

HOMILY INTRODUCTION

My dear friends in Christ,

It is a day of rejoicing in the Diocese of Des Moines with the ordination of Deacons Luis Mejia Mejia and Andrew Windschitl.

These two men now come among us “in persona Christi,” in “the person of Christ” to exercise the Lord’s mission.

In particular, they announce a year of favor from the Lord as we approach the Holy Year, the Year of Mercy, by the ministry entrusted to them:

- When initiating God’s life in those you baptize following the Holy Father’s direction to not turn away anyone who asks for Baptism;
- By unfolding God’s Word and its applicability to real life in homilies – and all of us preachers are called to take to heart Pope Francis’ recent counsel that our homilies not be boring;
- In celebrating the Eucharist in a manner that draws the gathered priestly people into a participation that is full, active and conscious and in touch with the profound act of Mercy, the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus made present in these moments;

- By being the bridge between God and man in the Sacrament of Reconciliation where Baptism is renewed and our heartfelt sorrow is responded to with tangible healing and forgiveness;
- In the administration of the Sacrament of the Sick where God's healing power is communicated with great consolation in the midst of painful vulnerabilities.

As Luis and Andrew go forward in this service they continue to depend on the support of the entire Christian community. We trust that in your goodness they will experience this consideration.