

## † Ordinations to the Priesthood †

*You have seen them all around St. Matthew's, not just in the Cathedral sanctuary serving at Mass! Since September (or longer for some), these five transitional deacons assigned to St. Matthew's have ministered to us in many ways—celebrating baptisms, preparing couples for marriage, serving as young adult leaders, working in our CCD program with children and parents—and sharing fellowship with us at parish events and celebrations. All are making final preparations for ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ in May or June 2018 (find their ordination dates below).*

*Maurice Moon, Jonathan Demma and Andrew Clyne each will assist here at Mass for a final time as a deacon on Sunday, **April 29**, Br. Aquinas Beale on Sunday, **May 6**, and friar Manny Vasconcelos on Pentecost Sunday, **May 20**. Friar Manny also will preside at our Eucharistic Holy Hour on Monday, **May 21**. Please let them know how grateful we are for their ministries here!*

*Let's keep these men, as well as Br. Antoninus Samy, O.P., who also serves here and was recently ordained a deacon, in our prayers on this **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** (April 22, 2018) and throughout this ordination season. Save the date and plan to attend our **Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations** on Monday, **June 11**, 6 – 7pm, with Deacon Garcia presiding and Fr. Agustín hearing Confessions during the hour—another opportunity to offer our prayers for them!*



**Br. Aquinas Beale, O.P.**, a Dominican friar studying for the priesthood and currently assigned to St. Matthew's, **will be ordained a priest in the Crypt Church of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Saturday, May 19 at 9:30am by his Eminence Timothy Dolan, Cardinal Archbishop of New York.** In the Fall, Br. Aquinas will be assigned to Washington, DC to complete a License in Sacred Theology at the Dominican House of Studies. At St. Matthew's, he has worked principally with parents of the religious education students by leading a Sunday morning seminar, the Sacred Page Bible Study on Wednesday nights, and the Cathedral Young Adults.

Br. Aquinas was raised the second of seven children in West Virginia and southern Virginia. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 2010 with a Master's and Bachelor's in Foreign Affairs. Since joining the Dominican Order in 2011, he has served in parish ministry, homeless shelters, hospitals, and as an intern for the World Youth Alliance in New York City. Br. Aquinas has *greatly* appreciated having the privilege to serve the Cathedral community over the past two years.

**Br. Aquinas will serve as principal celebrant for the first time at the Cathedral's 11:30am Mass on Sunday, June 24.** All are welcome! Please keep him and all our seminarians in your prayers.



**Andrew Clyne** is a seminarian of the Archdiocese of Washington. **He will be ordained to the Priesthood on June 16 at 10am at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl. He will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle the following day, June 17, at 11:30am.**

Andrew was born in Ridgewood, New Jersey, but grew up primarily in Orange, California. He is a 2008 graduate of the Catholic University of America, and attended Duke University before returning to Catholic University for additional theological studies. He entered seminary for the Archdiocese in 2012, receiving formation at St. John Paul II Seminary and Theological College.

Andrew has been assigned to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle the past two years, in that time celebrating baptisms, assisting with Sacred Page, the Monday morning breakfast, the Cathedral's ministry to Thomas House, and serving at various weekend and episcopal liturgies. His previous assignments within the Archdiocese have included Our Lady Help of Christians (Waldorf, MD), Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament (D.C.), and Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian (D.C.).

He has greatly enjoyed his time at the Cathedral, and is tremendously grateful for the encouragement he has received from the priests, staff, volunteers, and parishioners of St. Matthew's. He looks forward with great anticipation to serving the Archdiocese in priestly ministry, beginning this summer.



**Jonathan Demma** is a seminarian for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas, studying for the priesthood and currently assigned to St. Matthew's. **He will be ordained to the Priesthood at St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth, Texas on Saturday, May 19 by the Most Reverend Michael Olson, Bishop of Fort Worth. He will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Keller, Texas.**

Jonathan is completing his theology studies at the Catholic University of America in the Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) and Master of Divinity programs. At St. Matthew's, he has assisted with the Sacred Page Bible Study, Cathedral Coffeehouse, marriage preparation, and has served as a deacon at various liturgies.

Jonathan was born in Lexington, Kentucky, the fifth of six boys. His family moved to Fort Worth, Texas when he was young. He attended the University of North Texas to study trumpet performance, but later transferred to Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering. After discerning a vocation to the priesthood, Jonathan joined the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in New York, where he served the poor and the homeless for nine years. After completing a Bachelor of Arts in Sacred Theology from Seton Hall University, he returned to Fort Worth as a diocesan seminarian.



**Deacon Maurice Moon** is a seminarian for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas. **He will be ordained a priest on Saturday, May 19 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth, TX, by the Most Reverend Michael Olson.** Maurice is studying theology at the Catholic University of America and plans to complete his studies by May 2018. At St. Matthew's, he has been involved with baptisms, baptismal preparation, Hispanic Ministries, teaching the Faith to youth on Sundays, Hispanic Young Adult Ministry, and marriage preparation.

Maurice was born and raised in Fort Worth, TX. He worked full-time for five years, working in the food industry at restaurants such as Chili's and TGI Friday's before entering St. Joseph Seminary in Covington, Louisiana. After four years, he received his B.A. in the Liberal Arts with a major in philosophy before coming to Catholic University to study theology.

Deacon Maurice writes that he "is so grateful for all the support from St. Matthew's. I've enjoyed getting to know many of the parishioners and staff through the ministries I am involved in. **I hope to come back in the future and celebrate Mass at St. Matthew's.**"



**Friar Emanuel Vasconcelos, OFM Conv.** (also known as "friar Manny") has been with our Cathedral community for the last seven months as a deacon, serving in various liturgical and ministerial roles, especially among the Cathedral Young Adults. Whether presiding at our monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour, or leading a Cathedral Coffeehouse discussion or activity, he has become a familiar and welcoming face at St. Matthew's.

Friar Manny writes that the past months have been a wonderful time for him to continue to grow as a minister to God and God's people.

**Friar Manny is completing his studies at Catholic University this May and will be ordained to the priesthood on June 22 in Buffalo, NY!** He still doesn't know where the Franciscans will place him for his first priestly assignment, but knows that he has appreciated the example he has seen from all those who serve at St. Matthew's. **He will celebrate a 5:30pm Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral on a Sunday this Fall—watch the late summer bulletins for announcement of the date.**

