

## Stewardship in Action at St. Bernard



### DEACON PAT CLINE CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY

On May 20th, the parishioners and pastoral staff of Saint Bernard joined in celebrating the 40th Diaconate Anniversary of our long serving Deacon, Pat Cline, with a celebration after the 10:30 Mass. Of his forty years of service, Deacon Pat has spent over thirty years ministering to the needs of people here at St. Bernard. Whether celebrating Mass, or working with our various ministries, Deacon Pat has been an integral part of our parish community and we look forward to many more years of his service.

Deacon Pat was ordained in December of 1978, not long after the diaconate ministry was made a permanent order in the United States. After learning about the program from a number of deacons that he met while serving in the US military abroad, he found his way to the diaconate a few years after he returned to the States, becoming a member of the Diocese of Brooklyn's second diaconate class.

According to Pat, his wife Vivian was instrumental in helping him through the challenges of becoming a deacon, commenting that "when I was ordained a deacon, Vivian and I had a five-year-old and an 18-month old. It was difficult balancing work and my home life. I was fortunate my wife was very supportive of my ministry." As his family grew, Deacon Pat was able to enjoy what he says is a highlight of his ministry, the special moments in which he administered the sacraments to his children and grandchildren. Over the years, Deacon Pat gave first holy Eucharist to all four of his children, Andrew, Kristin, Jessica, Mark, as well as to his grandchildren Owen, Ethan, Emma, William, Maeve, Isla, James, and Fiona. He also baptized his two younger children and eight of his grandchildren, and had the joy of witnessing the weddings of his two daughters.

Close to Deacon Pat's heart at St. Bernard is his involvement with our RCIA program. For many years, together with Vivian, he has been a part of the process of ministering to people on their journey to become Catholics, and he says being a part of the ministry is particularly meaningful as it "has allowed me to see our faith through new eyes over and over again."

Outside of St. Bernard, Deacon Pat is involved in diocesan diaconate formation programs and has even traveled to the Holy City to take part in diaconal gatherings. He has also written for *The Catholic Spirit*, and gives presentations on behalf of the Mary Mother of God Mission Society.

Clearly, Deacon Pat has left his mark on our parish community and beyond. He is living proof that, as he explains, "the Permanent Diaconate of 2018 has developed and matured into a more dynamic role than could have been imagined by the Council Fathers at the Vatican Council when they voted to allow its reinstatement in 1964."

Now, after 40 years of service, Deacon Pat reflects on his own journey: "Being part of the diaconate since almost its beginning in the United States has truly been amazing and a blessing." For all those he has served in the name of Christ, it has been a blessing as well.



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## JUDY WISNIEWSKI RECEIVES MERLE ANDERSON AWARD

Judy Wisniewski was recently awarded the 2018 Merle Anderson Award by the St. Bernard Men's Ministry. The award recognizes a female parishioner that demonstrates faith-driven, dedicated stewardship and service performed for the parish and community at large.

Nominated by Bill Funkhouser, Judy has been involved with SHIP for at least the past 8 years along with her husband Tom, not only as a server but also as a regular preparer of casseroles for distribution to the recipients. Also for over the past 20 years Judy has been assisting her husband when bringing Eucharist to parish shut-ins. Currently and for many years, Judy has been involved with the Relay For Life Organization which is a community group that conducts programs such as the Duke Island Cancer Fund. Judy served as a CCD classroom aide for more than 10 years.

### Past Recipients of Merle Anderson Award

2001- Donna Villanova  
2002- Merle Anderson  
2003- Jane Mc Elroy  
2004- Helen Sanford  
2005- Linda Breck  
2006- Bonnie Henry  
2007- Maureen Hurley  
2008- Flora Constantini  
2009- Cynthia O'Connor  
2010- Sister Gloria Pighini & Sister Christine Quense  
2011- Karen Castellon  
2012- Evelyn Mutek  
2013- Dorothy Tietjen  
2014- Sisters of Jesus Our Hope  
2015 – Eileen Funkhouser  
2016 – Mary Haikes  
2017 - Lynn Ruezinsky



(from left) Mary Pat Anderson, daughter of Merle and Deacon Paul Anderson, and Judy Wisniewski celebrate with former Merle Anderson Award Winners Janie McElroy and Eileen Funkhouser.

***Interested in learning more about the Stewardship Council?***

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