

On May 28, seven men will be ordained to the permanent diaconate at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre.

A deacon is called to be "the servant of all." There are about 285 deacons in Nassau and Suffolk counties; the first class was ordained in 1979. Here is "our" candidate:

## Jim Ennis Leopard

**PARISH:** St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays

**FAMILY:** Jim has been married to Judy for 35 years and they have one son, James, 24.

**CAREER:** Jim retired from the MTA after 30 years. He now works as a teacher of vocational trades at Eastern Suffolk BOCES



Trade School for students in grades 11 and 12.

**MINISTRIES:** Catechist for seventh- and eighth-graders, Eucharistic Minister, (also for the homebound), lector, RCIA instructor, St. Vincent de Paul, Holy Name Society, men's prayer group and leader of evening prayer.

**HIS CALL:** Since Jim was a child growing up Baptist in North Carolina, in the heart of Billy Graham territory, his family thought he would be a Southern Baptist minister. Some of his earliest memories were of a white wooden church and his grandmother, Mary Hill, reading the Bible with him.

As he grew, there were questions that nagged his heart about his Protestant faith.

When he married his wife, Judy, who was an Irish Catholic from the Bronx, he credits her for giving him "proper instruction" in Catholicism. "As Catholics, we have the advantage that, in our Church, we have the real presence of the person of Christ in the Eucharist in the tabernacle," Jim said. And where Christ is, there is his mother. "She is always in the radius of where he is," he said, citing Scripture passages such as Mary looking for Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem to the wedding feast at Cana to the foot of the cross.

Throughout the years, he felt a tug or a pull to consider becoming a deacon, but he had a family and a full-time job. In 2010, he felt like God was nudging him to "make a change" and he began to "pursue the diaconate in earnest."

"I entered diaconal formation as someone who loved Christ and I am leaving with an equal love for His Church," said Jim.

**Jim Leopard will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders and be Ordained to the Permanente Diaconate on Saturday, May 28, at Saint Agnes Cathedral at 11 a.m. We hope to have a bus go from our parish that morning to the Cathedral for the ordination, if there are enough people interested. If you are interested in attending the Ordination, please call the Parish Office at 631-728-9461. Jim will preach at the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 29, here at St. Rosalie's. A reception will follow Mass in the Knights of Columbus Hall.**