

Congratulations St. Timothy Deacon Marion Smithberger!



Please join Fr. Tim Hayes and the entire St. Timothy community in congratulating Marion on his ordination as a deacon November 29, 2008. Marion has been assigned to St. Timothy's, and undertakes his new duties at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on November 29, followed by the 8:00 a.m. Mass on November 30, at St. Timothy's. Please join in giving Marion a hearty welcome at a reception following the 5:00 p.m. Mass in the parish center on November 29. We are truly blessed to have him!

A little background on our new deacon.

Marion is currently the Executive Director of the Columbus Bar Foundation and Director of the Columbus Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service. He has served on several boards, programs, and foundations devoted to providing legal services and assistance to many people in different ways.

Marion graduated from St. Charles Preparatory High School ('72) and serves on the St. Charles Alumni Association Board. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University B.A. in Psychology ('76).

Marion and his wife Carol Sheehan have been members of St. Peter's for the past 20 years and were active with the high school youth program. Marion also conducted the Eucharistic Minister training and was an RCIA instructor. He and Carol have been married for 26 years and have one daughter, Mandy, who graduated from Worthington Kilbourne High School ('04) and Smith College ('08).

Marion along with 14 other deacon candidates attended the Josephinum every other Saturday for three years to qualify for ordination in the Permanent Diaconate. The course of study included scripture, theology, church history, and canon law. The formation process included prayer, class work, ongoing active ministry, and practical training in how to assist and lead liturgical services such as weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Although many deacons are assigned to their home parishes, all deacons are assigned by the Bishop based on need. In Marion's case as well as that of one other candidate, they have been asked to leave their home communities and serve in parishes without a deacon.

Marion reports that the formation process was the most enriching spiritual journey he has ever undertaken. "Even if for some reason formation would not have lead to ordination," I would be "still grateful for a greater understanding of the richness of the Catholic faith and its healing power. Every one of us in the class believed that we were called to ordination. The formation process was necessary to prepare us to begin this new life."