

 **St. Peter Church**

June 6th, 2021

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Dear Saint Peter Parishioners,

Before 2011 I had never heard of Coplay – never mind Saint Peter Roman Catholic Church.

I became aware of Saint Peter’s and Coplay after my pastor (Msgr. John Martin) was assigned there. I was in the middle of my studies for the Permanent Diaconate. I learned more about St. Peter’s and Coplay when Msgr. Martin became my spiritual director. I would visit with him every 8-10 weeks and give him an update on my diaconal studies.

Now we all know that the Holy Spirit works in marvelous ways. On April 25th 2015 (my Ordination day to the diaconate), Bishop Barres assigned me to this wonderful parish in Coplay which actually reminded me a lot of Hellertown. From the onset, I was excited because I was reunited with Msgr. Martin as my pastor and boss. Well aware of my full-time working status, he accommodated my schedule from day one and that relieved a huge stress point for me. Saint Peter’s has proven to be the perfect place for me to start my diaconal vocation. I will always look at Saint Peter's as my foundation. You can take pride in that you formed me as a deacon and then graciously sent me on my way.

There are many people at St. Peter’s that have contributed to my growth as a Deacon. First and foremost, Msgr. Martin as pastor, mentor, boss, and my chief encourager. Deacon Tom, who took this young deacon (in Deacon years of experience) and brought what we had learned (or not learned) in our diaconal classes into the real world. Deacon Tom showed me the ropes. There are probably some phone calls that he received from me that he is still scratching his head over.

Madge and now Lina kept me straight with schedules and baptisms. Msgr. Martin is the captain of the ship, yet he allowed Madge/Lina to steer that ship. We deacons would have grounded this ship on some sand bar without their assistance! I cannot go without saying a word about Michael, our trusty sacristan. Michael has everything prepared for us when we arrive to serve Mass, perform a baptism, serve Flame of Love devotion, or lead Stations of the Cross. I always knew that things would be set up and ready for me when I entered the sacristy which gave me peace of mind.

Many people have assisted me in my time here that I have not mentioned. I am eternally grateful to you, and I will pray daily for you. I ask you to do the same for me. Your prayers for me, for all the deacons and our priests throughout this diocese are essential to our ministries. I will certainly miss this great church and the people in it. You are the reason why I am a deacon. I was meant to serve, and you have made it so easy. Please be assured that whatever is ahead for me I go with the strength from you, dear parishioners of St. Peter’s. My ministry with you has truly provided my family and me with untold blessings.

May God bless you abundantly as you all begin a new chapter in the life of Saint Peter’s.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Maurice Kelly



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