

Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay

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Archdiocese of Vancouver



Three Filipinos out of nine new Deacons ordained last October 7, 2021, at the Holy Rosary Cathedral

Photos courtesy of Angelo Siglos

500YOC DEACONS

Gifted to Give: Three Filipinos ordained as Permanent Deacons in the Archdiocese of Vancouver

by: Marie Pacheco

Wilfred Victoria first thought about becoming a priest when he was a high school student at St. Andrew's in Paranaque. But with costs too high for his family to accommodate back then, that thought was never realized. God however had other plans.

While Victoria did not enter the priesthood, a chance encounter during preparations for his daughter's wedding paved the way for him to know more about the Permanent Diaconate program of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Five years later, he is now one of nine new permanent deacons ordained just this October.

"As a deacon, we are able to do some sacraments

like baptism, weddings, funerals. Di kami pwedeng mag-misa, di pwedeng mag-confession di kami pwedeng mag-anoint ng sick", explains Victoria.

Gregorio Canero Jr. was raised in a typical Filipino Catholic family. He grew up going to St. Andrew's in Vancouver, has been a member of Couples for Christ and the Knights of Columbus, and has served his parish in various roles from Lector, Youth Ministry and Extraordinary Minister of Communion. He says entering the diaconate began with an invitation.

"The journey began with God's call to respond. In 2011, my attention was drawn to an announcement that was being made after mass.

The announcement was about the permanent diaconate and call to service. I was moved by the Holy Spirit to inquire. The invitation seemed quite personal, and I was compelled to consider and cooperate to serve our Lord in this particular way," shares Canero.



Deacon Victor Gallamos



Deacon Wilfred Victoria



Deacon Greg Canero

Victor Gallamos for his part spent high school in a minor seminary in the Philippines. He had close relatives who are priests and nuns, who wanted him to enter the priesthood as well. But university led him to an Accounting degree, a management career and a family life that eventually moved its roots to Canada. It was a Marriage Encounter thru Bukas Loob sa Diyos (BLD) that rekindled a desire for a closer relationship with God which led him to the Permanent Diaconate program.

"God writes straight in crooked lines. I truly see the call to the Permanent Diaconate and the service that comes with it as God's unmistakable way to fill the need for a closer, more personal relationship with Him. It is His way of finally writing that straight line for me," said Gallamos.

Whether it started in high school, or as an adult serving in mass, these three men found themselves responding to God's call for a deeper relationship with Him thru service. Their ordination as Permanent Deacons of the Archdiocese in Vancouver, happened at the same time the Filipino Ministry is in a year-long celebration to commemorate 500 Years of Christianity (YOC) in the Philippines.

Victoria says it's a blessing and a reminder of how we are "Gifted to Give".

"That's a blessing God has given us, na nabubuhay yung church. It's amazing to think, that now in these 500th year, nakasama ako sa nasama sa program na to and ang tanong bakit kaya? I go back to the stole (the vestment that a Deacon wears), a reminder na mag-serve ka, and hopefully ma-encourage mo yung iba."

Canero adds the 500 YOC theme "Gifted to Give" perfectly resonates with his call to service.

"I have been blessed in many areas of my life, particularly my family, my upbringing and faith that I am able to witness with much gratitude and to share the grace that has been given to me."

Canero is assigned to do hospital ministry and serve as Deacon at the St. Joseph's Parish in Mission where he has been a parishioner since 2015. Gallamos is assigned to do Prison Ministry and will also serve as Deacon at the St. Joseph's Parish in Mission. Victoria is assigned as Deacon at the St. Monica's Parish in Richmond.



Join in-person
Matthew 7.7 Prayer Brigade
 Eucharistic Adoration, Prayers,
 and Scriptural Rosary
OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH
 7455 10TH AVE., BURNABY, BC
 Sunday, November 28, 2021
 2:00 - 5:00 pm



*Ask and it shall be given.
 Seek and ye shall find.
 Knock and it shall be opened.*
 Matthew 7:7

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 Archdiocese of Vancouver

For more information, contact the Parish Office or Fern, Tel: 778.859.7173

St. Mary's Parish
 Vancouver,
 British Columbia,
 Canada



November 28, 2021
 2:00 PM
 - Our Lady of Namacpacan
 Novena
 3:00 PM
 - Tagalog Mass
 Misal Na
 Pasasalamat

Our Lady of Namacpacan Ministry
 Celebrates the
**150th Anniversary of
 the Arrival of
 Our Lady of Namacpacan**