayed at the altar as we sang "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place" ! And there was. Now ten years later I look back on where I have been, where I have come, and where I am going, but mostly I look forward.

Recently, all the deacons of the Diocese spent the day with Bishop Councill. One of the conversations we had with our Bishop is the reminder of what a deacon is, and how a deacon should interact with others. I loved it all.

A deacon should be the pebble in the shoe of the Church, the irritant, if you will. Now I know that I have irritated some people at Grace from time to time. But I mean an irritant in a positive sense, a person that reminds the Church time and again where we are and where we need to be. A person that reminds the Church and its pew sitters where God may be calling them, and be willing to lead the way, all the time yelling, "Hey, come with me."

The deacon is to proclaim the Gospel, the good news, and also be willing to bring back the bad news, the bridge, if you will, between the community and the Church. I hope I have done that. If you think I have failed, don't tell me I have failed, but lovingly share with me how I can do it better. I will listen.

What I do know for sure is that I still believe firmly in my examination questions, (found on page 543 in the Book of Common Prayer). If asked again by my Bishop I would say the same: I believe I am called truly by God and his Church to the life and work of a deacon, that I will look for Christ in all persons, and be faithful and so many ,many things.

As your Deacon I would nudge you to look for God in the quiet, in the prayers, and the time of your day when your activity level is lower. We as a society are caught up in frenetic activity. I am certain that if we

run all the time, very fast, we are missing the God-times that our spirit thirsts for.

Touch each other more, listen to what our hearts are saying, not so much our words. Take the time to look in the eyes of the person in front of you. Pause when they are speaking, not the pause where you are preparing your next words, but the pause that says to the other, "yes, I am truly listening to you." Have more moments of silence.

Give God a chance to communicate through nature and prayers and quiet. Sneak into your kid's room at night and pray over them, ask God to direct them and you in ways that matter. Turn off the TV, turn toward those you have vowed to love.

I look forward with gratitude to the next ten years of serving God in whatever capacity he has for me, and I am so very lucky to have the people of Grace in my life.

There is a paragraph on page 545 of the BCP that I am still working on. The Bishop says, "Make her, O Lord, modest and humble, strong and constant..." I am still working on the modest and humble part! There's always something!

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord!
Your Deacon, Colleen

A NOTE FROM YOUR DRE

November is always a month to remember those things we are thankful for in our lives. At times, it may seem we have nothing to be thankful for but if we dig and really think hard, we all have so much to be thankful for. I know I am most thankful for my family and my Church community. Being a part of such a wonderful Church community gives me purpose and being here is a constant reminder of how good we have it. Your children's smiles remind me every Sunday morning why I do my job!!! Thank you to the children and the parents who get them here on Sunday morning!

Happy Thanksgiving! May God Bless you with a wonderful holiday!

Faithfully yours,
Gretchen S. Poliero, DRE

