

Stories

A Newsletter of Parishioners' Enlightening Stories of Life Events

VOLUME SEVENTEEN

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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We Have Been Blessed These Past Two Years

By Deacon John and Mary Ann Meyer



Deacon John and
Mary Ann Meyer

It is an honor and privilege to share with you some of our life's journey. We have been blessed these past two years in being officially members of St. Patrick Catholic Community. In another way we have been part of St. Patrick for many years. Fr. Brian Fenlon was a dear friend who invited John to be a consultant for Religious Education for the parish in 1980. Once John began serving as Diocesan Director of Religious Education/Catechetical Ministry, he worked closely

for many years with Dick White, Maggie Seliga, Ken and Gerry Blakeman and Paul Hillebrand in music for various diocesan events. Being assigned to St. Patrick is like being home again. Fr. Eric, the staff and the many parishioners we have met are most hospitable and welcoming. It is a joy to minister in this alive Vatican II parish.

John was born, raised and attended Catholic schools in Milwaukee. He comes from a family of six siblings. Upon graduating from Marquette University, he worked a year

for Price Waterhouse and Co., a CPA firm. His heart felt deeply the call of President Kennedy: "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." For him that meant serving in the Peace Corps in Ecuador for two years where he helped to establish Credit Unions throughout the country and taught English. Upon coming back to the states, he made a retreat and responded to the Lord's invitation to "follow me." That initially meant for him to enter into Maryknoll

Newsletter Notes From Fr. Eric

Dcn. John and Mary Ann Meyer, although parishioners for two years, have been associated with St. Patrick in many ministry forms since 1980. I am delighted to have them officially on board as members. Dcn. John has always lived true to his servant heart and we are grateful for he and

Mary Ann's involvement in our Social Justice and Outreach Ministry. Dcn. John has also become more involved in bereavement services as well, ministering to our grieving families.

We are grateful to have someone on staff with the education and experiential gifts

that Dcn. John brings along with the education and background of his wife Mary Ann. Please take a moment after Mass when you see Dcn. John serving and say hello.

Peace in Christ,
Fr. Eric Tellez



Dcn. John Baptizing Grandson Kyle

We are grateful for the opportunity to share some of our life story with you. We can only say thank you Lord for all!

and pursue studies towards the priesthood. Once in Maryknoll he realized that there was a profound call to marriage and left Maryknoll after three years. With a Master's Degree in Theology, he came to Phoenix and found a ministerial position in 1970 as Director of Religious Education working initially for St. Maria Goretti Parish and St. Joseph Parish. In 1981 he accepted an invitation to serve the Diocese of Phoenix as Diocesan Director of Catechetical Ministry. While Diocesan Director he was involved with Catechesis/Faith Formation on regional, national and international levels. He retired in 2006 following surgery for prostate cancer.

Mary Ann was born in Philadelphia, PA the fourth child of a strong Catholic family that included six children. After 12 years of Catholic school and working for a year at a bank, she entered in 1959 the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic. Her best friend in Maryknoll was Sr. Maureen Meyer. After John entered Maryknoll seminary, Maureen and John were able to visit on Sunday afternoons and Mary Ann sometimes joined them. A strong friendship developed among us. However, in 1968, after much prayer and spiritual direction, she chose to leave Maryknoll and moved to Phoenix where a brother lived. She taught school in the Roosevelt District for three years.

After John decided to leave Maryknoll, our friendship deepened into love. We were married in the Chapel of the Holy Cross in Sedona on July 25, 1970. We are blessed with two wonderful children, Peter and Maureen. After taking a break from teaching while the children were small, Mary Ann taught at Xavier College Prep in the theology department for the next 24 years before retiring in 2002.

Our son Peter is married to Michelle. They live in Mesa

Permanent Diaconate. John applied for it in 1971, was accepted and ordained December 1, 1973. He initially served at St. Joseph Parish then St. Bernadette and for the past two years at St. Patrick. His current diaconal ministry is two-fold. He ministers on the Diocesan level in Ecumenism and Inter-religious Affairs. At St. Patrick John serves as deacon in various liturgical celebrations, is a member of the parish staff, serves in the Social Justice and Outreach Ministry and most recently as chaplain to the Men's Club. Mary Ann is also involved with the parish Social Justice and Outreach Ministry.

We look forward to being at the parish for many years and sharing our gifts and talents with the community. We have been abundantly blessed in our journey of life and faith over the years. We are grateful for the opportunity to share some of our life story with you. We can only say thank you Lord for all!



Christmas 2010 Top left Peter, Kyle, John, Manuel, Emiliano. Bottom Michelle, Diana, Mary Ann, Maureen, Anthony

and have three children: Diana, Anthony and Kyle. Peter works as an aerospace/mechanical engineer for Orbital Sciences in Gilbert. Our daughter Maureen is married to Manuel. They live in Silver Spring, Maryland and they have two children: Emiliano and Matias. Maureen works in Washington D.C. for the Washington Office on Latin America.

Soon after the Diocese of Phoenix was created in December 1969, Bishop McCarthy established the



John & Mary Ann 1970



If you would like to support some of the ministries like those mentioned by Dcn. John and Mary Ann Meyer, here are those contacts:

Social Justice Ministry
Cheryl Kerivan
480-998-3843

Christian Formation
Gerri Porteous
480-998-3843

Men's Club
Bob Juckniess
480-836-1822