



DEACONS, THE CALL TO SERVE, AND MEMORIAL DAY

On Saturday, 19 May 2018, Bishop Barres ordained five men *Permanent Deacons*. These men, like the three Permanent Deacons (Francisco Cales, Bruce Burnham, Cristobal Sanchez) serving the Church in Freeport, were presented to the Bishop, and stood before him in the midst of the Church-gathered at the Cathedral of Saint Agnes in Rockville Centre and participated in the following exchange:

Bishop: Dear sons, before you enter the Order of the Diaconate, you must declare before the people your intention to undertake this office. Do you resolve to be consecrated for the Church's ministry by the laying on of my hands and the gift of the Holy Spirit? ***Elect: I do.***

Bishop: Do you resolve to discharge the office of deacon with humble charity in order to assist the priestly Order and to benefit the Christian people? ***Elect: I do.***

Bishop: Do you resolve to hold fast to the mystery of faith with a clear conscience, as the Apostle urges, and to proclaim this faith in word and deed according to the Gospel and the Church's tradition? ***Elect: I do.***

Bishop: Do you resolve to maintain and deepen the spirit of prayer that is proper to your way of life and, in keeping with this spirit and what is required of you, to celebrate faithfully the Liturgy of the Hours with and for the People of God and indeed for the whole world? ***Elect: I do.***

Bishop: Do you resolve to conform your way of life always to the example of Christ, of whose Body and Blood you are ministers at the altar? ***Elect: I do, with the help of God.***

Bishop: Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors? ***Elect: I do.***

These five men are not only a *sign* of "dramatic missionary growth" on Long Island, but aided by their prayers and labours, the Church on Long Island will continue to *experience* "dramatic missionary growth" through their share of the ministry. At the Altar they can assist at Holy Mass and preach; at the Tabernacle they can retrieve the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration and impart Benediction; and at the Baptismal Font they can (as an *Ordinary Minister*) Baptize. Deacons can also, by virtue of their Ordination, impart certain blessings in accord with the Liturgical Books. May it please *the Almighty Who has done great things for us*, to use Saturday's Ordination and the lives of our own *Francisco, Bruce, and Cris*, to inspire other men from the pews of our "absolutely beautiful church" at 37 South Ocean Avenue to consider a life of service as a Deacon.

Speaking of service, please come home for the **9:00 A.M. Mass on Memorial Day (28 May 2018)** and offer thanksgiving to God for those who laid down their lives in service to the United States of America. *Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and let Perpetual Light shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in Peace. Amen.*

May God bless our Veterans!