

## Biography of Deacon Mike Moreno



Deacon Mike Moreno was born in San Francisco, Calif. It was there he lived his pre-teen years. When he was only 1 ½ years old, his father, John, died in a traffic accident. Five years later Marilyn, his mother, married a young man, Dave from Detroit, who was stationed in the Navy in San Francisco. In the years to come, Marilyn and Dave had two sons and a daughter.

Deacon Moreno was baptized in San Francisco at St. James Catholic Church and received his First Holy Communion at St. Paul Catholic Church, San Francisco (the church featured in “Sister Act”). Dave eventually moved his family to Kalamazoo, MI.

Deacon Mike graduated from Kalamazoo Central and went to Kalamazoo Community College the following year. The Vietnam War was in full swing so his enlistment in the Air Force was soon to come. After serving four years he was Honorably Discharged. A year later he was introduced to his future wife, Teresa O’Donnell. They married on Dec. 27, 1975. They have three grown children: Denise, Cheryl and Anthony. Denise, the oldest, has two children: Hailey and Frank.

At the age of 23, before meeting Teresa, he had a faith experience that began his journey with the Lord. He and Teresa joined St. Joseph Catholic Church, Kalamazoo after marriage. His work brought him closer to Battle Creek, so they joined St. Joseph Catholic Church, Battle Creek, Michigan which they attended for the next 37 years. He retired in 2007 and in 2009 they started wintering in Florida. The closest Catholic Church was St. Joseph of the Forest, and he received Faculties to serve in the Orlando Diocese two years later.

Ordained by Bishop Murray on June 27, 1999 at St. Augustine Cathedral, he was immediately assigned to St. Joseph, Battle Creek. On March 25, 2015, The Feast of the Annunciation, he started his new assignment at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Marshall, Michigan.

Before being ordained, he became a member of the Knights of Columbus, eventually being appointed Grand Knight until being accepted into the Diaconate Program. He was a Catechist for 10 years, teaching 2<sup>nd</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and he also began visiting the homebound and those in nursing homes. As a deacon at St. Joseph, he continued these visits in addition to visits to the local hospital. Administratively, he coordinated bible study groups, Catholic Adult Faith Education, and the parish newsletter. He has married several couples and baptized hundreds of children.

Last year, Bishop Bradley appointed Deacon Moreno the Coordinator of Mentors for Candidates to the Permanent Diaconate for the Kalamazoo Diocese.

Deacon Mike’s hobbies are golf and fishing...in that order. He has designed and built his own cabin on Beaver Island, Michigan. and remodeled, to various degrees, all the homes he has lived in.

“I am very excited about being here at St. Mary’s and look forward, in great anticipation, to serving the Lord and his people here in Marshall.”