

Axton at Nativity

The Rev. Jerry Axton was ordained a Catholic priest on May 28, at Immaculate Conception Church in Laurel by the Most Rev. Joseph Lawson Howze, Bishop of the Diocese of Biloxi.

Father Axton, the first man from Laurel to become a Catholic priest, will serve in the Biloxi diocese as associate pastor at Nativity BVM Cathedral Parish.

The 34-year-old Hattiesburg native is a graduate of Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. He served in the Marine Corps, attended Jones County Junior College and was a member of the Laurel Police Department.

He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Southern Mississippi and taught law enforcement at Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College, Jackson County Campus.