



# Parish Couple of the Month

## February 2021

### Deacon Lloyd & Margaret Hawes

The story of Deacon Lloyd and Margaret is a path of many twists and turns as life often gives us. Deacon Lloyd was born and raised in Ohio and after serving four years in the military as a Radio Intercept Analytic Specialist (sounds very interesting), he headed west to California to attend Polytechnic University in Pomona in aerospace engineering. He grew up in the Baptist tradition, and as a youth he remembers the noisy, rowdy Catholic kids coming into their quiet classroom and thinking to himself; “if this is what it is to be Catholic, I don’t want any part of it!” However, in time, they all became friends and it served as a lesson to him, “don’t think things like that, or you may have to “eat your words or thoughts” later!” While in college Deacon Lloyd converted to become a Roman Catholic. But, I’m not 100% sure of his motives? There was a young lady in Deacon Lloyds life who missed her attachment to the Church and with this change and college graduation, they were married and had two children, while living in California. During this time, Deacon Lloyd was more of a “nominal” Catholic.

Margaret was born and raised a Catholic in Los Angeles, California. She went to St. Mary’s Academy for High School and Cal Poly University with a degree in Home Economics and Education. She married and focused the next years raising her three children and giving to the Church. It wasn’t until 1980, after both Margaret and Deacon Lloyd found themselves as single parents and involved in the same Youth Ministry program, did their journey begin. We never know what God has in store for us and Deacon Lloyd and Margaret followed their call to serve God and the Church, as a couple, and were married in 1982 and these have been the best years of their lives.

Their marriage led them down a path of great service. While living in California they were involved in a long list of ministries: bringing communion to the sick, lector, eucharistic minister, pastoral council, high school religious education, parish religious education board, seminarian support group for the diocese and Diocesan Lay Ministry – sharing all these ministries together at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Chino, California with over 2600 families and St. Paul the Apostle in Chino Hills with over 3800 families! In 1986 Deacon Lloyd decided to enter the diaconate program and Margaret took all the classes with him to learn and understand the diaconate and support Lloyd in his ministry. Lloyd was ordained as Deacon in 1990. In addition to all this, they both completed another big achievement receiving a Master of Arts degree in Religious Education, which took them down a new path of growth and faith. Deacon Lloyd was now conducting communion services at Patton State Hospital (for the criminally insane), seminarian support at the Serra House, developed and presented the adult faith formation program, and was a Vicariate representative for Deacons; Margaret and Deacon Lloyd together decided to share their personal experience and knowledge of the annulment process and became advocates for the marriage tribunal and developed and coordinated a ministry and support group for divorced, separated, and widowed people. They had thirty to fifty active members at any time.

The holy spirit led Margaret down another path providing post abortion counseling with “Project Rachel”, receiving training through the Diocese and with the founder of “Project Rachel” - Vicki Thorn, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She worked the hotline and provided a loving voice and open heart for all those calling for help, healing, and understanding.

AND - all this happened before they moved to Gunnison! In 1996 Deacon Lloyd and Margaret decided to move to Gunnison. Deacon Lloyd wasn’t sure why Gunnison, especially when he would see the weather and they would show Gunnison tied with International Falls as the coldest spots in the United States. But it just felt like home from

the beginning, and part of this was attributed to Margaret's grandfather, who was raised in Gunnison and her grandparents were married in St. Peter's Church in 1901. Fascinating history.

They let no grass grow under their feet when they arrived and became active members of St. Peter's parish right away- giving of their time and talent for over 24 years in: liturgy committee, parish council, group leader for Renew, RCIA, FOCCUS administrator, bible study programs, lector, eucharistic ministry, music coordinator, and religious education and sacramental preparation of which, Margaret and Deacon Lloyd still participate in a number of these ministries to this day. In 2000, at the recommendation of Bishop Tafoya, Deacon Lloyd assisted Fr. Ray Van Dorpe in developing the deacon formation program for the Diocese of Pueblo and became the first Associate Director. Fun fact: our current Deacons at Queen of All Saints Church and Deacon Dan Leach at the Diocese of Pueblo, all had Deacon Lloyd leading them through the discernment process, all four years, as they worked towards their deaconate ordination.

Margaret and Deacon Lloyd try to live the life that God would want them to live. Be honest, helpful, truthful and keep trying. Margaret starts her day having coffee with Jesus. It's her quiet time to meditate and prepare for the day ahead. But it doesn't end after morning coffee, throughout the day Margaret is living out her faith, whether it be in preparation for the upcoming Religious Education class or taking care of everyday chores, she does this all for the honor and glory of God.

God has many ways of reminding you he is with us. For Deacon Lloyd it was his curiosity that helped him to see. He and his first wife were at a Marriage Encounter weekend and Saturday evening was time to socialize. Deacon Lloyd kept going around asking other couples how they know there is a God? None of their answers seemed to connect, until he stepped outside for a walk and it was like "bingo!" and a light shone. It was off center to the left, like Jesus sitting at the right hand of God. He was so elated and just had to share his experience with the Priest at the Marriage Encounter. So, wrapping on Father's hotel room door at 1:00am asking if he could talk to him - the Priest opened the door and took one look at him and said, "Oh, you have been hit." This moment started Deacon Lloyd on his true journey of faith.

For Margaret, it was during hard times. She prayed and prayed for God's help with her situation. One night she went into her bedroom, where she had a crucifix that glowed in the dark and knelt before it, with her arms stretched out asking the Lord for help and turning her life over to him. At that point, she could feel herself getting pulled over – she pulled back – and it happened again – suddenly Margaret felt a rush of warmth come over her. She truly was feeling God's presence and just knew everything was going to fall into place and indeed it did. She met Lloyd two months later and the rest is history.

The Saints and scripture are mentors for Deacon Lloyd and Margaret. St. Francis of Assisi is an example for both. He was a gentle soul and had a special way with people. He was simplistic and had courage to buck the system, not accepting his Father's money- overall, he was just a good guy. Mother Teresa of Calcutta is also an inspiration to Margaret. She gave up everything for the Lord, she struggled with dark times, but kept her focus on helping people. Margaret's brother, has actually had the honor of meeting Mother Teresa, while working in Albania. He and some of his friends built a storage shed for them at their convent. How special is that?

There are so many scripture passages that help to guide us in our day and Margaret is joyful each morning reminding herself of Psalm 118:24; "this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." This message is a reminder that today is a new day, to be positive, and to try again. Deacon Lloyd has two favorite scripture passages: Luke 18:9-14, the Pharisee and the Tax Collector – Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

I think Deacon Lloyd summed up their love and appreciation to God best by saying, "Anything I have, or have accomplished, comes from God; life, intellect, education, relatively good health, financial security, my lovely Margaret, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren – all are blessings from God." **Thank you to Deacon Lloyd and Margaret for your examples of love and selflessness. Amen!**