

My sisters and brothers of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity Parish,

A very Happy Father's Day to all dads, grandpas, great-grandpas, and our priestly Fathers and all those who filled our life with fatherly care.

This past month of May I noted several milestones in my life:

- on May 25th I celebrated my 74th birthday.
- on May 26th I celebrated the 20th anniversary of Ordination to the Diaconate.
- on May 27th I looked back on what would have been our 49th wedding anniversary, as Candace as I celebrated our Wedding Mass on this date in 1973 at St. Thecla.

I have lots of wonderful memories as Candace and I raised our four children who are all married. My family has really grown with the addition of five grandkids, and one great-grandson.

I've had the privilege of serving at three different parishes in my ministry as a permanent deacon along with a variety of outside ministries here in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Now, after some serious thought and serious urging from my family, I've requested a brief leave of absence (sabbatical) from active ministry. I plan to be away from the parish beginning July 1st and to return to an adjusted ministerial schedule the first week of October, 2022.

My leave of absence will include attendance at weekend Masses and visiting other parishes near and far. I've already made arrangements to hit the road and travel to other states coupled with more time spent with my family as they arrange their summer vacations...

And yes, I plan to squeeze in more time for golf!

So again, may I wish all dads "Happy Father's Day" and I pray our parish families will enjoy a safe and rest-filled summer.

Take care and God bless,
Deacon John X. Rottman

