

Anniversary of Ordination

Today we are celebrating with Rich the 40th anniversary of his ordination. Rich was ordained on July 18th, 1982. He has served as pastor of the Mary Lyon Church now for 15 years. Please follow along on the insert and repeat the line "May the blessing of God enfold you." after each blessing of the hands.

Jesus was a big toucher, the New Testament has fourteen accounts of him reaching out to touch another person, often with healing, always with compassion.

(Rich stands with his hands outstretched and palms up.)

Leader: Rev. Richard Fournier, these hands of yours are expressions of both the reality and the symbol of the 40 years that you have been living your ordination. When your hands were consecrated and anointed for service, you took this blessing seriously. As we bless your hands, we do so with immense gratitude for the quality of your person and your ministry. We remember how you have been a gift to the people gathered here, and to those who cannot be here, all those lives you have touched with the goodness of Christ.

Leader: We bless your hands that formed the sign of the cross so many times.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that put the Bread of Life in countless other hands.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that embraced people consumed with grief.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that sent a caring note or a message of affirmation.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that created enriching and inspiring homilies.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that reached out in welcome to shake another's.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that drove your car to visit the sick and comfort the dying.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that wiped tears of compassion from your eyes.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that clapped in gratitude and affirmation.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that administered the sacrament to the sick.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that held the books you've read for personal growth.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that baptized and hallowed those being married.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that raised the cross in a Good Friday liturgy.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that gave a sign of forgiveness to a penitent.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that shared a meal at the table of friendship.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that held a phone as you listened to someone in need.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that greeted those coming for counseling.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: We bless your hands that folded in daily meditation and personal prayer.

Congregation: **May the blessing of God enfold you.**

Leader: Together we pray:

May you go forward this day with faith knowing your hard work and endless efforts have enriched and helped those you served. Each time you look at your hands may you find a reason to hope, remembering all the good they have done. May the blessing of the Holy One enfold you and enhance your life with our gratitude and respect. Amen.

(Prayer Response by Choir - "The God of Heaven Bless You")