

Newest deacon to be ordained at OLL Nov. 3

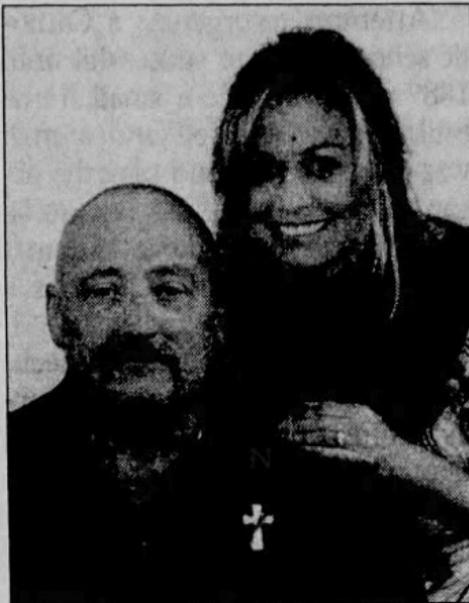
Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss will ordain Robert Pickett a permanent deacon Saturday, Nov. 3, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Omaha.

A reception will take place after the 10 a.m. ceremony in the church's parish center. It will be hosted by the diaconate community.

Pickett will offer his ministries for the first time as a deacon at the 11 a.m. Mass Sunday, Nov. 4, at Our Lady of Lourdes. A parish reception will follow in the parish center.

Permanent deacons minister to not only members of their parish, but also to people in the community in various ways. They also are clerics who can perform all the functions associated with their order, including proclaiming the Gospel, preaching homilies, assisting the priest at Mass, administering solemn Baptism, distributing Communion, presiding over funeral and burial services and acting as the official witness at weddings.

Pickett and his wife, Brenda, are members of Our Lady of



ROBERT AND BRENDA PICKETT

Lourdes Parish. They have been married 16 years. The Picketts have four sons, four daughters and eight grandchildren.

Owner and operator of K-9 Security Services and K-9 Obedience School in Omaha, Pickett has 30 years of martial arts training and is a martial arts instructor. He also has studied the Japanese language.

While in formation, he was involved in pastoral care at the Nebraska Medical Center and at

local nursing homes. A fourth degree Knight of Columbus, Pickett also served as an acolyte and was a core team member of the archdiocese's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program.

His wife serves as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, and volunteers at St. Robert Bellarmine School and parish.

Pickett said his diaconate formation experience was "wonderful" and he said he is grateful for the support and prayers he received throughout the process.

"My four years of study would not have been possible without the support and love of my family, as well as Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners, the Knights of Columbus and the diaconate community," he said. "I thank Father Bill L'Heureux for the opportunities he has given me as a deacon in formation, my spiritual advisor, Father Richard Reiser, as well as my mentor, Deacon Frank Hilt. And I certainly would like to thank the director of formation, Father Rodney Adams, for standing by me. He is truly a blessing to the diaconate community."