

Thy Kingdom Come!



Dear Friends and Family in Christ,

I hope that this finds you all very well and enjoying a beautiful New Year. I just wanted to take a moment to write all of you and express my sincere thank you for your prayers and support leading up to my priestly ordination December 16th in Rome. I felt surrounded and supported by some many prayers and so much love! I have no excuse not to be a holy priest and a saint given all your faith and prayers!

The events leading up to and following my priestly ordination seem to me now a whirlwind of graces! I arrived in Rome December 2nd and had a few days to settle in and spend some time with my fellow deacons swapping all the stories from our recent months as deacons. The evening of December 8th, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, we began an 8 day silent retreat to prepare ourselves. The retreat was full of many graces and lights from the Holy Spirit and I prayed as well for all of you then! December 16th came quickly and before I knew it I was processing into the beautiful Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls (where St Paul himself is buried in Rome) with all the 33 deacons to be ordained. The ceremony was incredibly moving. The music, singing, ceremony, preaching, and the mass were out of this world! I was so happy to have my parents, all my siblings, a few uncles, all the RC

missionaries present with me to share the experience. I know that all of you were there with me in spirit! The mass flew by although it was 3 hours long! Laying prostrate during the ceremony was incredibly moving as I felt all the prayers of heaven, the saints, and the Church descending on me. To rise and then have the realization that I was a priest of Jesus Christ forever was overwhelming. The first thing I saw as a new priest were the smiling faces of my new brother priests! To become a priest was a grace but to become a priest with all of my brothers (and best friends) was a double grace. After the mass and the final photo the roaring applause of all our families together was very inspiring. What a great gift and a great mission we have been entrusted with!

On December 17th at 4pm I celebrated my first mass in a little Church in Rome called San Salvatore. It is a church very dear to my heart because there for the last 3 years every Thursday I did a Holy Hour with some of my fellow seminarians for college students studying in Rome. The Holy Hour was a way to help American college students grow in their faith while studying abroad. I felt so much support at the first mass and was honored to celebrate my first Eucharist with so many of my favorite friends and all my family members. After the mass we had a little celebration at my favorite Italian restaurant in the city called Ristorante dei Musei. The lady who owns the restaurant has become a great friend of mine!

My family and I were together 10 days in Rome after the ordination and we were blessed to have mass on the Altar of JP II in St Peter's Basilica, to have mass on the tomb of St Gianna Molla in Milan with her daughter Gianna Emanuela, to have mass in the Catacombs, to have mass in the parish Church of Vatican City, St Anne's, and to have mass in Assisi in the Basilica of St Francis. So so many graces! We prayed for all of you at each of the masses and on each of the altars I placed all your intentions. I asked God to grant a miracle for each one of your intentions!

I am writing you from our seminary in Cheshire, CT where the last week or so I have been here with all 12 of our RC Missionaries running a retreat for high school boys. Now the RC Missionaries themselves are doing a silent retreat called Spiritual Exercises to recharge their spiritual batteries. We all head back to our cities Friday!

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and once again thank you for all your support and prayers these past weeks, months and years! I hope to see you all very soon! If you are in the Atlanta area you can come to my first mass at Holy Spirit Prep Wednesday Jan 17th (8:30am at the Lower School and

10:15am at the Upper School). If you are in the St Louis area my first mass will be February 11th at 11:00am at St Clement of Rome in Des Peres. May God bless you all very much!

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Fr John Klein, LC



After my first Mass at San Salvatore in Lauro Dec 17th



My Family taken after my first mass in San Salvatore



Being vested for the first time as a priest at St Paul's Dec 16th.



Getting to meet the Pope after our ordination on Wednesday Dec 20th.



The Pope giving us a blessing so we can be holy priests and good confessors!



Mass in Milan on the tomb of St Gianna with her daughter Gianna Emanuela. See all your intentions on the altar!



Mass in the Catacombs (St Cecilia was buried here!) See your intentions on the altar!



Mass at the tomb of St John Paul II in St Peters in Rome!