

SAID ED July 15, 2007

For thirteen years Ron Tocci has been assigned by Bishop Clark to serve as the Deacon at our parish. This has been a wonderful gift to us as a parish as well as to those many people who have benefited from Ron's powerful Pastoral Care and Social Ministry outreach. Kidz Kamp, ESWA and Miss Maggie's Day Camp are but a few of the ways in which Ron has helped our community to join hands in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are in need of our help. Ron's wonderful preaching, pastoral care and sacramental presence are a continual reminder of God's love for us all. So many of our children know Deacon Ron through his teaching and care for them in our School of Religion. Ron is an integral and important part of our pastoral staff.

Like all priests, deacons are assigned by the bishop for a term of service. My second six year term has just begun. The same term limits apply for diaconal assignments as well. Because Ron had graciously agreed to serve as Temporary Pastoral Administrator during my Sabbatical, Bishop Clark allowed us to extend Ron's term by one year. The Bishop's Office for Diaconal placements has been in consultation with Ron, Cathy and me for several months negotiating how a new assignment for Ron could put Ron's many gifts to good use and not impact negatively upon his position as a staff member of our parish. With lots of hard work and conversation, I think we have worked out a great deal for all concerned.

Effective immediately, Ron Tocci has been assigned by Bishop Clark to the Chaplaincy Staff of Rochester General Hospital. He will be working with the team of ministers who offer Pastoral Care to folks who are hospitalized. We all know how great Ron is with the sick and how much that ministry is needed, especially at the time of serious illness. This work will take Ron to RGH for 10 hours per week – usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This official assignment will be a blessing to the patients and staff of RGH. Ron will volunteer his service as a deacon in hospital while continuing to be a Pastoral Minister in our parish. This will mean his time is more limited in our parish, but we believe that this is an ideal arrangement.

Knowing the complexity and magnitude of our community, Bishop Clark has also assigned another Deacon to serve our parish. Deacon Bob Corsaro has just been ordained last month; this will be his first assignment as a Deacon. He is a man of great faith and dedication who has been called by the Lord to diaconal ministry. We will get to know Bob in the months ahead as he preaches, baptizes and ministers in our parish. Bob is married with two adult sons and is employed as an Insurance Agent in Penfield, so his 10 hours of volunteer service to us are a special gift. Bob will be visible around our parish soon and I invite you to welcome him warmly.

Have a great week!
