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## **An invitation to trust**

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If there are two things I've learned in the last six years of seminary formation, they are that God is good and gives his children good things, and that he wants us to trust him. It was with this conviction that I presented myself for ordination to the order of deacons on Oct. 6 in St. Peter's Basilica. In the time since then, that conviction has continued to grow.

During the silent retreat just before ordination, I experienced God's goodness to me in a way I never have before. I experienced his deep love for me and his complete knowledge of me. I was allowed to see how proud he is of me just because I'm his son. I also experienced God's goodness to me in the superabundance of prayers said for me by friends, family and even people I don't know. I really felt buoyed up, carried along by the gratuitous gift of prayer.

Since the ordination, I have experienced God's goodness in the great gift he has given me to be his ordained minister. Every time it hits me that I really am a deacon now, the only response I can think of is gratitude, and my response is "how good you are to me, Lord."

To present myself for ordination was the biggest thing I've ever done in my life, and it was a leap of faith. I was making a permanent commitment to lay down my life for the Church. I was making lifelong promises to pray the Liturgy of the Hours daily and to be faithful to prayer, to remain celibate for the sake of the kingdom, to obey the bishop and his successors, and to conform my life ever more to Jesus Christ. Making these promises was a real invitation to trust in the Lord.

I was being asked to trust that God will help me to be faithful to these promises. I was being asked to trust that he will grant me fulfillment and happiness in this vocation. In short, it was an invitation to trust that he who can do all things will not abandon his servant who can do so very little but who is taking on so very much.

When I first entered seminary, I entrusted my life and vocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, knowing that she is the surest way to Jesus. She, more than anyone else, was convinced of God's goodness. This is so evident in her Magnificat, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden" (Luke 1:46-48).

She, more than anyone else, trusted God. We see this so clearly in her Fiat, "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Her prayers have brought me this far and I know they will continue to carry me wherever God leads.

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