

From Deacon Mitch

I am a Baby Boomer, born at the end of WW II. My heritage is Polish as all 4 of my grandparents came from Poland. Accordingly, I grew up attending St. Stanislaus Kostka in Lyndora. Most of my life has been spent living in the Butler area, outside of schooling. I did live in Richmond, VA for a couple of years. Our older son was born there. Our younger son was born in Butler. Grade school was Lyndora School. In 6th grade, while attending my uncle's diaconal ordination, I became intrigued with the idea of becoming a priest. There was no permanent diaconate at the time. This led to me attending St. Fidelis Seminary for both High School and Junior College. I was there as a student for the Diocese of Pittsburgh and was then sent to St. Vincent Seminary to begin major seminary studies. I obtained a BA in Philosophy at that time. I was then sent to Mt. St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, MD to begin theology. After one year, I discerned that the priesthood was not my calling and so I left. Returning to Lyndora, I worked for almost a year in the mapping department of the Butler County Assessment Office. I then left to go into VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America), the home side version of the Peace Corps. Due to circumstances, I left VISTA to go to Richmond and worked in Public Assistance there. It was there that I first married and we had our first son. But missing the Butler Area and wanting our son to experience his extended family, we returned to Butler. I again worked for the County, this time a couple of years for the MH/MR program and then 5 plus years with Children and Youth. It was during this time our second son was born. (He has married and has twin sons who are now 20 years old.) During this time, it became evident that our marriage was not based on appropriate values and eventually we separated and divorced. I began employment with ARMCO (and subsequently AK Steel). This lasted over 24 years. During that time, an annulment was granted, I earned an Associates in Machine Drafting and Design from BC3, I met Georgene, and was accepted into the diaconate program. We married in 1999 and I was ordained a deacon in 2000. I was assigned to St. Paul. That remained my assignment until this past October when it was expanded to include St. Peter, St. Michael, St. Andrew, St. Fidelis. I am looking forward to the challenges of this new assignment. I am also looking forward to the opportunities of growing in wisdom and grace that this presents to all of us. May we all walk in patience and understanding as we share the journey together. Blessings, Deacon Mitch