



Joint Parish Planning *“Creating One New Parish for All!”*

Meet our Clergy Father Immanuel Agbulu



As we continue our journey to our new Parish, we would like to introduce our clergy. These priests and deacons have not only played an integral role in our future planning, but they are our spiritual leaders who will guide us in the creation of a strong Catholic Community.

In this column we introduce Father Immanuel Agbulu.

Where are you from?

I am from Benue State, in the Middle Belt Region of Nigeria, West Africa.

Tell us a little about your family.

I am the seventh (7th) of thirteen (13) children, ten (10) boys and three (3) girls. My father was in the Nigerian Navy, and I was born and bred in the barracks.

What is your educational background?

I was schooled and graduated from institutions in Nigeria, Rome, Italy, and Brazil.

What drew you to the religious life?

When I was 14, I fell deeply and passionately in love with the Blessed Virgin and wanted to serve her Son. As my relationship with both grew, I was led to the priesthood.

How long have you been a priest?

In June I will celebrate my 18th year as a priest.

Where else have you been assigned to serve and in what capacity?

In my time as a priest I have served in various capacities in three countries prior to coming to St. Peter's in Rome, NY.

- Missionary in the Amazon - Brazil
- Parochial Vicar, Retreat/Novena Mission Team member, Director of Spirituality Center, Archdiocesan Director of Retreat Centre - Nigeria
- Hospital Chaplaincy - Upstate University Hospital, Community Hospital and Crouse Hospital – Syracuse, NY

Fun Fact: What is something that people may not know about you or may be surprised to know about you?

I am a huge fan of soccer, and my favorite ice cream flavor is coconut.

What is the best part of being in your position of a priest?

Having to bring heaven to earth in the celebration of the sacraments.

What challenges do you feel we will be facing over the next 1-5 years?

Having to continue all the good works we have done so well in the past in new ways, and the need to accept what we don't like for the sake of the common good/the mission of Christ.

What is your hope for the future of our new Parish?

Becoming that one huge ocean of grace that flowed from the three rivers of joy.



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Meet our Clergy
Deacon John MacGaffick



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In this column we introduce Deacon John MacGaffick, our newest deacon.

Where are you from?

I was born August 7, 1966, at Eglin AFB, Florida. My father separated from the Air Force about 4 months later, and we eventually settled on Grand Island, NY.

Tell us a little about your family.

I am the only child of my parents. My father died Sep 28, 2023, and my mother is currently living with us.

I am married to Mary Arinna. We've been married since September 30, 1991, and we have one son, Jeremiah, who is 29 years old.

What is your educational background?

I achieved a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management and Master's in Public Administration before I retired from the Air Force in 2010. Since then, I have earned my Doctorate in Public Administration.

What drew you to the religious life?

I had been wanting to serve God for several years but was unable to do so until after I had converted to Catholicism. After I had joined the Church, I felt God calling me as I was observing Deacon Nick Rosher during the Mass.

How long have you been a deacon?

My seven wonderful classmates and I were ordained this past May 11, so less than one year.

Where else have you been assigned to serve and in what capacity?

St Peter's has been my one and only assignment thus far.

Fun Fact: What is something that people may not know about you or may be surprised to know about you?

I was a trombone player in high school.

What is the best part of being in your position of a deacon?

The part of the diaconate I enjoy the most is being able to assist people with spiritual needs. Being able to do this makes me grateful to God for his gift of ordination.

What challenges do you feel we will be facing over the next 1-5 years?

The most formidable challenge I see is our new parish being able to provide for the needs of the parishioners with fewer masses and fewer clergy. There will be a need for increased participation and assistance from the laity to accomplish this. The other major challenge I see is keeping our young adults in the faith, as many of them feel like they've been set adrift after Confirmation.

What is your hope for the future of our new Parish?

My hope is that the members of the parish can come together as one team and further the kingdom of God in what is an increasingly irreligious world.