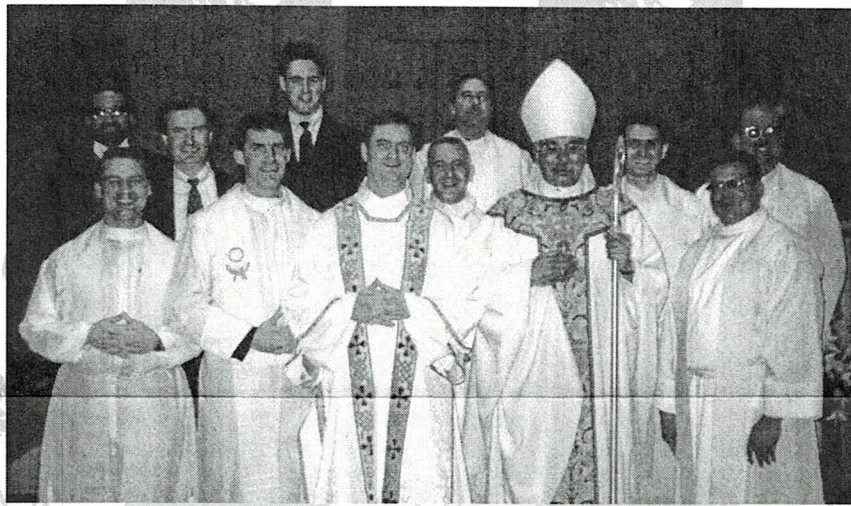


Christmas Blessings from The Companions of Christ



Jon Vander Ploeg's Deacon Ordination November 20, 1999. *Front Row, Left to Right: Fr. Tom Margevicius; Fr. Peter Richards; Rev. Mr. Jon Vander Ploeg; Fr. William Pelant; Bishop Frederick Campbell; Fr. Jeff Huard. Back Row: Mr. Jay Kythe; Mr. David Blume; Mr. Samuel Medley; Fr. James McConville; Fr. Andrew Cozzens; Fr. Bill Baer. Absent: Fr. Kevin Finnegan; Fr. Michael Becker; Dr. Michael Keating; Mr. Michael Marier.*

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| Fr. Jeffrey Huard
Campus Minister, University of St. Thomas | Fr. Andrew Cozzens
Parochial Vicar, Cathedral of St. Paul |
| Fr. William Baer
Rector, St. John Vianney Seminary, St. Paul | Fr. Michael Becker , Parochial Vicar, St. John the Baptist, New Brighton |
| Fr. James McConville
Pastor, Sacred Heart-St. Lawrence, Faribault | Fr. Thomas Margevicius , Parochial Vicar, Nativity of Our Lord, St. Paul |
| Fr. Kevin Finnegan
Pastor, Immaculate Conception, Faribault | Deacon Jon Vander Ploeg , Theology IV |
| Fr. William Pelant
Archdiocesan Vocation Director | Jay Kythe , Theology III
(Pastoral year, Faribault) |
| Fr. Peter Richards
Parochial Vicar, Mary Mother of the Church, Burnsville | Michael Marier , Theology II |
| | Michael Keating , Ph.D., Theology II (in Rome) |
| | David Blume , Pre-theology II |
| | Samuel Medley , Formation |

We thank you warmly for your generous support of The Companions of Christ. Be assured that in this holy season you are in our hearts and prayers as well. Please remember in your prayers our annual Christmas retreat December 26-30, 1999 at St. John's Abbey, Collegetown MN. Five men discerning their vocations will be our guests.

*"Mary, Morning Star of the third millennium, continue to guide the priests of Jesus Christ in following your example of love of God and love of neighbor. May they know how to be true pastors. May they guide the footsteps of all men to your Son, true light enlightening all men (Jn 1:9). May priests, and through them all God's people, listen lovingly to his call on the eve of a new millennium in the history of salvation: 'Do what he tells you' (Jn 2:5). The Vicar of Christ tells us that 'with renewed force, the year 2000 should echo the proclamation of the truth: *Ecce natus est nobis Salvator Mundi.*'" John Paul II, *The Priest and the Third Millennium.**