

Find Our St. Ann Parish Family

Looking back at our 31 years here in Florence and with our St. Ann Parish family, Deacon Bob and I must go back to March 1989. We moved here from Woodstock, Georgia, at the time the second fastest growing County north of Atlanta. But our roots are in Midland, Michigan where we grew up in loving families, Deacon Bob the oldest of four siblings and Sue the middle child of seven siblings.



Deacon Bob took a new job in South Carolina and with our two children, Robby 10, and Erin 6, we moved to Florence in March 1989. It was the week before Easter. After a couple of weeks in Florence we found our way to St. Ann's Church, which at the time was

still surrounded by neighborhood homes, and McLeod Hospital was a couple blocks away. That first Sunday we found a welcoming parish family with Pastor, Father Mangan, and Ms. Mae Adams. Our second week attending Mass, everyone remembered our names and we knew we were home.

We were so blessed at St. Ann to have the nuns, Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur. We fondly remember Sister Anita Shaughnessy, Sister Monica Ulrich, Sister Mary Mulverhill, and Sister Mary Powell. Sister Anita told Sue one day that if she had not gotten Bob as her husband, he would have been a priest. Sue did not know until Bob was ordained a Deacon, that Bob, as a child, would go down into their basement after Sunday Mass and celebrated his own Mass pretending to be a priest. At times, there were others who would ask Sue if Bob was a Deacon.



St. Ann had a vibrant youth group when Robby and Erin were teenagers, along with Rob Lantz and Matthew





Price and others. The Youth Group Directors were Barbara and Nolan McAdams along with Mary and David Mims. We have always experienced God's loving mercy and graces at St. Ann.

Sue's grandmother Clara Dougherty, whom Sue had grown up living next door to, died on February 5, 1997. Sue went to Michigan for the funeral and came home feeling so alone and sad having to leave family. Two weeks later sitting in church on Sunday morning, Bob turned around and spoke to a group of ladies that had come in and sat behind us. Sue heard them say they were from Midland, Michigan, and in turning around saw it



was Sister Elaine, who was from Sue's family parish of St. Patrick in Ryan, Michigan, who had presided at Sue's grandmother's wake service. They threw their arms around each other. God gave Sue his loving merciful comfort in the arms of the sisters who had stopped at our spirit filled parish on their way to Florida. God always provides.



As Deacon Bob writes, "Sue is an important member of the St. Ann community. Sue has always been involved with various activities at St. Ann. She is a past Secretary of the St. Ann Ladies Guild, current President of the St. Ann Parish Pastoral Council, a member of the St. Ann adult choir and a sacristan. She is a leader in decorating the church for all the major holidays during the year."

Under the Pastorship of Father Marcian Thet Kyaw, Bob went to Wednesday evening Mass and asked Father Marcian to pray over him. Bob had an echocardiogram that indicated two blockages in his heart and would have a heart procedure the next day. As Father Marcian prayed over Bob, he felt his body become very warm and felt he had been healed. The next day after the procedure,



the cardiologist said he did not understand it but that the two blockages were gone and only normal plaque buildup in the arteries for his age. God's healing love.



When Bob finally answered the call to study for the diaconate, he sent in his application which indicated that he was already probably too old to be accepted into the program. It was nine months later before Bob received a call from a priest out of Myrtle Beach that he needed to interview Bob that week for the diaconate program. From there, Bob and Sue had interviews with other Deacons and their wives and priests; Bob had an 800-question psychological test, and 6 months of discernment classes.

After five years of study, Bob was ordained at Holy Spirit Church on John's Island on January 30, 2016. God's endless guidance.

With the prayers and loving family at St. Ann, we have been truly blessed with God's loving mercy and protection and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Deacon Bob and Sue Cox