



SHUTTERSTOCK

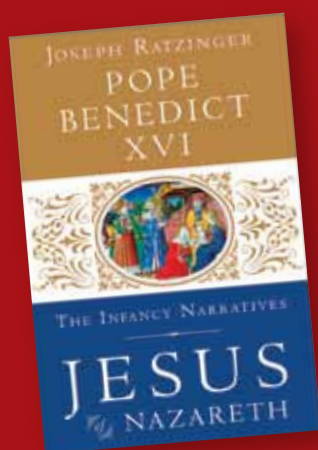
The National Catholic Register's
Last-Minute Christmas Gift Guide

The waiting for Christ is almost over: Jesus' birthday is coming soon!

To prepare, the Register offers more Christmas gifts for everyone on your list.

All items are available from EWTNReligiousCatalogue.com or (800) 854-6316, unless otherwise noted. Prices subject to change.

— Compiled by staff writer Joseph Pronechen



"Lying in the manger is the One who indicated himself as the true Bread come down from heaven — the true nourishment man needs in order to be a human person. He is the nourishment that gives man true life, life that is eternal. In this way, the manger becomes a reference to the banquet of God to which man is invited in order to receive the Bread of God. The great reality, in which the redemption of mankind is brought about, is delineated in the poverty of Jesus' birth."

— From final volume of Pope Benedict XVI's book *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives* (available from EWTN Religious Catalogue, Item: 46405, \$20).



MADONNA AND CHILD

This lovely print depicts a tranquil scene of the Blessed Mother and the Child Jesus, who sleeps peacefully enfolded in her arms. This lovely picture, in an attractive gold-leaf frame under glass, with an easel back and hooks for hanging, measures 10 inches by 12 inches. Item: 57847, \$25.

MERCY SONGS

This double-CD set by Father Bill Quinlivan, a pastor and singer-songwriter who has appeared with Dana, includes 10 original songs on Divine Mercy. Several are inspired by entries in St. Faustina's diary; others were inspired by talks he has given about Divine Mercy. The CD includes a new melody for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with two melodies and an Eucharistic adoration litany. \$18, from FrBillSings.com or Dana-Music.com.



SHRINE CALENDAR

See the beauty of Mother Angelica's Hanceville, Ala., shrine every day with this 2013 Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament calendar — filled to the brim with original photos of Mother Angelica, the nuns, friars and the shrine's beautiful grounds. The calendar includes novenas that the nuns pray. Besides all the feast days and saints' memorial days from the Roman Missal, also included for every month is an inspirational quote from Mother Angelica. Measures 11 inches by 17 inches opened. Item: 2013C, \$11.



1. BOUGUEREAU WALL CALENDAR

Keep track of the coming year with this beautiful wall calendar showcasing the works of popular 18th-century French artist William Adolphe Bouguereau. Each month features one of the artist's stunning paintings. The calendar page includes Catholic holy days, feasts, secular holidays, as well as fasting and abstinence guidelines. 12 inches by 24 inches open. Item: CAL-BOUG2013, \$14.95, from CatholictotheMax.com or (800) 895-6267.

2. THE LITTLE WAY OF ADVENT

This wonderful book by Father Gary Caster focuses on St. Thérèse's "Little Way," as well as her deep insights into the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. Father Caster shows the connection between the innocent Child and the crucified Savior, thus providing for a rich Advent experience. The Little Way of Advent presents material for each Sunday in all three cycles, for each weekday in Advent and, as an added bonus, for every day of the Christmas season. \$11.04, from FranciscanMedia.org or (800) 488-0488.

3. HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Excellent for the Year of Faith, the Catholic Church's long, complicated and fascinating history is expertly and ably told by historian James Hitchcock. Hardcover. Item: HCC-H, \$29.95, from Ignatius Press, Ignatius.com or (800) 651-1531.

4. THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE

This classic Christmas story is now available in an updated 2012 edition and newly illustrated. The book's exciting and festive illustrations, with their nostalgic tones, help renew the wonder of how the candy cane became a legend. The story includes powerful Christian symbolism. \$12.79, from BarnesandNoble.com; or \$10.87, from Amazon.com.

5. ADVENT AT EPHESUS

This brand-new 16-track CD, the first by the cloistered Benedictine Sisters of Mary, Queen of Apostles, is filled with the spirit of hope and expectation of Advent. Recorded at the order's Priory of Our Lady of Ephesus in northwest Missouri, the songs range from traditional Latin and English hymns to polyphony, Gregorian chant, medieval harmonies and an original piece to celebrate the quiet and anticipation of the Nativity that is the foundation of the Advent season. It is filled with joy and graced with the angelic blend of the sisters' voices. \$20, from Demontfort-Music.com or BenedictinesofMary.org; purchase requests may also be made to: Priory of Our Lady of Ephesus, P.O. Box 303, Gower, MO 64454.

6. 24 CHRISTMAS STORIES TO WELCOME JESUS

The joy and hope of Christmas are at the heart of this book intended for the whole family. Starting on Dec. 1 (like an Advent calendar), each day has a new story, leading up to Christmas. Richly illustrated, this collection includes stories based on the Gospel accounts of the birth of Christ, as well as stories about Advent and Christmas customs, plus original tales about living the Christmas message. Hardcover, 79 pages. Item: M:CSWJ-H, \$14.99, from Ignatius Press, Ignatius.com or (800) 651-1531.

7. YOUCAT

Short for the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, this catechism was launched on World Youth Day 2011. Developed with the help of young Catholics and written for high-school students and young adults, it is an accessible, contemporary expression of the Catholic faith. The appealing graphic format includes questions and answers, commentary, summary definitions of key terms, Bible citations and inspiring and thought-provoking quotes from saints and others. Softcover, 301 pages. Item: YOUCAT-P in English; YOUCAT: SP-P in Spanish; \$19.95, from Ignatius Press, Ignatius.com or (800) 651-1531.

8. THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY

This unique book allows children to count down to the birth of Jesus in a fun and memorable way. After reading the 24-page book about the events of the first Christmas, kids will have a great time decorating the Nativity play scene. Reusable foil and heavy board stickers stored in the front flap can be used to assemble the scene of Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the stable. Sure to inspire creative play. Ages 3-6. Item: 55490, \$15.

9. MY BROTHER, THE POPE

It wasn't always the case that Msgr. Georg Ratzinger lived in the shadow of his younger brother, Joseph. Georg was an accomplished musician who — for more than 30 years — directed the world-famous boys' choir of the Regensburg cathedral. Brother Joseph was a brilliant young professor, but mostly known in German academic circles. Georg writes about the close friendship that has united these two brothers for more than 80 years. This book is a unique look at an extraordinary family. Readers will enjoy learning more about the early life of Benedict XVI. Hardcover. Item: MBP-H, \$24.95, from Ignatius Press, Ignatius.com or (800) 651-1531.

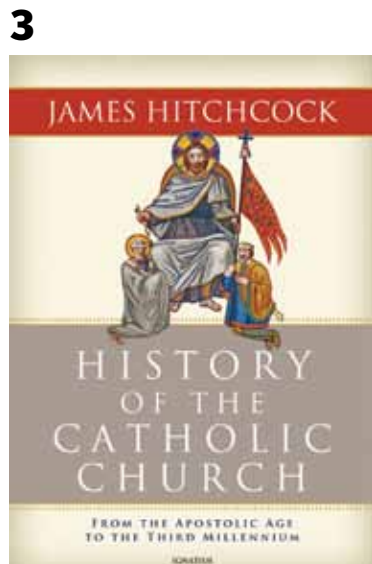
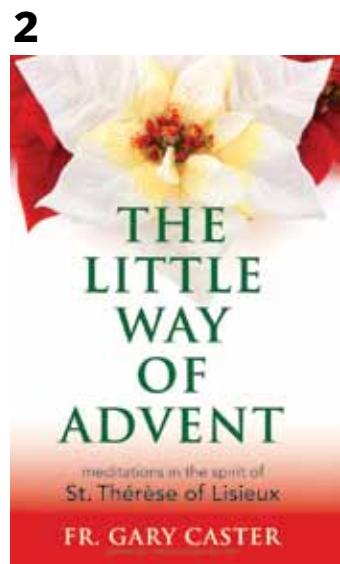
10. ST. BARBARA DVD

This beautiful, inspiring film tells the story of Barbara, the daughter of the Roman governor during a time of fierce Christian persecution. She is a pagan, but when Giuliana, a slave raised alongside her almost like a sister, is condemned to death for her faith, Barbara rebels. She valiantly attempts to save Giuliana, as well as other Christians being persecuted. The movie is also the story of the saint's profound love for Claudio, the noble Roman soldier whose life she saves, as well as her deep compassion for all afflicted humanity. The courageous and holy witness of her Christian friends inspires her to convert to their religion, a decision which will eventually cost Barbara her life. 100 minutes. Item: SBAB-M, \$19.95, from Ignatius Press, Ignatius.com or (800) 651-1531.



HANDCRAFTED ROSARIES

The rosaries from Seraphym Designs in Phoenix will be a prayerful treasure for years and years of prayers. All are uniquely designed; the crucifixes and medals, several hand-cast, replicate vintage ones. The **Blue Glass & Garnet Swarovski Crystal Rosary** has royal blue, bronze-tipped faceted glass beads from the Czech Republic and garnet Swarovski crystals from Austria. The rosary has a fleur-de-lis crucifix and a Miraculous Medal, plus an attached Holy Spirit medal. The **Blue Quartz & Garnet Crystal Heirloom Rosary** combines blue quartz stones with garnet Swarovski crystals from Austria. The crucifix is a vintage design from Latin America depicting the Sacred Heart of Jesus at each corner of the cross; the medal presents Our Lady of Grace. The **Rose Pink Freshwater Pearls With Clear Swarovski Crystals Rosary** combines rose-pink freshwater pearls and Swarovski Austrian crystals. The 2-inch crucifix has two cherub angels at each end of the cross. The medal presents Our Lady of Lourdes. The **Aqua Glass & Ruby Swarovski Crystal Bracelet Rosary** is a two-decade rosary. The beads are aqua bronze-tipped cathedral glass and ruby Swarovski crystals. The mini crucifix pictures Mary on the front and Jesus on the back. Blue Glass, Item: COB1R, \$169; Blue Quartz, Item: RS13, \$175; Rose Pink, Item: HR5, \$175; Aqua Glass, Item: BCTH5, \$97, from SeraphymDesigns.com or (480) 577-1817.



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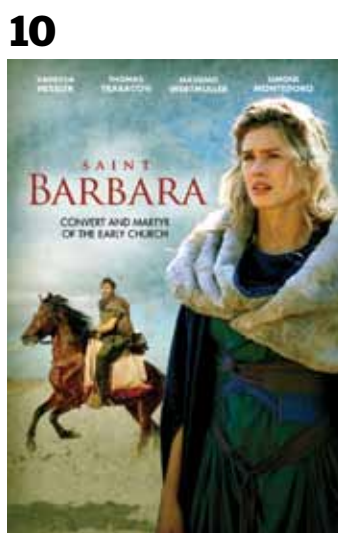
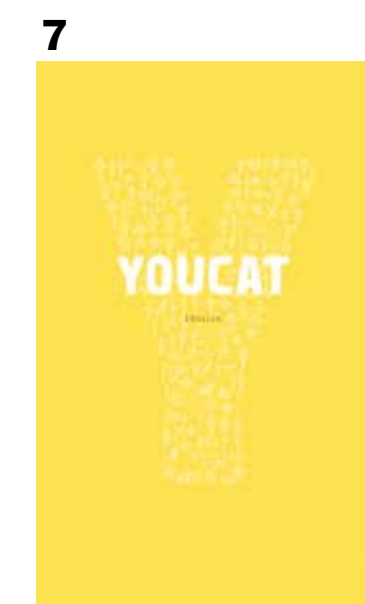
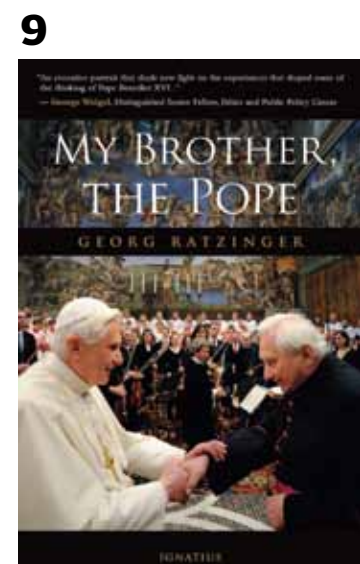
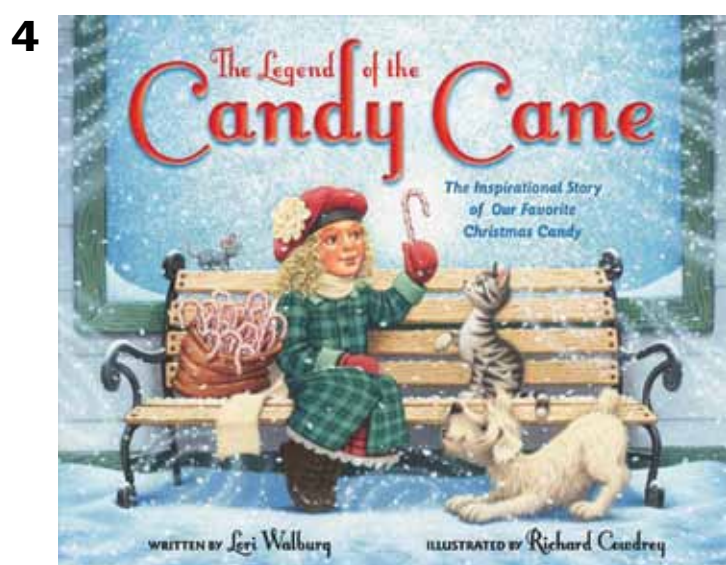
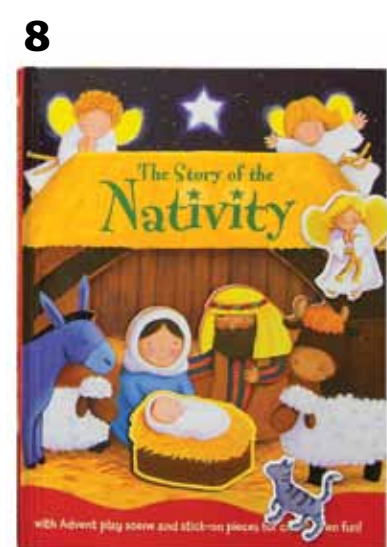
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2. HOLY FAMILY FRAMED ARTWORK

This beautiful reproduction of Charles Bosseron Chambers' painting of the Holy Family is framed in an antiqued-gold wood frame with glass. The work measures 10 inches by 12 inches. Item: 944, \$33.

3. JOHN PAUL II ARTWORK

Blessed John Paul II smiles at viewers as they read his inspiring words: "Do not be afraid! Open the doors to Christ. God works in the concrete and personal affairs of each one of us. Don't let the time that the Lord gives you run on as if everything were due to chance. With this expression of my hope I send you all, from the depths of my heart, my blessing." Gold wood frame measures 9 1/2 inches by 12 3/4 inches. Item: 19203, \$25.

4. MAGI ART

This colorful scene of the Magi, which was painted in a mid-15th-century collaboration by Fra Angelico and Fra Filippo Lippi, will draw everyone to contemplate and meditate on the Nativity of Jesus. Gold wood frame measures 23 inches by 23 inches. Item: 815F, \$200.

5. ROSE ROSARY WITH RELIC

Bring something from the Holy Land into your Christmas this year. This rosary, made of beads carved with a rosebud design, has a pewter Miraculous Medal center and a crucifix, which contains a third-class relic — a piece of cloth touched to Jesus' tomb. The rosary is imported from Jerusalem. Item: WREL, \$25.

6. DIVINE MERCY COFFEE MUG

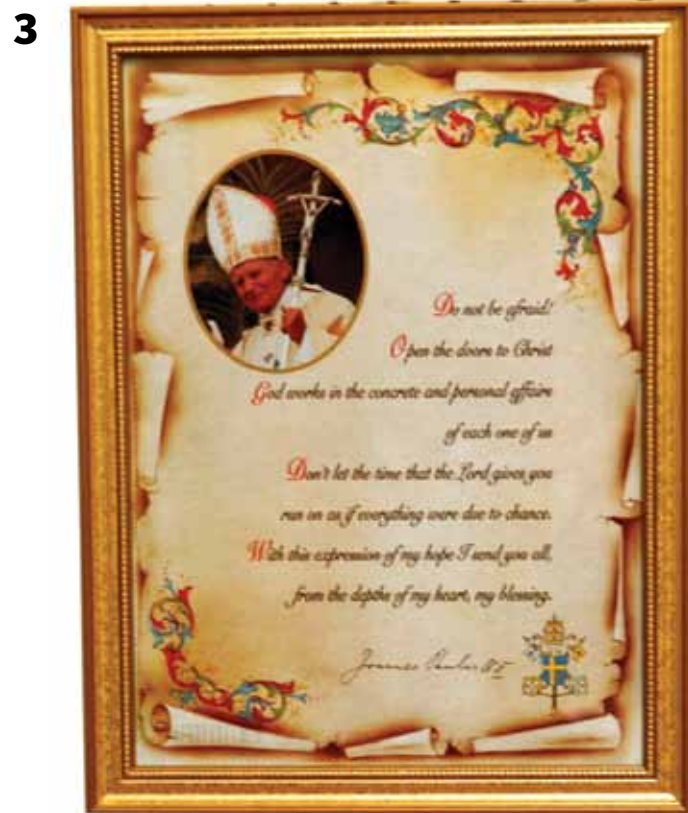
Enjoy your coffee, tea and hot cocoa in this unique ceramic mug. This 11-ounce mug imprinted in the U.S. makes a great gift for anyone who loves Divine Mercy. The mug comes with beautiful imagery on one side and the Divine Mercy prayer on the other. Item: MUG-35, \$9, from CatholictotheMax.com or (800) 895-6267.

7. NATIVITY CANVAS TRANSFER

This vividly colored Nativity scene from the original painted by French artist Charles Poerson depicts the Holy Family surrounded by seven adoring angels. Decorative antiqued-gold carved wood frame; measures 11 1/4 inches by 13 1/4 inches. Item: TG47A, \$100.

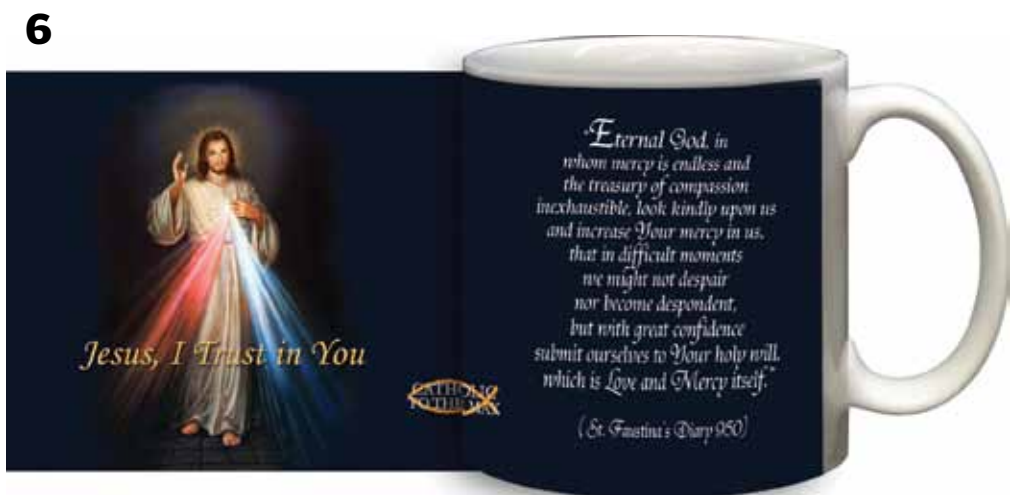
8. OUR LADY IMAGE

The original Catholic framers of this now-famous image make it available as a fine-art print under non-glare glass or as an archival-quality giclée canvas in a wide variety of mattes and solid wood frames handcrafted in Steubenville, Ohio. This treasure for generations to come will help people find peace and joy in this beautiful image of Our Lady. Among the sizes and styles available, the print comes as 5 inches by 10 inches, Item: NW-900A1, \$24; 8 inches by 16 inches, NW-900C1, \$40; and 12 inches by 24 inches, Item: NW-900F1, \$100, from CatholictotheMax.com or (800) 895-6267.



DIVINE MERCY WATCHES

These watches, in various styles for both men and women, are timeless reminders of God's mercy. They feature a large image of Jesus, the Divine Mercy, and what Jesus told St. Faustina to use as his signature — the words "Jesus I Trust in You." Men's 1 1/2-inch watch face, Item: 1587M. Lady's 1 1/4-inch watch face, Item: 1587L. Men's 1 1/4-inch watch face, Item: DVMM. Lady's 7/8-inch watch face, Item: DVML. All \$40.



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Deacons' Wives Have Special Role in the Church

BY JIM GRAVES

As the Church recalls the martyrdom of one of its first seven deacons, St. Stephen, on Dec. 26, three women married to permanent deacons share the challenges and joys of sharing in their husbands' ministries.

While the diaconate thrived in the early centuries of the Church, by 800 in the Latin Church, it became merely a transitional step toward the priesthood. At the recommendation of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI restored the permanent diaconate in the Latin Church in 1967. Today, there are 17,000 permanent deacons serving in the United States.

The deacon receives the first of three degrees or levels of the sacrament of holy orders — deacon, priest, bishop — and is a member of the clergy. He cannot celebrate Mass or hear confessions, however. His traditional roles include baptizing, officiating at weddings and funerals, distributing Communion during Mass or bringing Communion to the sick and dying, reading from the sacred Scriptures at Mass and devoting himself to apostolic works.

While addressing clergy from the Diocese of Rome, Pope Benedict XVI expressed his "joy and gratitude" to the Council Fathers for their suggestion to revive the permanent diaconate, observing, "[Deacons] give witness in the world of today, as well as in the working world, of the presence of faith, of the sacramental ministry and the diaconal dimension of the sacrament of orders."

Berta Calvert of Vine Grove, Ky., married her husband Joe 20 years ago. She saw her husband ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky., in 2008.

It was a special day, she said, because "I thought it was a great way for him to serve the community and help the Church."

Over a four-year formation period, she attended diaconate classes with him. As she reflected, "It was



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helpful because it helped me to understand what he was going through."

Deacon Calvert assists at three Masses at his parish, St. Christopher. He also teaches a Bible study class, works with youth and serves on the pro-life committee.

Deacon Calvert also shares the story of his

remarkable conversion, which began when he was a student at the University of Louisville distributing copies of British atheist Bertrand Russell's 1927 essay "Why I Am Not a Christian." Young Joe went on to practice Buddhist meditation; then one of his favorite Eastern teachers recommended he read the poems of St. Teresa of Avila. Teresa's writing helped steer him to the Catholic Church. As the deacon tells people today, "I came to the truth out of secular humanism and atheism, followed by Buddhism. All roads truly do lead to Rome."

Berta Calvert recalled the place where her husband started from: "He made fun of the Catholic Church, and he was pro-abortion. People who know him today wouldn't believe it."

This ministry also appealed to Larry Kehoe of Des Moines, Iowa. Susan Kehoe said she wasn't surprised when her husband told her he wanted to study for the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Des Moines because so many people in their parish said he'd make a good deacon. "He realized he couldn't ignore God any longer and signed up for the program," she recalled.

On the night before his ordination in 2006, Susan said she was "overwhelmed with it all."

But, six years later, she knows they both made the right choice: "It's been an adventure. It's amazing to see how he's grown in faith and how he deals with people so well. I feel blessed to be able to share the journey with him."

The Kehoes teach RCIA and baptismal classes for parents together. Deacon Kehoe is also active in youth ministry. "People tell me all the time how grateful they are for him and how he makes a huge difference in their lives," Susan said.

Deacon Kehoe's "day job" is in production management, which has helped him better understand the day-to-day struggles of those who work. And, being married, he understands from personal experience the challenges of married life.

His schedule is busy; after work, he comes home

for a bite to eat and often heads right back out to church. He makes sure he and Susan have time together each day, however, to talk and share their day. Susan shares stories with him of her own apostolate: She serves as the director of religious education at their church.

Susan shares her experiences at ADeaconsWife.com. She selected the website name because, at many events, people who don't know her name say,

'I FEEL BLESSED TO BE ABLE TO SHARE THE JOURNEY WITH HIM.'

"Hey, you're the deacon's wife."

Deborah Dubois' husband Tom was ordained for the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, in 2000. His ordination day was "like having another wedding in the family." The couple's two daughters served as altar servers, and she helped vest him before the ceremony. "I was proud of him," she said. "It was quite an emotional day."

Like the other deacons, Deacon Dubois' duties take him away from home often. On Saturdays, he does prison ministry; one night a week he teaches RCIA; on weekends, he serves at the altar for Mass, and he's regularly called away for special events. Deborah accepts the demands on his time, noting that she has ministries of her own. These include training church ministers, serving as a lector and Eucharistic minister and volunteering as webmaster for the church website.

Deborah appreciates the impact Deacon Dubois has made in their parish community: "He has a gift for preaching and teaching. He can bring the word alive for people. When someone doesn't understand, they talk to Tom, and you can see a light bulb going on in their heads."

Jim Graves writes from Newport Beach, California.

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