



I was ordained to the Diaconate on September 25th of 2021 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond although my calling to service began much earlier. My vocational calling actually began at my First Communion. Like others in my group, we were all well dressed young men and women and after receiving our Lord, I went back to my respective seating spot. I knelt and looked at the beautiful, and massive, Crucifix at Holy Cross Catholic Church and heard God say to me, “I did this for you, what will you do for me?”.

In my life, I have belonged to an all-volunteer rescue squad achieving the certification of a Shock Trauma Technician, BTLS Instructor, and went on to achieve multiple firefighter and rescue certification as well. I spent 20 years in the law enforcement profession taking early retirement as the detective sergeant over a crime scene unit. I had the privilege of helping people through what could be described as possibly the worst day of their lives. There was still this gentle tug at my heart, “I did this for you, what will you do for me?”.

It was not until later in life that I realized my true calling was to be in service to the Church. I am honored, and humbled, to be the first parishioner of our parish called to ordination. Deacon Chris Barrett was our first assigned Deacon and I followed in his footsteps, with big shoes to fill. The role of the Deacon is simply to serve. We do this for both Church as institution and Church Militant (people). I absolutely love our Pastor, Fr. Jim Gallagher and the people of his flock. Outside of assisting at Mass, a fair amount of my ministry time is dedicated to home and hospital visits.

As God asked me, I ask you to answer your calling ... He did this for you, what will you do for HIM?

Ad Marjoram Dei Glorium,

Deacon John Carey
Pacem