



"The most important part of my life is the daily liturgy, the rest is just living out what I do in the morning," says Deacon Jack Zimmerman.



A deacon reads his breviary like any priest.

They Call Him

When the Rev. Mr. John Zimmerman arrived at St. Christopher's parish, some confusion arose over what to call him.

"A lot of people called me Deacon Zimmerman," he says, "but some of the older people called me Father Zimmerman, and now, quite a few of the kids call me Deacon Jack or just plain Deke."

The confusion is understandable, for this is only the second year that the Rochester diocese has had the deacon internship program in which Deacon Jack is participating.

The order of deacon is the first of three ancient degrees of the priesthood. The others are presbyter, commonly called priest, and bishop. A deacon can perform many of the functions of a priest except administer the sacraments, but the most important role he plays is preaching.

The eight deacons now assigned to parishes in the diocese will be ordained priests after Easter; all have completed the four years of theological studies at St. Bernard's Seminary required for ordination.

The youth of Chili, says Deacon Jack bashfully, call him HWD "for 'hard working deacon,'" and a day spent following him around is convincing proof of the merits of the nickname.

On a typical day last week, he assisted Father Elmer McDonald at morning Mass, attended a meeting with the



Morning meeting with Father Elmer McDonald and Sister Elizabeth Hughes.



The entire group of deacon-interns, from left to right: Deacons Edward Palumbos, Bryan Brown, Ronald Stacy, Jack Zimmerman, Father Edward Steinkirch-

Text and Photos

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