

Diocese of Madison

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Media Release

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The Beauty of the Priesthood: Three men to be ordained Friday; diocese celebrates 23 ordained in past 10 years

(Madison) Bishop Robert C. Morlino announce the ordination of Deacon Vincent Brewer (St, Maria Goretti Parish, Madison, WI), Deacon Garrett Kau (St. Mary Help of Christians Parish, Sullivan, WI), and Deacon Stephen Patrica (St. Raphael Cathedral Parish, Madison, WI) to the Sacred Order of Priests, on Friday, May 24, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, in Madison.

Through the laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration three men will be changed, forever, into priests. This year's ordination class join the approximately 500 throughout the US to be ordained this year. They bring with them an extremely interesting blend of training, background and outside interests, which will serve them well, as they serve the faithful of the Diocese of Madison.

<u>In words of Pope Francis</u> we ask those to be ordained to "Impart to everyone the word of God which you have received with joy... never tire of being merciful... and carry out the ministry of Christ the Priest with constant joy and genuine love." It is through this beautiful ministry by which we are sanctified.

Quick bios:

Dcn. Stephen Petrica (former Anglican priest / psychotherapist; received into the Church in 2006)

Originally from Maryland, Steve worked in psychotherapy for 14 years, followed by work in the public health field after receiving his Master of Divinity degree from Yale University and a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins. As an Anglican priest, he served as an Anglican chaplain at Yale and as a pastor of a church in Arlington, Va. After discerning his conversion to Roman Catholicism, Steve was received into the Roman Catholic Church on October 9, 2006 in New York City. Dcn. Stephen considered the monastic life, which brought him to Wisconsin.

Dcn. Vincent Brewer (Former Navy and Army National Guard Reservist / Harley Davidson rider)

A native of Richland Center, WI, Vince was in the Navy and later the Army Nation Guard Reserve. Vince worked in the fields of telecommunication and technical communication management, after studies at UW-Platteville and before discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Dcn. Vince studied at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, Weston, MA, where he received his Master of Divinity.

Dcn. Garrett Kau (Avid traveler & Skilled in the art of Charcuterie)

From Jefferson, WI, Garrett went to school in Fort Atkinson before entering UW-Madison, where he received his BA in bacteriology. Garrett's seminary studies took him to St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, in Denver, CO, where he received his philosophy and theology degrees, as well as his Master of Divinity. Garrett has traveled to the Amazon, Germany, Australia, Spain, and numerous other places in recent years. Dcn. Garrett is also an amateur charcutier, or one who specializes in the branch of cooking devoted to prepared meat products, such as bacon, ham, sausage – which we all know Wisconsin loves/needs!

Fr. Paul Ugo Arinze, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Madison expressed "what an event of great joy for the diocese in this Year of Faith to have three men ordained for the ministry of the word and sacraments... we have every reason to be thankful to God, as week keep in mind Christ admonition to Pray always and not to lose heart"."

Great news: Priestly vocations in the Diocese of Madison are healthy; in the past 10 years (2003-2013), 23 men have been ordained for the diocese! Many more "on deck" Praised be Jesus Christ!

The Diocese of Madison thanks Fr. Paul for his outstanding work in the Office of Vocations, as he leaves this position to be the next Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, in Beloit, later this summer.

St. Maria Goretti Parish is located at 5313 Flad Ave on Madison's west side, for all those who wish to cover this great event. Bishop Morlino, the three men to be ordained and others will be available for comment both before and after Friday's ordination rite.

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