

From the Clergy Assistant
January 2011

Thank You!!

To all of the saints of St. Elizabeth's:

Thank You! Thank you for all of your time, effort, thoughtfulness, and prayers that went into making the occasion of my ordination so very special not only for me, but for all who attended and participated. Time and again, family and friends commented on how they felt so warmly welcomed by the parishioners of St. Elizabeth's—not only as they entered the church, but throughout the day, especially during the reception in the parish hall. The gracious hospitality of St. Elizabeth's was quite apparent.

Many thanks to all who worked so tirelessly “behind the scenes”: Caroline Angelica, Beth Franzetti, and Chris Kyse of the Altar Guild and all those who helped to polish brass and add finishing touches to the church; Dick Davies, who served as parish photographer, capturing scenes of the rehearsal as well as the ordination service; Ann Dowling, who proofed the service booklet many times over with her eagle-eye; Ann Garrett and Mary Hayes, who coordinated the wonderful reception and festive coffee hour the following day—and never made it out of the kitchen—and all of those, especially our Confirmation Class members, who provided fabulous food, flowers, service, and clean-up for the reception.

Also, many thanks to those “in the scenes”: the ushers, assisting clergy, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and our stellar acolyte team of T.J. Seiter, Tim Marchlik, Lauren Munhall, Rebecca Watson, Samantha Donovan, Elizabeth Graham, and George Shepherd; Ally Brundige, who came down from Connecticut during the final hectic days of the semester in order to serve as the Bishop's Chaplain; Garah Landes and the spectacular choir, especially soloist Anastasia Swope and cantor Greg Hostetler, whose beautiful voices and music swelled and filled the space, calling forth another dimension of holiness to the occasion; and to our fearless leader, John Hartnett, who, as the Minister of Ceremony, directed masterfully and graciously the preparations, rehearsal, and the choreography of the day—and put things “back together” again at the end of the day, ready to go for Sunday morning.

Thank you to all who made this occasion so beautiful and meaningful. The Holy Spirit was truly present.

In gratitude,
Joan