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Two men take next step toward priesthood



Photo by Dan Cepeda

Rob Spaulding and Tim Martinson show the joy of their diaconate ordination during the ceremony, held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Casper on May 22. The men were ordained as transitional deacons, and will be ordained as priests. Deacon Martinson will serve a summer internship in Worland, and is expected to be ordained next year. Deacon Spaulding will be ordained a priest Aug. 10 in Laramie, and will first serve Holy Family Catholic Community in Sheridan.

By Kathrine Patton
Editor

CASPER – Relatives, friends and clergy crowded St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Casper to witness the diaconal ordinations of two young men for the Diocese of Cheyenne and share in the joyous celebration of their journeys as they draw closer to the priesthood.

Bishop Arthur Tafoya, bishop of the Diocese of Pueblo, ordained Tim Martinson and Rob Spaulding to the diaconate, May 22.

Father Ray Rodriguez, vocations director for the diocese, said that it was an intimate thing that Bishop Tafoya had ordained our former Bishop David Ricken to the priesthood, and here he was ordaining two of our men.

"His homily was very much from his heart. He celebrated the entire ceremony very beautifully and gently," Father Rodriguez said. The liturgy was beautiful and instilled a sense that we steward the mysteries of God, he said.

Father Rodriguez called the ordination a

celebration of "tremendous joy."

Recalling the words of fellow priest, Father Drew Duncan, it was just what the diocese needed – it was a "joyful infusion of new life."

It has been "humbling and inspiring" to watch Martinson and Spaulding "grow as men into servants of the Church," he said.

The two are "very unique men," Father Rodriguez said.

The vocations director described Spaulding as gifted. Spaulding is

As deacons, they will grow into what it means "to be configured to Christ... Like Jesus, they are men for others."

Father Ray Rodriguez
Vocation director

a musician, very smart, personable, and he will bring a lot of compassion to the priesthood and a lot of insight. He has a lot of vision of what the Church can be like. He has a very great love for Hispanic ministry as well as for the poor, he said.

Martinson came into the seminary right out of high school.

"Not every young man can do that; through

thick and thin he has stayed faithful," Father Rodriguez said. He described Martinson as dutiful and humble.

"There is a serenity about him. He has strength of character. He is joyful and has a nice sense of humor. He will bring compassion to his ministry," Father Rodriguez said.

The two men, because of their ordination to the diaconate, are now sacred ministers. They are seen as leaders and teachers. As deacons, they will grow into what it means "to be configured to Christ," Father Rodriguez said. "Like Jesus," he said, "they are men for others."

In their new role, Deacons Martinson and Spaulding may take care of the temporal goods of the Church by preaching, giving homilies, presiding at funerals, marriages, baptisms and other prayer services, Father Rodriguez said. Consecrating the Eucharist and hearing confessions is all that deacons cannot do.

During the ordination, the people in the congregation acknowledged the worthiness of the two men to accept the responsibilities of the diaconate by responding with great applause showing that they accepted and confirmed the candidates.

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