



The 13 ordinandi prostrate themselves before the altar at the Reynolds Center at the University of Tulsa while the congregation stands to pray the Litany of the Saints.

'A grace-filled moment'

Bishop ordains two new priests and 11 permanent deacons

The Diocese of Tulsa has two new priests and 11 new members of the permanent diaconate following the May 26 ordinations at the Reynolds Center at the University of Tulsa.

The sports arena was transformed into a sacred place via huge photographic images of stained glass windows and the high altar of Holy Family Cathedral. The images, from photographs taken by David Crenshaw, were spread tightly across stretched fabric and posted in the gathering area and behind the altar.

Months of planning by the ordination committee paid off, as the ordinations and the celebration of the Eucharist that followed came off without a hitch. About 60 priests concelebrated the Mass and fanned out into the aisles of the arena to distribute communion to the estimated 2,500 people who attended the historic event.

Bishop Edward J. Slattery, who ordained the men, thanked everyone

who came to the ordinations, adding, "I hope you have experienced a grace-filled moment – a moment that lasted three hours!"

Organizers were delighted that the event met its goal of being over by noon; afterwards, family and friends of the newly ordained gathered in large white tents outside the arena. The lines were long for people seeking blessings from Father Gary Kastl and Father Brian O'Brien.

More than a few prayers went up that the rains that had pummeled the Reynolds Center during the rehearsal the afternoon before would hold off for the ordinations and subsequent receptions, and those prayers were answered.

More coverage will appear in the June 10 Eastern Oklahoma Catholic.

Below, Brian O'Brien, left, and Gary Kastl kneel before the priests of the Diocese of Tulsa and Bishop Slattery just prior to their ordinations. At right, Father Jim Caldwell reaches out to embrace Father Gary Kastl. At his right is Father Prior Philip Anderson, O.S.B., of Our Lady of Clear Creek Monastery.



From left, Glenn Collum, Gary Kastl, Brian O'Brien and John Johnson listen to the Bishop's homily in which he asked the Father to send down the Holy Spirit in a renewed Pentecost and make Christ incarnate in each of the men about to be ordained.



Father O'Brien and Father Kastl concelebrate the Mass.



Father Kastl blesses Marge Chandler, a Serra Club member from Church of the Resurrection, at the outdoor reception immediately following the ordinations and celebration of the Eucharist. At right, blessing the new priests are, from left, Msgr. Dennis Dorney, Father Jack Gleason, director of vocations, Msgr. Patrick Brankin, vicar of deacons, and Msgr. Gregory Gier, rector of Holy Family Cathedral.



At left, four-year-old Maddie Davis and her grandfather, Deacon Tom Gorman of Holy Family Cathedral, are all smiles at the reception. Below, the wives of the newly ordained deacons vest their husbands in a stole and dalmatic. Afterwards, the vested deacons approached the Bishop and receive the Book of Gospels.



Father Theodore Tack, O.S.A., vests Father Brian O'Brien. Father Tack, formerly the prior of Cascia Hall, invited the young man to live at Cascia Hall while he was discerning whether God was calling him to go to the seminary.