

To all of my family and friends,

Regarding my ordination to the permanent diaconate, Please do not get any gifts. If you are compelled to do "something" I have two suggestions:

1) You can make a modest donation to the St. Barnabas Church St. Vincent DePaul Society or your favorite soup kitchen, in memory of the deceased members of my family.

OR

2) My Son JJ has found a specific deacon cross (crucifix) that I wanted and if you wish to contribute a dollar or two toward it then, when I wear it I will know it was from my family and friends,

Thank you for honoring my wishes.

Also, with 21 deacon candidates and their 21 families, 21 parishes, all the priests, deacons and bishops of the diocese, etc., they were very restrictive on reserved seats. I quickly ran out of the few reserved seats that I had.

Although the cathedral holds 1452 people and there are unassigned (open) seats – the trick will be to get there early enough to get one of those seats.

If you prefer to not wrestle with parking and the seating situation at the cathedral, I wanted to mention that I will be preaching for the first time at St. Barnabas Church in Portsmouth at the 5:00 PM Mass that night (2/2/13). Immediately following the Mass, we are having a spaghetti dinner for the Festival Committee and Fr. Randy has set aside a block of seats for me and my family group. If you want to attend this, please let me know so we can set aside enough seats.

God bless,

John