

Fr. Eric Wood

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of John O'Malley as a testament to his character and honesty. My name is Fr. Eric Wood, and I am a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati currently assigned a position on the Seminary faculty within our Archdiocese. I was ordained to the priesthood in May of 2015, and was immediately assigned as the parochial vicar (assistant pastor) of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Morrow, Ohio until the summer of 2018. John was an active member of this parish during my 3 years at St. Philip. Though I have been away from this parish for about 3 years now, I have continued to stay in close contact with him, especially during his time of preparation for the Diaconate and leading up to his ordination.

From what I know of John, I have found him to be a man who always puts forth his best effort to do good and honest work in everything in which he is involved. I spoke with him quite often in regards to his work in preparation for the Diaconate. From what I was able to see, he was always a good and dutiful student to his professors. I knew him to be the sort of student who would be constantly going the extra mile in all of his assignments. It was clear that John had a great passion for all the activities in which he was involved. This seemed to be the driving force behind his desire to deliver good and honest work.

Given his intention to become a deacon and serve in the parish, John also started to become more and more involved within the Church community while I was still the parochial vicar at St. Philip. This allowed me to see, at times first-hand, how much effort John was willing to put into his parish projects. Though John was ordained a deacon after my time had finished at St. Philip, I can further attest that he has always taken his work as a deacon very seriously.

Another topic of which John would often speak with me regarded what sort of things he was doing within his business. These discussions showed me how important it was for John to give his clients good and honest work. He was constantly traveling for his business even if it meant the neglect of other elements of his life. This again was a reminder to me of how strongly John desired to go the extra mile for each of his clients. I, furthermore, found it quite impressive that he was able to manage not only his full-time job, but also was able to put forth such great effort into his preparation for the Diaconate. Never did I ever get the impression that he was not putting forth his best work in either area of life.

There were also various occasions in which I witnessed events in life not going well for John. However, instead of these being examples of dishonesty, they only confirmed for me his integrity. If there was ever a time in which he made a mistake in whatever capacity of life, he was always quick to admit it and do all that was necessary to correct the situation. This has always been an important quality that I look for in an honest individual. Each of us will make a mistake at some point. What gives testament to our integrity is the ability to admit a wrong and do all that can be done to correct it. From what I can see, John has displayed a great capacity for this quality in his work-life.

If you should have any questions in regards to what has been said here, I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Fr. Eric Wood