

Acceptance Homily of Brandon Parsons at Ordination to the Holy Diaconate

Your Grace, I have drawn near seeking from your hands ordination to the Holy Diaconate. By God's grace, I stand here today in Christ's Holy Church full of gratitude. Though I was not raised in the Orthodox Faith, I have so much to be grateful for, and looking back upon my life I can recount how the Lord has orchestrated my journey so beautifully.

I thank God for my parents, Michael and Jodi, who raised me in the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and in the love and fear of God. For patiently teaching me, and revealing to me the importance of being consistent. Not only in personal piety, through daily prayer and the reading of holy scripture, but consistency in attending the services. If there was a service or an event, we were there. For instilling in me the value of working hard, and doing my work as unto the Lord. They helped to establish within me a firm foundation, on which the Lord would continue to build upon as I would mature.

I thank God for my wife, Katherine. She has always been there for me. I am grateful for her wisdom- always guiding me in the right direction with sound advice. For her encouragement- when I lose sight of the bigger picture, she points me back to Christ and to His providential hand. For her love of God and neighbor- as evidenced by her kind heart, selflessness, and thoughtfulness. She's always thinking of others, ready to show them love at a moment's notice. She is a bedrock for our family, holding us together in love, and has sacrificed much for our family. I am so thankful I was able to journey with her into our Orthodox faith.

I thank God for my beautiful children: Emma, Henry, and Elliot. They bring so much joy and light to my life. They make me want to become a better father and a better man, a better leader, and a better servant. It was my love for my family that would spur my search for the Orthodox Church. I would not settle until I found Christ's True Church, and after years of extensive searching by God's Grace we arrived at our home, to the Ark of Salvation.

I thank God for Father Aleksa Pavichevich- for his continual encouragement, patience, and kindness with me throughout my formation. Always ready to answer my questions, and always seeing and calling out the good in me. For Father Mark Resanovich- for his guidance and teaching me so much during my formation. For my Kumovi Lex and Paula Bowers, among the first to welcome us into the parish with their kind and welcoming spirit. To all those here within this St. George Community- from the readers and the choir, the altar servers, school teachers, and every single person here, though I cannot list them all- have left an indelible mark upon me.

This community has welcomed our family with such warmth and kindness from day one, and it is this love that truly embodies Christ's church.

Your Grace, I am deeply grateful for your leadership, guidance, and loving care for our community. For your blessing to pursue my catechetical studies, and for the opportunity to serve Christ's Church in a greater capacity. Returning to your question, I answer once more: I seek from your hands ordination to the Holy Diaconate — that the Holy Spirit may make up that which is lacking in me, that I might serve in the House of the Lord all the days of my life, and to labor in love for this community.