

An Interview with Rev. Deacon Annette Sines

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If I understand correctly, the move from St Peter's to St George's is directly related to beginning the formation and educational process towards priestly ordination. Please share with us what this formation and educational preparation involves. And why might it involve a transition from one parochial setting for ministry to another?

Annette: I am a seminarian at General Theological Seminary in their hybrid MDiv program. As part of this program Contextual Education places, you in a parish with a priest mentor for all three years of seminary. As part of formation, it is important to work in a parish different than what you already know, urban vs rural, small vs large, etc. Going to a new parish allows me to broaden my knowledge and learn and grow in a place other than my sending parish.

I know you and your husband Jeread enjoy travelling and you have recently visited Italy and Greece. What has proven most memorable about visiting these two marvelous countries and more especially, how they might each witness to the development of the Christian Church and our faith?

Annette: Yes, we traveled this spring and spent several days in the footsteps of St. Paul and St. Francis of Assisi. The Church is so old there; it is incredibly humbling to see the places where the earliest Christians built the Church and were martyred for a faith and freedom we so often take for granted. This was our second trip to Assisi and it is such a beautiful and spirit-filled place. We met another pilgrim in a tiny plain chapel at San Damiano where St. Francis heard God's call to him and where St. Clare built her order. He spoke to us through tears; and said, "This is the church, no gold or silver, just Jesus". It was a reminder of the thinness of the space in Assisi and the presence of the divine all around us if we are open to it.

Anything else you might want to share with us?

Annette: Be open to God's call to you. Whether it is in service to others, pilgrimage to far off places, or answering His call.