

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Serving Castle Rock since 1888



2746 Fifth Street
Castle Rock, CO

303-688-3025
www.stfranciscr.org

Parish Newsletter Summer 2022

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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

WHEN: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

TIME: 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

WHERE: RHYOLITE PARK

IN CRYSTAL VALLEY RANCH

WHAT: FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP *FUN AND GAMES



The Parish will provide:

hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, drinks & condiments

Parishioners, Please bring:

Side dish ^{and}/or dessert to Share!

Lawn chairs ^{and}/or pop-up awning for shade.



**Children's Games,
Bingo
and much more**

21st Annual Pie Baking Contest



Adult Contest—19 yrs +

Children's Contest—18 & younger

Drop off Pies by 1:45 pm at the Pie Contest Table

**For more information, call Mary Kochivar
in the Office 303-688-3025 ext 101**

A Pastoral Message from Father Mark

In this edition of our parish newsletter, I asked Father Chance and our Deacons to tell you a little bit about their vocation. A vocation is a call from God. All of us here who are baptized are called by God to be Christians, disciples of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Within that initial call, is a call to be a lay person, a consecrated religious, or a member of the clergy (deacon, priest, bishop). Lay people are single or called to the married vocation. Some lay people make vows of perpetual virginity. Consecrated religious can be priests or monks, brothers or sisters in

religious life. Consecrated religious profess vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and live together in a community or monastery.

Our patron, Saint Francis of Assisi, was called by God to a radical life of poverty and the formation of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans). He was ordained a deacon. Saint Clare, his contemporary, followed a similar call and founded what came to be known as the Poor Clare Sisters. A Secular Franciscan Order, or a Third Order, was founded for lay people. We have one here at our parish.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and the vocation stories of Father Chance and our Deacons.

May the Lord give you peace!

Rev. Mark Zacker
Pastor

En esta edición de nuestro boletín parroquial, le pedí al Padre Chance ya nuestros Diáconos que les contaran un poco sobre su vocación. Una vocación es un llamado de Dios. Todos los que estamos aquí bautizados somos llamados por Dios a ser cristianos, discípulos de su Hijo nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Dentro de ese llamado inicial, hay un llamado a ser laico, religioso consagrado o miembro del clero (diácono, sacerdote, obispo). Los laicos son solteros o llamados a la vocación matrimonial. Algunos laicos hacen votos

de virginidad perpetua. Los religiosos consagrados pueden ser sacerdotes o monjes, hermanos o hermanas en la vida religiosa. Los religiosos consagrados profesan votos de pobreza, castidad y obediencia y viven juntos en una comunidad o monasterio.

Nuestro patrón, San Francisco de Asís, fue llamado por Dios a una vida radical de pobreza y a la formación de la Orden de los Frailes Menores (Franciscanos).

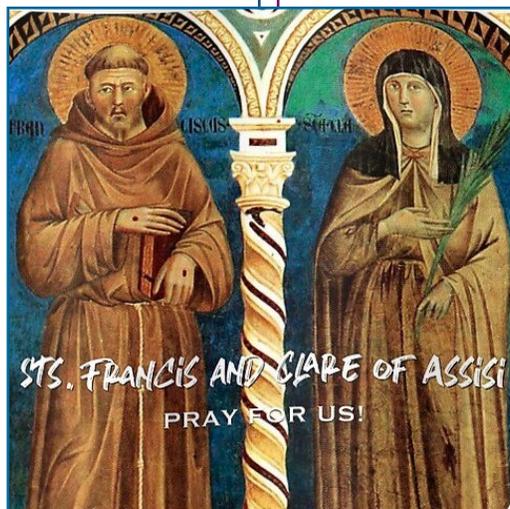
Fue ordenado diácono. Santa Clara, su contemporánea, siguió un

llamado similar y fundó lo que se conoce como las Hermanas Clarisas. Se fundó una Orden Franciscana Seglar, o Tercera Orden, para los laicos. Tenemos uno aquí en nuestra parroquia.

Espero que hayan disfrutado esta carta y la historia de la vocación del Diácono Thomas.

¡Que Nuestro Señor les de paz!

Padre Mark Zacker
Párroco



Vocations Ministry

How can we as a community support and pray for vocations at St. Francis!?

Please consider joining our Vocations Ministry!

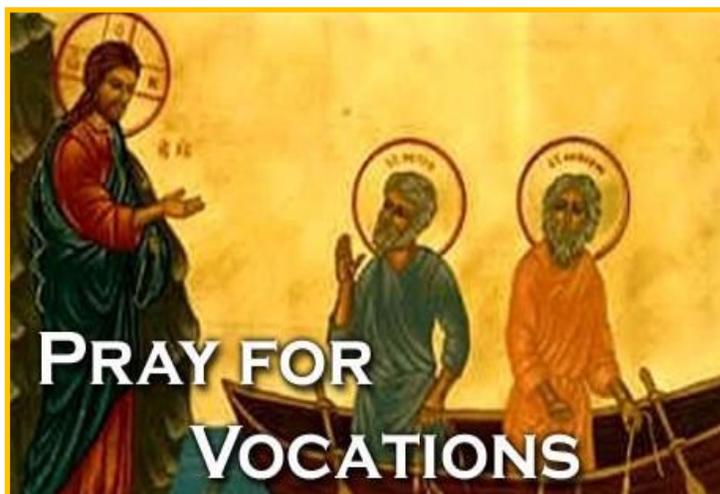
For more information

or questions, please contact

Bob Bucheit at:

303-989-0145

or email him at VE72RJ@Q.com



A Vocation Message from Fr. Chance

Vocation is "vocatio" or a call from God. We all have one and He, our Creator, our God, calls us all the time. The hardest part is tuning into this call. For me, I have always been interested in the supernatural, the spiritual life. I have always pursued meditation and a deeper truth. This is the way in which I learned to tune in -- through meditation -- and then enter this practice as a kind of daily meditation, a sort of praying without ceasing. This has always been and always will be more "real" than reality itself. The world is constantly changing. Nothing ever remains the same. People change. Our environment changes. The leaders change . . . BUT . . . there is one person, one constant that does not change . . . and that is God . . . and my relationship to him.

Obviously, being called to the priesthood, this ministry is a special type of calling. It is not for everyone, and it often takes a long period of discernment, or coaxing to follow up on it, to answer the call. As a Father, I long for fatherhood and delight in the cherished moments with children and the elderly. I see the loving embrace and genuine care of couples who are married and this also holds a warm spot in my heart. For me, there was always a desire to nourish and want for more, to see this in others and to experience it in a unique way. I often say I know spouses' thoughts, emotions, and spirit sometimes better than their husband or wife. They share with me their failures and successes and I am enriched by them, always working to forge a better bond between them and their families.

I have always been in the health and human service "industry" and I genuinely enjoy working with people. I have seen so many truly amazing, joyful, and perhaps miraculous changes in those people that I consider myself the co-recipient of the Holy Spirit's joy and consolation, guidance, and wisdom when it finally comes. When we open ourselves up to God's plan for us and when we enter into the suffering of others, we find a paradox: the pain of everyday life in combination with the real joy of Christ's presence. This is our journey. It really is a phenomenal one and God's plan is continuing to unfold, to reveal itself to me. I pray for PEACE. I know it's corny, but honestly I really want nothing more than for greater kindness, for us to be better ambassadors of God, and to reach the final kingdom together. I hope this gives you a better idea of what motivated me to become a priest and what continues to do so. Pray for me as I do for you.

Fr. Chance Billmeyer

"You are a Priest Forever"

To live in the midst of the world
without wishing its pleasures;
To be a member of each family,
yet belonging to none;
To share all suffering;
to penetrate all secrets;
To heal all wounds;
to go from men to God
and offer Him their prayers;
To return from God to men
to bring pardon and hope;
To have a heart of fire for Charity,
and a heart of bronze for Chastity
To teach and to pardon,
console and bless always.
My God, what a life;
and it is yours,
O priest of Jesus Christ.

-Lacordaire

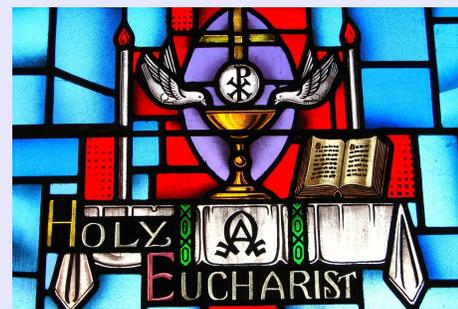


"There is nothing so great as the Eucharist.

*If God had something more precious,
He would have given it to us."*

St John Vianney

Patron Saint of Parish Priests



"The Lord has sworn

Each of us share a common vocation, that is 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Beyond that, each of us has a unique vocation, how we will live our lives, in conformity with this first and most important commandment/vocation.

Looking back, I feel my unique vocation began the day of my baptism into the Roman Catholic Church. For me that was September 24, 1944, 24 days after my birth. That connection was made as I was welcomed into the Church and anointed, Priest, Prophet and King. I was part of a faith-filled family, who taught me to love and be loved. My sacramental journey continued with my first reconciliation and First Holy Communion. (see picture). As a young teenager, Confirmation followed. I attended public schools, through the 12th Grade. In September 1962 I enrolled at Siena College, a four year liberal arts college located in upstate New York. Here is where I learned about service and the Franciscan model of service. In 1963, I was professed into the 3rd Order of Saint Francis. My journey continued, with my graduation in 1966, and commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. That September I married my wife, Lynne at her



parish church. With three years in the military and later being father to three (3) wonderful children, life took center stage. For 56 years Lynne has been the love of my life.

Since my graduation from college I have always been active in my church, and for me, church was more than an hour a week attending Mass on Saturday night or Sunday morning. Church for me, was where I received fuel (the Eucharist) for the journey, and where I could share my gifts with others. My family have been members of Saint Francis of Assisi parish since 1979, with a ten year break to help establish Our Lady of Visitation Parish in Elizabeth. I became certified as a Spiritual Director in 1989 and used these skills to start a men's program at Saint Francis. In 2001 I was selected to participate in formation as a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Colorado Springs. May 27, 2006 I was ordained as a deacon for service in the Diocese

and assigned to serve at Saint Francis in Castle Rock.

Every day, I try to live the first universal vocation. Along the way I have stumbled, yet always felt God's presence and protection in my life. His mercy and love have continued to bring me back home to his true presence in the Eucharist.

Submitted by Deacon Thomas Liotta

Seeking Good Men for the Deaconate Ministry

Bishop Golka has said, "Deacons are configured to Christ the servant and are called to care for the poor, homebound, and the special needs people that are often shunned. Diaconal ministry is a call. No one takes this ministry on himself or on his own initiative."

We are in need of Deacons to serve in all areas, with an emphasis on Spanish speakers and men living in rural areas.

Bishop Golka is leading a discernment retreat on October 29th. If you are interested in attending, please contact Deacon Cliff Donnelly cdonnelly@diocs.org - 719.290.2328 or Deacon Chris Kennedy ckennedy@diocs.org.

and will not waver...



O God, we earnestly ask You to bless our Diocese with many priests, brothers, sisters and deacons who will love You with their whole mind and heart and gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved. Bless our families, bless our children and choose from our homes those needed for Your work. Mary, Queen of the Clergy, pray for us; pray for our priests, religious and deacons. Obtain for us many more.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Farewell Deacon Dustin Duncan

Thank you Deacon Dustin for your service here at St. Francis.

Deacon Dustin was Ordained on June 20, 2020 and then assigned to St. Francis. He has assisted with many different ministries in our Parish, such as RCIA, Baptisms, Marriage prep and ministering to nursing homes in Douglas and Elbert County.

We are very grateful for his time and talents. He has been transferred to St. Mark Parish in Highlands Ranch effective August 12th.

We will miss you Deacon Dustin!

Please be assured of all of our prayers as you transition into a new role and new phase of your life!

St Francis Welcomes Deacon Chris Kennedy to the Staff!!

I am the middle of 5 kids, born in South Bend, Indiana. I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska where my dad taught at Creighton University so I grew up around the Jesuits. I went to Creighton Prep for High School, Creighton for undergrad and Notre Dame for grad school. After grad school I moved around a bit but always stayed active in the Church. I moved out to Colorado in 1999 and soon started attending Pax Christi. I got involved as a Reader, EMHC, the Parish Council, with the Altar Server program, the and Knights of Columbus at both the Parish and State level.

About 7 years ago my wife noticed an ad in the Catholic Herald that said that there would be an informational session for the Diaconate at St. Francis in Castle Rock. The meeting was that night. I went to the meeting and it felt right. I talked my wife about it and she agreed that it was a positive direction for my life. I applied and started the program in the fall of 2015. Ordination was set for May of 2020 but got delayed by a month because of Covid. My first assignment was at St. Mark Parish in Highlands Ranch.

There are a couple of things that I like especially about my ministry. First and foremost, as a deacon you are right at the Altar when the miracle of the Consecration happens. Also related to this as a Deacon you get to give Christ to the people twice in each Mass, when you proclaim the Gospel and when you distribute Communion. It is so wonderful to be able to pass on such a wonderful gift.

I come from an education background and I love passing on knowledge, both in my Homilies but also when I am lucky enough to be able to do sacramental formation, mainly Baptism and Marriage prep.

Finally I think that for any parish to be vibrant there is a need to have a sense of community, I see part of my ministry as a deacon to be a welcoming presence inviting people into the community. Luckily at St. Francis we have Fr. Mark and Fr. Chance who are both very welcoming, as well as all of the deacons.

Submitted by Deacon Chris Kennedy

You are a priest forever

My name is Father Matt Kane, and I grew up near Castle Rock. I would attend the youth group at St. Francis and be involved with other activities during my teenage years. I first started thinking genuinely about priesthood when I was around 18 years old. I had a powerful experience of the Lord telling me that I was going to be a priest. It was the happiest experience of my life. I joined seminary two years later and after nine years of formation and schooling (which flew by so fast!), I was ordained to the priesthood for our diocese on June 11, 2022. I am so happy to be God's priest and to be doing his will. He knows me best, and he knows what he made me for. The priesthood is it! I am so thankful for the diocese and for all my time at seminary. It became the very best years of my life so far. To anyone thinking of priesthood, I say pray about it, get in contact with your pastor or a priest you know, and be open to whatever the Lord's will is for your life!

Submitted by Fr. Matt Kane



*Priests, Deacons and Seminarians at
Fr. Matt Kane's First Mass, which was celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi*

Please save the date for next year's ordinations
to the transitional diaconate (May 27, 2023)
and priesthood (June 10, 2023).

Please pray for our men to be ordained and for more vocations
to serve our local church.

in the manner of Melchizedek."

Psalm 110:4

Submitted By Deacon Thomas Pressley

"I knelt before the bishop and he put his hands on my head, invoking the Holy Spirit and conforming me to Christ the servant.

Several people have asked when I knew I was called to be a priest. I felt the Lord's soft nudge in 2007, heard his whisper in my heart in 2009, but did not attend seminary until 2017. After a decade of fleeing, he finally won me over in Kolkata, India. Before the Blessed Sacrament in Mother Teresa's Motherhouse, I told Jesus: "I'm confused; what do you want of me?" He responded in my heart: "The same thing I've always wanted; now come." No more running away, time to step towards my vocation.

I entered seminary believing the Lord had called me to the priesthood. However, until I stood before the bishop to promise prayer, celibacy, and obedience; until I laid facedown on the altar as the saints were invoked to aid me in the mission; until Bishop Golka, in silence, laid his hands on my head; until I heard the words of ordination come from his lips; I could only keep moving forward one step at a time in hope that God would lead me where he wanted. Ultimately, this trust and hopeful step forward is the vocation of every Christian. We seek the face of God, and once seen, move forward boldly even if it is only one step. As St John Henry Newman wrote, "Lead, kindly light... I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step enough for me."

My ordination to the Diaconate was the greatest day in my life. This summer has been one of firsts: proclaiming the Gospel at Mass, preaching the Word, baptizing and bringing children into God's family, burying and laying to rest the faithful departed. By God's grace, I will be ordained a priest next summer. Until then, and after, my daily vocation is to take a step towards the Lord and let him lead as he wills."

Submitted by Deacon Thomas Pressley
A Seminarian, Diocese of Colorado Springs

Please pray for ALL our Seminarists,
especially Deacon Thomas as he prepares for his
Priestly Ordination next June.

To send Deacon Thomas a card or email him:
Mt. St. Mary Seminary, 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.,
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797 or
T.L.Pressley@email.msmary.edu

Presentado por Deacon Thomas Pressley

"Me arrodillé ante el obispo y puso sus manos sobre mi cabeza, invocando al Espíritu Santo y conformándome a Cristo siervo.

Varias personas me han preguntado cuándo supe que soy llamado a ser sacerdote. Sentí el toque suave del Señor en 2007, escuché su susurro en mi corazón en 2009, pero entré al seminario hasta 2017. Después de una década de huir, finalmente Él me ganó en Kolkata, India. Ante el Santísimo Sacramento en la Casa Madre de la Madre Teresa, le dije a Jesús: "Estoy confundido; ¿Qué quieres de mí?" Él respondió en mi corazón: "Lo mismo que siempre he querido; ahora ven." No más huidas, era hora de dar un paso hacia mi vocación.



Entré al seminario creyendo que el Señor me había llamado al sacerdocio. Sin embargo, hasta que me presenté ante el obispo para prometer oración, celibato y obediencia; hasta que me postré frente el altar mientras los santos eran invocados para ayudarme en la misión; hasta que el obispo Golka, en silencio, puso sus manos sobre mi cabeza; hasta que escuché las palabras de ordenación salir de sus labios, sólo podía seguir avanzando un paso a la vez con la esperanza de que Dios me llevaría a donde Él quería. En definitiva, esta confianza y paso en esperanza es la vocación de todo cristiano. Buscamos el rostro de Dios, y una vez visto, avanzamos con audacia, aunque sea un solo paso. Como escribió San Juan Enrique Newman: "Guíame, luz bondadosa... No pido ver la lejanía; un paso es suficiente para mí".

Mi ordenación al Diaconato fue el mejor día de mi vida. Este verano ha sido uno de los primeros: proclamando el Evangelio en la Misa, predicando la Palabra, bautizando y trayendo niños a la familia de Dios, enterrando y poniendo a descansar a los fieles difuntos. Con la gracia de Dios, seré ordenado sacerdote el próximo verano. Hasta entonces y después, mi vocación diaria es y será "dar un paso hacia el Señor y dejar que Él me guíe como quiera".

Presentado por Deacon Thomas Pressley
Seminarian, Diocese of Colorado Springs

Por favor tengan en oración a TODOS nuestros seminaristas,
especialmente al diácono Thomas Presley, quien se prepara
para su ordenación sacerdotal en junio del año que viene.

Le puedes enviar una carta o correo electrónico a:
Mt. St. Mary Seminary, 16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd.,
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-7797 o
T.L.Pressley@email.msmary.edu



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Mass Schedule Starting August 21st

Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm

Sundays 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30pm (Spanish) & 5:30 pm

Weekdays 8:00 am Mon - Fri

Weekday Evenings: Wednesday 5:30 pm and Thursday 7:30 pm (Spanish)

During the school year, in conjunction with Faith Formation class schedule

Holy Days as announced

Reconciliation/Confession

Monday-Friday 7:30 am, Saturday 4 00 pm and Sunday at 1:00 pm (Spanish)