

Bay City Man to Be Ordained Deacon

Richard L. Howard Sr. of 1111 Garfield will be ordained a permanent deacon by the F. Reh, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. in St. Stanislaus Church.

The 33-year-old religion teacher at All Saints Catholic Central School is the first Bay Cityan to be ordained to the position and will be the 11th ordained to serve the 11-county diocese since the program was initiated by Bishop Reh.

Officiating in the rites will be the Rev. Frs. Richard Jozwiak, James Carlson and John Ederer, all of St. Stanislaus Church, and priests from the 8th Vicarate. A reception will follow.

A native of Houlton, Maine, Howard's family moved to Greenville after he graduated from high school. He attended Central Michigan University and received a bachelor of science degree in education in June of 1966.

Howard started his teaching career at Sacred Heart Academy High School at Mt. Pleasant in September of 1966. He taught social studies, speech, religion and driver's education for 10 years before resigning to accept the chairmanship of the religion department at All Saints.

While in Mt. Pleasant, Howard was an active member of the St. Patrick Church in nearby Irishtown. He served on the parish council as liturgy committee chairman, as a lector and lay minister of the Eucharist and established a program of bimonthly Eucharistic visits to nursing homes in 1973.

According to Howard, the idea to restore the permanent diaconate in this country came about in 1962 when assembled bishops at the Second Vatican Council were considering the conditions of the church.

When they viewed the needs of the people and recalled that there had been deacons in the early church, Acts of the Apostles, they recommended that the office of deacon be restored as a permanent state in the church.

This would allow married men to receive the sacrament of the orders as permanent deacons.



Howard

The council fathers wrote "It is the duty of the deacon, according to tradition to administer baptism solemnly, to be custodian and dispenser of the Eucharist, to assist at and bless marriages in the name of the church, to bring Viaticum to the dying, to read the Sacred Scripture to the faithful, to instruct the faithful, to administer sacramentals, and to officiate at funeral and burial services. The deacons primary task is not liturgical but rather he is ordained to works of charity and service to the people of God."

In August of 1968 the bishops were granted permission to restore the position in America. In the years since, 2,000 permanent deacons have been ordained, with 2,700 candidates in training. Out of the more than 170 dioceses in the U.S., 120 have such training programs.

The Saginaw Diocese, which covers the counties of Bay, Arenac, Gladwin, Clare, Midland, Isabella, Gratiot, Saginaw, Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac, currently has nine persons in training.

Howard said that once the requirements for admission to the program have been met, the candidate begins a prescribed program of study which entails a minimum of two years.