

NEWS

Office of Communications

Contact: Deacon David Palma

585-328-3228, ext. 1237

or Doug Mandelaro, ext. 1247

Four men to be ordained as deacons Saturday at Sacred Heart Cathedral

ROCHESTER, New York – Four men will be ordained to the permanent diaconate on Saturday, May 21, 2005 at a special 10:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Flower City Park.

They are Kevin R. Carges of Farmington, H. Wilson Johnson of Pittsford, David L. LaFortune of Corning and Joseph J. Placious of Chili

A permanent deacon – most often a married man – is ordained for service within the church, according to Deacon David Palma, director of deacon personnel for the diocese. A deacon's ministry ranges from Service of the Word (proclaiming the Gospel message, teaching, conducting retreats and counseling), Service of the Altar (assisting at Mass, witnessing marriages, baptizing and presiding at wakes and funerals) to Service of Charity (building up human dignity as ministers of charity and justice).

Because deacons and their families normally live in the communities that they serve and hold secular jobs, unless retired, they are uniquely positioned to promote Catholic social teaching.

Candidates for the diaconate must participate in four years of formation at St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry. Many deacons complete a master's degree in theology.

The Diocese of Rochester has 104 active deacons.

Note to photojournalists: Please follow established guidelines for coverage during the Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, staying in the balcony area or behind the baptismal font in the south area of the sanctuary.

#