

Homily
5th Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023

Who likes music? How many of you who like music have made it your profession? How many of you who didn't make it your profession still make music an important part of your life?

Who likes sports? How many of you who like sports have made it your profession? How many of you who didn't make it your profession still make sports an important part of your life?

Who likes building things like furniture or cars or even homes? How many of you who like these things have made it your profession? How many of you who didn't make it your profession still make building things an important part of your life?

God made us in many different ways. First and foremost, He made us in His likeness and image. That means each of us is a reflection of Him. He is all Good and we, because we are like Him, are also good.

God made us in a special way. The way each of us is made is for His enjoyment and for our enjoyment. Life is meant to be enjoyed and that means something different for each of us. After Mass, each of us are going out into the world to be the best person we were made to be and choose to be. I'm willing to bet that all of us are going to have fun this afternoon.

What are you going to do? After Mass, I get to minister a Baptism. This is one of the great joys of my ministry as a deacon. After that, I'm taking my wife out to lunch at one of our favorite places. Those of you who have seen us there know what place I'm talking about. After that, I'm taking my wife to the movies. Then we will go home and rest and just enjoy each other's company. What are you going to do?

Then tomorrow we begin our week. What does your week look like? Mine is a combination of my work as a project manager and as a deacon. I will assist at Daily Mass, attend several project meetings, write a homily, write several status reports, lead the RCIA class, and most importantly, spend the evening with my wife. What does your week look like.

I hope that all of us enjoy what we do, in our profession, in our hobbies, in our relationships. That is what makes us the happiest, when we do what we enjoy and do it the best that we can.

Steve Mason studied music to become the professional music minister he is. He worked very hard and now he's good, very good, at it and I'll bet that he enjoys it. Fr. Eric when to seminary before being ordained. He worked hard to become a priest and he's very good at it. And I'll bet he enjoyed his ministry, especially bringing us the Sacraments. I studied hard to earn my degree and worked very hard during my career. I'm good at what I do and I enjoy it very much. I also worked hard to become a deacon. I truly enjoy what I do and I believe I'm pretty good at it.

All of us are called. That is how God made us. In our uniqueness, we are called to embrace certain activities that we are good at and enjoy doing.

So now, I'm talking to the men here today who may be called to the diaconate. Are you involved in parish ministry? Do you enjoy helping people? Do you enjoy being helpful by your words and actions?

The Apostles in today's first reading found themselves in a conundrum. They knew that their calling was to serve the people of God, but their focus was on the Word, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

These "seven reputable men" were the first deacons. These men, men just like many of you, were faithful, devoted, spirit-filled men, eager to help. They were called and they were chosen to this life of ministry to serve the people of God and to assist the Apostles. That is what we deacons do today; we serve the people of God in our ministry and assist the bishop, and through his direction, we assist our parish priests.

I can tell you it is a challenging and fulfilling life. I can't imagine not doing what I'm doing now. I was ordained just seven years ago. I've assisted at nearly 1000 Masses, more than a dozen for the bishop. I've preached over 150 homilies, all of them posted on the parish website. Today will be the 66th child I've baptized. I know that in my retirement, I will become a full-time deacon and a full-time husband and I can't wait. Please join me and the over 40 deacons of our diocese in the awesome ministry.

If you're married, please be sure to check with her. If you are being called, she will most likely already know that you are being called. She will be your biggest supporter and best ally in this most challenging and fulfilling ministry.

God wants us to be happy. We are happiest when we do what we love for the love of God and our brothers and sisters in Christ. We don't have too few deacons because too few are called; we have too few deacons because too many good men don't answer the call. Answer the call and be happy.