

RECTOR'S LETTER

August 29, 2021

Welcome to Deacon Luis Garcia

Dear Friends in Christ:

Anh chị em thân mến trong Chúa Kitô:

Estimados Amigos y Amigas en Cristo:

As a new academic year gets underway, we are blessed as a parish to have a new member of our clergy team joining us for the next nine months. Rev. Mr. Luis Garcia, a transitional deacon for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, begins his journey with our parish this weekend as he enters his final year of formation before (God-willing!) his ordination to priesthood in June.

You may be wondering about the title of “Reverend Mister” for a deacon, one that is not used for our permanent deacons. This is a bit of an oddity in protocol, as it predates Vatican II when the permanent diaconate was restored. As you have likely noted before, different titles denote ranks within the clergy. A bishop is denoted as “Most Reverend” and priests are referred to as “Reverend”. A handful of priests such as myself hold the title of “Very Reverend” in reference to the position they hold (in my case, the Rector of a Cathedral), not in any reference to their grade of personal holiness!

Along the same lines, transitional deacons have long been referred to as “Reverend Mister” denoting that they are ordained, but not a priest. However, when the Second Vatican Council restored the permanent diaconate, the style developed of using “Deacon” as the formal title for these men in lieu of “Reverend Mister”. Therefore, while both permanent and transitional deacons are properly called “Deacon” in the familiar sense (just as priests are typically called “Father”), only transitional deacons are referred to as “Reverend Mister—an oddity of protocol.

In any case, I asked Deacon Luis to share a few words of introduction with the parish:

Greetings, my name is Deacon Luis Garcia and I am a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston studying at Saint Mary’s Seminary in Houston. I grew up in the Northwest side of Houston, close to Spring, Texas. I am the middle child of Lorenzo and Maria Garcia. I was born in Mexico in the

state of Zacatecas and moved to Houston when I was five years old. My home parish is Prince of Peace Catholic Church where I was involved in various ministries from serving at Mass, teaching as a catechist and co-leading mission trips. I experienced a real intimate experience of God in the poor while on mission trip in Guatemala which has led me on this road to discerning my vocation. The idea of priesthood was never in my mind and was never something that I ever thought of doing. Having received so many graces from this mission trip really opened my eyes and heart to the gifts God had given me. A desire for service was born from this encounter and with the help of the Blessed Mother and Holy Mother Church I hope to be of service to the people by sharing in the ministerial priesthood of Jesus Christ. I look forward to meeting you as I walk along this journey to God with all of you. Furthermore, I am very fortunate to be received by your Rector, The Very Reverend Jeffrey L. Bame. I commend myself to your prayers and please be assured of mine for you all.

- Deacon Luis

I have actually known Deacon Luis for over a decade as we both came from the same parish of Prince of Peace in our mutual discernments. He is a very good man and I am excited to have him join us for this final stretch of his time in seminary.

Like other transitional deacons have served at the Co-Cathedral in the past, Deacon Luis will primarily be with us on weekends as he continues his academic formation during the week. You can expect to see him around at all of our activities, Masses, and celebrations of the sacraments.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Deacon Luis this weekend as we prepare to share in his journey with him over the next several months.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place all our trust in You. Amen.

Yours in Christ,



Very Reverend Jeffrey L. Bame
Rector & Parish Administrator

