

TOGETHER

a monthly bulletin insert from the archdiocese

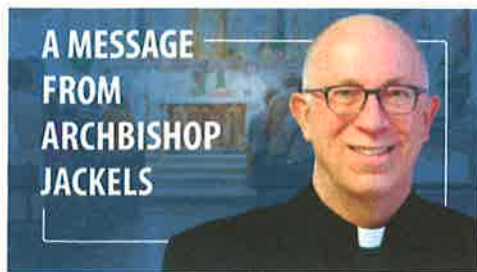


ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE

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30 April 2021, 10:46 AM

THE SUNDAY OPPORTUNITY

In recognition of how the spiritual and emotional needs of the Catholic faithful are met in great part by the parish community gathering for Sunday Mass in church...

And in view of the ever-increasing number of parishioners who are vaccinated, and who have a holy desire to worship at Sunday Mass with others in church...

But aware that social distancing in church greatly reduces the number of parishioners that can be accommodated...

Therefore, starting on 5-6 June 2021, the proverbial buck will stop with the Pastor/PLC about which COVID safety measures to practice, in consultation with staff and pastoral council, and in keeping with local ordinances.

The pandemic isn't over. The Pastor/PLC should proceed cautiously when relaxing the recommendations of the CDC and local public health officials, who still advise...

Social distancing, wearing a mask (especially if distancing is difficult), avoiding crowds and the hand-to-hand contact of sharing or passing things, like hymnals and the Cup.

The Pastor/PLC should publish which safety measures will be practiced after the June date, so that parishioners can make their decision about whether or not to attend.

Also on 5-6 June 2021, the dispensation will expire that excused Catholics in the Archdiocese of Dubuque from participating at Sunday Mass in church.

As the pandemic isn't over, even without a dispensation, Catholics can still legitimately excuse themselves from Sunday Mass if they're afraid of getting COVID, or if...

They're frail from age or illness, or caring for someone sick, homebound, or an infant, or weather makes driving hazardous, or work and Mass schedules conflict.

In short, there is no sin in missing the Sunday obligation if you would go if you could go, but you can't for reasons outside your control.

A lot of people use the term Sunday obligation to refer to going to Mass and avoiding work, but maybe it'd be better to call it the Sunday opportunity to...

Gather together, hear the word proclaimed and explained, receive the Bread of Life, re-create ourselves by relaxing, and grow in holiness by helping the poor.

**Michael O. Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque**

Visit dbqarch.org/sunday-opportunity to watch a video of Archbishop Jackels further developing a central theme of the dispensation discussed in this April 30 message.

10 May 2021, 11:15 AM

THREE TO JOIN PRIESTHOOD MAY 29

By Dan Russo

If priestly vocations were corn, this year's harvest could be considered a bumper crop from a single field. All three men being ordained for the Archdiocese of Dubuque May 29 — Jacob Dunne, Kyle Tietz, and Martin Coolidge — attended Iowa State University in Ames.

Father Jon Seda, vocations director of the archdiocese, first met the 2021 candidates for Holy Orders while they were in college.

"No one goes to Iowa State thinking they will become a priest," reflected Father Seda. "I can only attribute it to the prayers of many that Jake, Kyle and Martin joined my priesthood discernment group at ISU at about the same time. It is remarkable how open they were to being surprised by God, and how freely and joyfully they now surrender their lives to serve the Lord."



Deacon Jacob Dunne, a native of Cedar Rapids, has spent some time in his final months of seminary enjoying the friendships he's made. Because of these bonds and the deep faith he's cultivated during formation for his vocation, the 28-year-old is hopeful about the future of the church.

"I have been privileged to spend the last six years around a group of men studying to be priests out of love of Jesus and His Church," he said. "I also see signs in our time that people desire to know God and I see the work of the Holy Spirit in those movements."

Deacon Dunne grew up as part of

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Hiawatha. He began to think about becoming a priest as a teenager. In college, Deacon Dunne studied history and political science, originally aiming to become a high school teacher. While at ISU he felt more powerfully drawn to his vocation, the seeds of it having been planted long before.

“The best role models in my life, particularly my grandmother Laverne Dunne, instilled in me a desire to live a prayerful and meaningful life and that desire is the root of my call,” reflected Deacon Dunne.

Pope Francis has declared 2021 the Year of St. Joseph. In light of that, Deacon Dunne has been reflecting recently on the “Foster-father of the Son of God.”

“As a celibate man, I have often pondered this year on the spiritual fatherhood of Joseph to Jesus,” he said. “Joseph is married to Mary, who is spiritually espoused to the Holy Spirit, so that his marriage is a kind of stewardship of the work of the Holy Spirit. Similarly the priest is a spiritual father and a steward of the work and grace of the Holy Spirit present in the Church.”

Deacon Dunne’s first assignment will be as associate pastor of Epiphany Parish in Mason City and Sacred Heart Parish in Manly.

“God is real,” said Deacon Dunne. “The Eucharist is truly Jesus Christ. I am grateful to Christ for His presence in the Eucharist. I am extremely privileged to participate in the mystery of Jesus’s priesthood. I hope that I am humble enough to be like Jesus.”



A graduate of the Catholic school system in Cedar Rapids, Deacon Kyle Tietz’s family was immersed in the life of St. Pius X Parish during his childhood. The 28-year-old got to know some priests personally while growing up, which set the stage for his consideration of the priesthood. When he began studying computer science at ISU, he explained that he was initially “pretty stagnant in his faith.” Despite this, those early years away from home helped Deacon Tietz “grow and gain independence,” a process which eventually led him to contemplate what was really important to him.

Deacon Tietz’s participation in the priesthood discernment group during college was a critical step.

“This group helped me learn more about seminary and the priesthood and made me responsible for continually seeking out God’s call in my life,” he said.

After struggling for a time to figure out whether to start a career or apply for seminary, the young man took a “leap of faith.”

“This quote was very meaningful to me as I began seminary,” he recalled. “It is from the homily of Benedict XVI as he began his papacy: ‘Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life. Amen’”

Tietz has continued to develop his relationship with Jesus. In his final months of seminary, the “Mass practicum” has been particularly important. The course teaches students about various types of liturgies and actually allows them to practice parts of the Mass.

“The class has deepened my love for the liturgy and has excited me to soon be celebrating the Eucharist,” said the deacon.

St. Francis DeSales has had a significant impact on Deacon Tietz.

“Using many examples from nature and everyday life, he wrote about divine love and the spiritual life,” he said. “I’m inspired by his deep commitment to spiritual direction and by his kind manner which earned him the title of ‘the gentleman saint.’”

The deacon is “excited and humbled” to begin his first assignment as associate pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Marshalltown.

“I can’t wait to celebrate the sacraments and grow as Christian disciples together,” he said, addressing the parishioners he will serve. “Please pray for me as I continue to pray for you.”



A very serious illness helped Deacon Martin Coolidge to realize God was calling him to be a priest. Now, that he is about to become a “doctor of souls,” he is filled with anticipation.

“The priesthood is a gift from God and I have much to learn as a new priest,” said the deacon as he reflected on his coming ordination. “I look forward to celebrating Mass and helping people in

their relationship to God.”

Deacon Coolidge contracted a bad case of sepsis during his sophomore year in college.

“I became very sick, near death,” the 29-year-old said. “It took me the better part of six months, almost a year, to recover.”

At the time he became ill, Deacon Coolidge had been attending Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and Catholic Student Center while studying meteorology at ISU. After getting well again, he began bringing the Eucharist to the sick.

“I was (treated) at that same hospital where I eventually went to visit people,” he said. “Father Jon (Seda) came, anointed me, gave me Communion. There was so much power, spiritual strength and an encounter with Christ there that it spiritually ... woke me up (and) renewed my life in Christ as a Catholic. When I did recover, God had kind of put that on my heart — this great thanksgiving for healing me, for renewing me spiritually. I felt like I could do this for other people. As a way to give thanks to God, I could bring them Communion, bring them prayer.”

Deacon Coolidge was born in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He came to Iowa in 2010 to continue his education. His first assignment will be as associate pastor of the Cathedral of St. Raphael and St. Patrick parishes in Dubuque, with chaplaincy duties at Holy Family Catholic Schools. As a priest, he hopes to benefit from the spiritual aid of St. Edith Stein (also known as St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross).

“She always kept two things close to her heart that I desire as a priest: ‘Hail Cross, our only hope!’ and ‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit’ (Lk 23:46),” explained Deacon Coolidge. “With this confidence, she gave her life for Jesus and the Church as one of the many Auschwitz martyrs since she was a Jewish convert to Catholicism. She was also an incredible intellectual, a prominent philosopher of her time. So, her intercession has helped me through my studies in seminary and will continue to do so as a priest seeking to always grow in knowledge of God!”

Watch the transitional diaconate and priesthood ordinations live online at dbqarch.org/live-broadcasts.

Diaconate: Friday, May 28, 7:00 P.M.

Priesthood: Saturday, May 29, 10:00 A.M.