



NEWS ARCHIVE:

## Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

Editor: Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Communications  
Phone: 306-242-1500; Toll Free: 1-877-661-5005  
communications@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

### Bishop Bolen ordains Gregory Roth to the order of deacons

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

Diocesan seminarian Gregory Roth of Saskatoon was ordained to the order of deacons May 20 at St. Theresa parish in Rosetown, where he served his internship year in 2009-10, as part of his journey to the priesthood.

Parishioners from the surrounding area, from Roth's home parish of St. Augustine in Saskatoon, and from across the diocese filled the church, joining friends, family, priests and seminarians for the celebration, during which Roth made a commitment to celibacy and a promise of obedience to the bishop.

Diocesan vocations co-director Rev. Marc Mireau presented Roth to Bishop Donald Bolen as a candidate for deacon.

Community member Mike Leith and pastor Rev. Pius Schroh provided testimony about Roth, reflecting on his time as intern at parishes in Rosetown, Elrose and Beechy.

Leith described Roth's generous nature and hearty laugh, and thanked him for his leadership. "I did see in your character that you placed God and others ahead of you, so that the presence of God was always increasing," he said. "Greg, in you I see your love of God, your passion for the faith and your compassion for others."

Roth's generous willingness to serve, was stressed by Schroh. "Greg's love for God's people was evident in everything he did," he said.



**Bishop Donald Bolen prays over seminarian Gregory Roth during his ordination to the transitional diaconate May 20, 2011 at St Theresa parish in Rosetown.**

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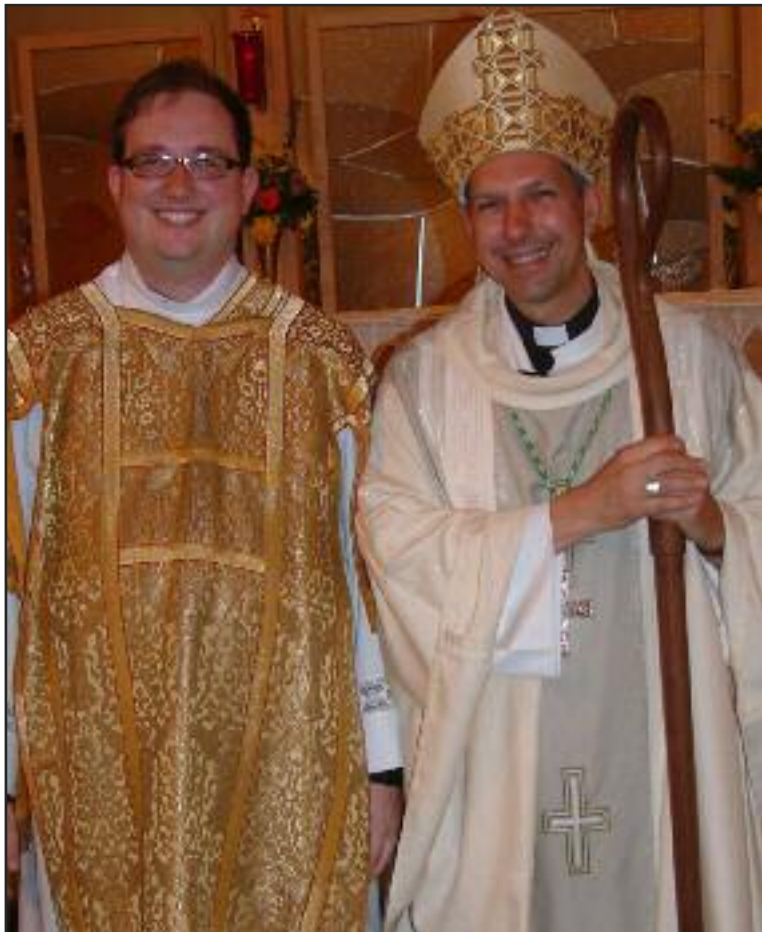
The order of deacons holds together the word of God and tangible service, the bishop said in his homily. “The integrity of your proclamation of that word is the extent to which your life reflects that word,” Bolen said. “Live what you express.”

Bolen cited a reflection written by Roth about the role of the deacon, in which he described being configured to serve as Christ served. “I need to see myself and the world as Christ sees.

The service of Christ means to see the face of Jesus Christ in every person.”



The bishop and the assembly pray for Greg Roth as he lies before the altar, during his ordination to the order of deacons.



The diocese of Saskatoon’s newest deacon, Gregory Roth, with presiding bishop, Most Rev. Donald Bolen.

It is by entering into an ever-more intimate relationship with God, that we are able to give of ourselves more completely to others, said Bolen. “In each day, and in each task of each day, entrust that task to the Lord, give yourself generously,” said the bishop. “Try to give it all.”

During the celebration, Roth made promises of celibacy and obedience. The community prayed for Roth as he lay prostrate on the floor before the altar during the litany of the saints. Ordination as deacon was conferred through the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination by the bishop.

Assisted by Deacon Geoffrey Young, Roth then put on the vestments of a deacon, before receiving the gospel from the bishop.

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“Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach,” said Bolen.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic celebration, Roth thanked his family and all those who have supported him in his faith and in his discernment.

Two other deacons in the diocese of Saskatoon – Geoffrey Young of Saskatoon and Matthew Ramsay of Humboldt – will be ordained to the priesthood 7 p.m. Friday, June 10 at St Patrick Parish in Saskatoon.

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Diocesan deacons Geoffrey Young, Gregory Roth, Matthew Ramsay and Hoang Nguyen pose with Bishop Donald Bolen May 20, 2011 in Rosetown, after Greg Roth’s ordination to the transitional diaconate. Hoang Nguyen was ordained to the order of deacons the evening before at Holy Family parish in Saskatoon. Deacons Geoffrey Young and Matthew Ramsay were looking forward to their ordination as priests just a few weeks later, June 10, 2011 at St. Patrick’s parish in Saskatoon.