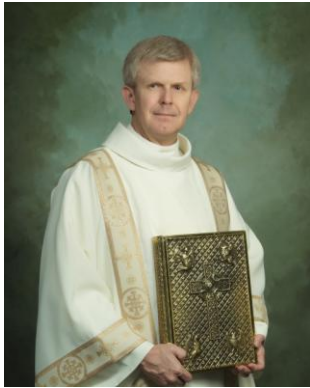


Deacon Marion E. Smithberger



"I believe it is God's plan for me and I feel joy in being called—and a little overwhelmed before the magnitude of the vocation. However I have faith that the God who called me will fill me with the grace to do the job if I am willing to accept it."

Deacon Marion Smithberger, his wife Carol, and daughter Mandy (who now lives in Washington DC) have been parishioners at St. Peter in Columbus for more than 20 years. Deacon Smithberger is assigned to St. Timothy where he did his internship.

"I realize that ordained ministry is like marriage; it is 100% of the time," said Deacon Smithberger.

"Most of my workday is spent helping people access the legal system. This is where I bring the love of Christ in a tangible way to the workplace. I feel called to be the hands of Christ giving kindness and counsel to the people I encounter ... one person at a time," said Deacon Smithberger.

He enjoys studying scripture and looks forward to infant baptisms and helping couples prepare for marriage in addition to other parish responsibilities.

"Ordained service is a humbling experience. I feel like I have been emptied to be filled. I look forward to proclaiming the Gospel and trying to shine light on its mysteries through homilies, ministries, and how I live."