

Shalom:

My name is Victor Mitchell. I am humbled and honored to be part of the family of St. Anthony's Church as your new Deacon.

I was Ordained in 2006 and am quickly approaching my 20th anniversary. I look forward to serving our Lord and you through my activities and actions in the Church.

Some personal information, Kathie and I have been married for 52 years and we have 2 grown daughters. Sarah works in the Waterbury area in a not-for-profit venue. Rebecca lives in Gulfport, Mississippi with her husband Matthew, who is stationed there with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Rebecca and Matt are the proud parents of all our 6 grandchildren, aged 3 to 15. Have I ever told you about my grandchildren... I will.

I am the oldest son of a farmer. My father, Victor Sr., died a couple of years ago at 101.

Church was very important to both my parents and was a major part of my life. I remember seeing the back of the Priest as Latin was spoken, to the beginnings of Vatican II when the needed changes began. In the words of Pope John XXIII, "open the windows and let in the fresh air."

I am a volunteer firefighter and I am still active after 50+ years. I have held the rank of Assistant Chief of the Terryville Fire Department along with sitting on the State Fire Commission representing the Community College system.

My work life includes working for non-profits in assisting those who were laid off to find training for a changing economy and new employment.

In addition, I oversaw the non-credit division and satellite campus of Tunxis Community College.

Presently I am on the Board of Directors for Carolyn's Place along with sitting on other Boards and Town Commissions.

At my Ordination to the Diaconate I received a very special gift, a picture of the laughing Jesus. Too often we forget that along with the divine nature of Christ he was also human. I have to guess he had a good laugh once in a while.

Imagine being with 12 guys and other disciples for 3 years, there had to be a humorous event somewhere. Jesus not only cried, but he also laughed.

There are two scriptures that I hold onto in my walk, Thessalonians 5: 19-21, 'Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.'

And the words of Peter as found in the Gospel of Matthew 16: 15-16, Jesus said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Thank you for allowing me to join your Parish family. You will over time be hearing more about myself and my family. We look forward to kibitzing with all of you.

Grace and Peace my sisters and brothers.