

**Homily Outline for the First Diaconal Mass of Deacon Robert Krol**  
**Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cycle C**  
**Sacred Heart Church, Lombard, Illinois**  
**August 27, 2016**

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**Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

S.S.P.: Jesus reminds us that those who serve with humility will be the honored guest at His Father's Heavenly Banquet.

I. Introduction

- A. Good to be here at Sacred Heart Church, where my brother John serves as cantor.
- B. It is a privilege to celebrate this "First Diaconal Mass" with Deacon Bob Krol, who was just ordained a deacon this morning at the Cathedral in Joliet by Bishop Conlon.
- C. Deacon Bob and I were classmates in high school at Quigley South in Chicago.
  - 1. In fact, we started as Freshmen there 50 years ago!
  - 2. I'm glad Bob finally got around to being ordained!

II. Etymology of his name, "Deacon Krol"

- A. Deacon comes from the Greek word, *diákonos*
  - 1. From *diá*, "thoroughly" and *konis*, "dust"
  - 2. This root (*diakon-*) is probably connected with the verb *diōkō*, 'to hasten after, pursue' (perhaps originally said of a runner)
  - 3. Thus, "thoroughly raise up dust by moving in a hurry, and so to minister," i.e., *ministry* (sacred service).
- B. Krol comes from the Polish word, *Król*, which means "King."
- C. Thus, "Deacon Krol" is literally the "Servant King"
- D. In today's popular terminology, we might say "Servant Leader."

- III. Christ the King is our model “Servant King” or “Servant Leader.”
- A. The Word of God speaks to us today of humility.
- B. First reading from the Book of Sirach reminds us to “humble yourself the more, the greater you are.”
1. Jesus shows us the true humility of the One who is unsurpassed in greatness!
  2. The call to the Sacrament of Holy Orders is a call, not to great honors, but to great humility in humble service.
- C. The Gospel passage from St. Luke today is not intended to portray Jesus as simply giving rules of etiquette!
1. Two different audiences: Jesus tells the guests to be humble, not seeking places of honor, and He tells the host to invite the lowly and humble.
  2. The key is when Jesus says, “When you give a banquet.”
  3. All of this refers to the Heavenly Banquet in the Kingdom: we should not seek the places of honor there because His Father will give those places of honor to the humble and lowly.
  4. “Humility” comes from the Latin word *humus*, meaning ground, soil or dirt; but that does not mean to think of oneself as dirt. Our phrase, “down to earth,” catches the meaning well.
  5. Humility is not poor self-esteem. Truly humble people actually have very good self-esteem.
  6. C.S. Lewis, in his book *Mere Christianity*, wrote, “Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”
- IV. Deacon Bob, in this Eucharist we pray that Christ, our Servant-King, who humbled Himself to share in our humanity, may lead you in your new ministry to be a humble servant, and lead us all to the glory of His Heavenly Banquet!
- V. May God give us this grace. Amen.