On Saturday, June 5, seminarians Joshua Bot and Tanner Thooft, both native sons of St. Edward parish in Minneota, and Nathan Hansen, a native son of St. John parish in Detroit, moved one step closer to becoming priests for the Diocese of New Ulm when they were ordained transitional deacons by Bishop Emeritus John M. LeVoir (2008-2020) at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. Consecrating the liturgy with Bishop LeVoir were approximately 40 priests.

The bishop expressed his appreciation for those who have played a part in the formation of the new deacons—the seminaries, the discernion vocation directors, the parents and families, and the men, and the lay people of the diocese.

He honestly talked about the importance of prayer in the lives of the new deacons. “The personal relationship with Jesus Christ is so critical,” he said. “We must spend time in prayer. This relationship will not wither and fade.”

As the ordination continued, “We should never be satisfied with our relationship to Jesus Christ,” the bishop said. “We should always strive to come closer to our Lord. He is the Source of Grace, to strengthen that bond that we have with Our Lord. It’s critical... Nothing good is going to happen without prayer.”

The bishop addressed the ministry that the men will carry out as a deacon—proclaiming the Gospel, serving the liturgy, providing pastoral care, seeking to live the values of the Gospel, helping to build God’s Kingdom. “Let the Holy Spirit work in you,” he said. “Let your way of life touch people, the people you encounter.”

In his closing remarks, the bishop said, “Today is a great day, a day when in the Lord Jesus you have been given a special way. Jesus is leading you today, and he is using your name and giving you the Holy Spirit to develop the gifts and the talents that God has given you—don’t be afraid. God always takes care of you. Blessed Mother always takes care of you, they are always watching over you.”

After being vested with a stole and dalmatic, each deacon individually approached the bishop to receive the Litany of Supplication, which is asking God for the grace to live his life for God and his Church. The men then individually came forward for the most sacred part of the ceremony, where the bishop imposed his hands on each man and invoked the prayer of ordination.

After being vested with a stole and dalmatic, each deacon individually approached the bishop to receive the Book of the Gospels. “Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach,” he told the deacons.

A special occasion for those who have spent seven years in formation and have been chosen by the Lord to be his witnesses is important to spend some revelation about the reason for their mission, the reason for their being, the reason for their being called to be deacons.

Deacon Joshua Bot was ordained a transitional deacon on June 5 at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm. Consecrating the liturgy with Bishop LeVoir were approximately 40 priests.

The bishop addressed the men and the people of the diocese.

Transition to the diaconate vs. permanent diacnosis: What’s the difference? In the Catholic Church, the diaconate is the first of three ranks of ordained ministry.

From the fifth century until the Second Vatican Council the term “deacon” was used in the Latin rite almost exclusively to describe the final stage in preparation for ordination to the priesthood. The council decreed that the diaconate also could be reserved as a permanent and separate rank in the Latin rite and that married men may be ordained to this rank. Pope Paul VI reserved the permanent diaconate in 1967.

Those in the final stage of formation for the priesthood are “transitional” deacons. Those not planning to be ordained priests are called “permanent” deacons.

Since not all permanent deacons are married, married deacons is not a synonym for permanent deacons.

The role of the transitional deacon includes assisting priests in proclaiming the Gospel, preaching, baptizing, assisting at and blessing marriages, presiding at funerals, administering to parishes, and providing pastoral care.

The men of the diaconate are on a special way. They are so critical,” he told the deacons.

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