Rejoicing with Alex Rickert to be Ordained to the Transitional Diaconate

Our parish family has a beautiful reason to celebrate: Alex Rickert will be ordained a transitional deacon May 23, taking a significant step toward the priesthood. As we share in this joyful moment, we also lift him up in prayer, especially as he finishes his semester at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and prepares for this sacred calling.

Alex's journey to ordination has been one of steady faith and formation. A 2014 alumnus of Ascension Catholic School and a 2018 alumnus of Saint James Academy, he began his seminary studies in the fall of 2018, earning a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy through Kenrick-Glennon and Saint Louis University, and has continued with graduate studies in Theology. His formation has included not only years in the classroom, but also a pastoral internship in Emporia, as well as powerful experiences of prayer and pilgrimage including Avila, Mexico City, Rome, Assisi, and World Youth Day in Portugal. These moments have helped shape his heart for ministry and deepened his desire to serve Jesus and His Church.

So what is a transitional deacon? It is the first step in the Sacrament of Holy Orders for a man preparing to become a priest. As a deacon, Alex will be able to proclaim the Gospel, preach at Mass, baptize, and lead certain liturgies such as Adoration and Benediction. At his ordination, he will also make three lifelong promises: celibacy, obedience to his bishop, and a commitment to pray the Divine Office each day. These promises reflect a life given fully to God and to His people.

When asked what most helped him respond to God's call, Alex points to a simple but powerful habit of 20 minutes of daily Lectio Divina with the Gospel. Through this quiet, faithful prayer, he encountered the love of Christ in a personal way, something beautifully captured in his favorite Scripture passage, Galatians 2:20 *"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."*

Alex is inspired by saints like Pope St. John Paul II and strengthened by the wisdom of St. John of the Cross, who reminds us that even the cross can become a place of "great relief and sweetness" when embraced with love. That spirit of joy and surrender is evident in Alex's life, whether he's preaching, praying, spending time outdoors, singing Gregorian chant, or enjoying some KC Joe's BBQ.

Looking ahead, Alex is especially excited to begin preaching and celebrating Baptisms; moments where he can share God's word and welcome others into the life of Christ. God willing, he will be ordained to the priesthood in June 2027.

As we prepare to celebrate Alex's ordination, we are reminded that vocations are born in ordinary moments of faithfulness in prayer, in community, and in openness to God's call. Perhaps the Lord is stirring something similar in your own heart, or in the life of someone you know. Let us continue to pray for Alex, and for all those discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

Please join us in praying for Alex Rickert as he takes this next step: that he may be a faithful servant of Christ and a joyful witness to the Gospel.

"If individuals resolutely submit to the carrying of the cross… they will discover in all of them great relief and sweetness." – St. John of the Cross