



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three new priests from Green Bay to be ordained this weekend

GREEN BAY, Wis. (June 29, 2018) – Bishop David L. Ricken of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay will ordain Deacon José López, Deacon Gregory Parent, and Deacon Kyle Sladek to the priesthood at a 10 a.m. Rite of Ordination on Saturday, June 30, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay.

Deacon José López grew up in a small town in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. He immigrated to the United States when he was 12, attended local schools, and earned a degree from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Going on retreats with Jornadas de Vida Cristiana (Journey of a Christian Life) youth group, being a parishioner at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, Green Bay, and the inspiring example of other priests opened his heart to the priesthood. Deacon López attended St. Francis Seminary in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. His vocation is a great gift in the context of the growing Hispanic presence in the Catholic Church in Green Bay. “It’s been amazing to see the support, especially the Hispanic community at St. Philip,” said Deacon López. Following his ordination to the priesthood, Deacon López will be appointed parochial vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Manitowoc. He will also serve as part-time chaplain at Roncalli High School in Manitowoc. To learn more about Deacon José López and his journey to ordination, [click here](#).

Deacon Gregory Parent grew up in the Green Bay area and was a standout athlete in high school. Drawn to the outdoor adventure of Catholic Youth Expeditions (CYE), he participated in three summer retreat expeditions, joined the staff after high school, and served two additional summers as a seminarian. Deacon Parent attended St. John Vianney College Seminary at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., before studying at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. “It will be a real privilege to celebrate Mass, hear confessions and be with people at important times in their lives ... I want to be the best example, the best teacher of prayer that I can be,” said Deacon Parent. “Sharing how deeply God loves us is something I take very seriously. This is a gift given to me by God for a reason.” Following ordination, Deacon Parent will be appointed parochial vicar at the Quad Parishes on the west side of Green Bay — Annunciation, St. Joseph, St. Jude, and St. Patrick. To learn more about Deacon Gregory Parent and his journey to ordination, [click here](#).

Deacon Kyle Sladek is a native of Green Bay and grew up attending Catholic schools, including Notre Dame de la Baie Academy where he played tennis. His faith was spurred by his best friend who taught him the basics of prayer and encouraged him to attend youth group events and retreats. Pursing a degree in Philosophy and Theology from the University of Notre Dame, he later entered seminary at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill. “The Lord has really blessed me,” said Deacon Sladek. “I probably don’t realize how grateful I should be. He loved me into existence, loved me with this vocation and will love me in ministry.” Following ordination to the priesthood, Deacon Sladek will be assigned to serve as parochial vicar at Holy Cross Parish and St. Katharine Drexel Parish, both in Kaukauna. To learn more about Deacon Kyle Sladek and his journey to ordination, [click here](#).

A priest’s primary ministry is to act in the person of Christ particularly in the area of shepherding the faithful and celebrating Mass and the sacraments. The educational and spiritual development of priest candidates is possible, in part, through the Seminarian Collection, a special annual fundraising endeavor for the education



and formation of local men who are in seminary. For more information about priesthood, visit www.gbdioc.org/vocations/diocesan-priesthood.html.

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Who we are: As friends and followers of Jesus, the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is devoted to fostering households and communities of discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church. We are missionary disciples striving to lead all people to the Kingdom of God. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

Contact: Justine Lodl, director of communications, at 920-272-8213 or jlodl@gbdioc.org; or Sarah Bradford, communications coordinator, at 920-272-8209 or sbradford@gbdioc.org.