



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Office of the Diaconate

April 20, 2021

I have known Deacon John O'Maley since November, 2016, when I became the Director of the Office of the Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. John was a candidate for the diaconate at that time. I met him as a member of the diaconate class which was in formation and working towards ordination in April, 2019.

In my interactions with John during formation classes, I found John to be a bright and engaged student, asking probing questions in a quest to fully understand the material being taught. My opinion of him during formation was that he was a candidate who wanted to be fully prepared and well-trained for his vocation of deacon.

John was ordained as a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church on April 27, 2019. He was assigned to St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Morrow, Ohio. Upon his ordination, John took a very active role in the diaconate. In addition to his responsibilities at his parish, John attended nearly every educational program that I offered to the deacons of the Archdiocese. During the COVID-19 crisis of 2020-2021, John proposed to me an idea to develop a "virtual retreat" for deacons, since holding in-person retreats was discouraged. John took a leadership role in organizing and executing this virtual retreat. He was instrumental in assembling a core team of deacons to assist with the planning and delivery of the retreat in November, 2020. It was an outstanding success.

Since the virtual retreat was so successful, John championed the concept of holding monthly virtual presentations to continue to the formation of the deacons of the Archdiocese. The same core team, headed by John, created what became known as the monthly Virtual Spiritual Enrichment Series. The series is in its fourth month of delivering quality educational programs to the deacon community and is scheduled to run throughout 2021.

In all of my dealings with John, I have found him to be extremely dedicated to his vocation of deacon. He is humble, never wanting accolades for himself for

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any of the contributions he makes to our deacon community. I know him to be totally honest and professional in every way. My opinion of him is that he is a true Christian man and a dedicated deacon of the Church, committed to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the good of God's people. He is unselfish, caring, compassionate and very generous with his time and energy. I have never seen him give less than 100% in projects that we have worked on together.

John has had no disciplinary problems during the time of his ordination. There have been no complaints brought to me concerning John. He is a deacon in Good Standing in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Without reservation, I support Deacon John O'Maley as a man of integrity, honesty, and good character. I am happy to discuss this with anyone at their request. My contact information is included below.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deacon Mark Machuga". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deacon Mark Machuga
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