

Thomas Gartin ordained at St. Augustine Episcopal Church, Rocklin

The Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, officiated at the ordination of Thomas Robert Gartin into the Sacred Order of Priests at St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 1800 Wildcat Boulevard in Rocklin on October 19.

Several members of the clergy from the diocese, vested in white with red stoles, joined in the procession led by acolyte Sam Weston carrying the burning incense as thurifer.

Resident Clergy the Rev. Liz Armstrong and the Rev. Maryellen Garnier, along with Tom's parents Bob and Lana Gartin who are members of St. Augustine, presented Tom to Bishop Beisner for ordination.

The Rev. Charlie Knuth from Trinity Episcopal Church, Folsom, gave a thoughtful homily full of humor and sage advice for Tom as he enters his new role as priest. The Rev. Sarah Quinney, Priest-in-Charge of St. James, Lincoln, sang the litany with her beautiful clear voice. The Bishop laid his hands on Tom's head, and all the priests in attendance did also as part of the consecration, asking God to make Tom a faithful pastor, a patient teacher and a wise councilor.

During the moving ceremony Pastor Maryellen and parishioner Jim Quinney vested Tom as a priest for the first time with his own red stole and chasuble, a holy poncho-type garment worn by priests as they celebrate the Eucharist. This was symbolic, as no one becomes a priest on his own without the discernment and support of the local church. Tom also received a Bible from the Bishop, welcoming him to his new ministry.

Tom grew up in Rocklin and attended Sierra College. He went on to Bethany University in Santa Cruz where he earned a BA in Church Leadership. Although raised in the Assemblies of God tradition, Tom joined the Episcopal Church in 2011 after sensing the Spirit's guidance. He then moved to Atlanta where he attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University and graduated with a Master of Divinity in Anglican Studies.

Tom returned to Rocklin in 2016 and started the ordination process with the Diocese of Northern California, going from aspirant, postulant and finally ordinand with the full support of the congregation and vestry of St. Augustine.

Tom's work with the young people of St. Augustine has led to the expansion of that group into two sections, 6th through 8th grades and 9th through 12th grades. He has guided many insightful seminars which have helped St. Augustine's congregants grow in their spiritual formation.

Tom will carry on at St. Augustine, working with the youth group and leading seminars as well as being the social media coordinator. Now that Tom is a priest, he is part of the pastoral care team, and he will be part of the rotation for celebrating communion and other services.

Barbara Woolman
Member, St. Augustine Communication Committee
(916)771-8830 or barbwoolmn@comcast.net