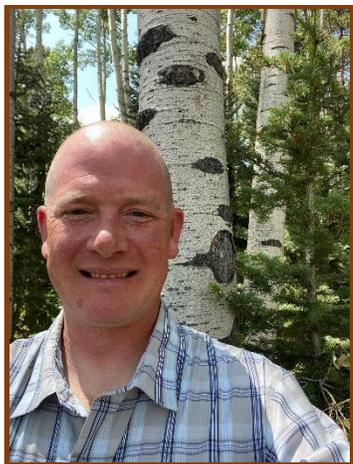


# Parishioner of the Month

## August 2021

### Joshua Boden



On Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, Joshua David Boden will join the Order of Deacons in Pueblo, Colorado. It has been a long journey for Josh to get to this day. Born and raised in Canon City as a Catholic since 1977, he was brought up through the usual Religious Education programs until Confirmation and high school graduation. After high school, Josh attended the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo, now known as the Colorado State University of Pueblo and later transferred to the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

There, Josh, graduated with degrees in Spanish Foreign Languages and Cultures and Political Science. During this time, he would go back and forth to church, but never really got involved. While studying Spanish, a professor suggested that he find a Spanish “Pen Pal” to help him to learn the conversational language. Well, Josh wasn’t a fan of having a male pen pal and so he sent out about twenty-five requests to college age Spanish ladies to be his pal, with not much luck. Except, for Marisol, who has a fiery spirit, and replied to his request, thinking it was a joke. But being the good sport that she is, she began communicating with Josh through e-mail and eventually on the phone and their friendship grew over the next two years.

In 2001 Josh decided to make a trip to Medellin, Colombia to meet Marisol and her family. He spent two months there and before he left, he was “hooked”, Marisol had worked her voodoo Catholic-Colombian-spell on him! Josh returned to Colombia a second time that year and about six months later Marisol traveled to the United States, under a Fiancé VISA and Josh and Marisol were married in civil court within ninety days. But, being of Catholic heritage, this did not sit well with the grandmas from Colombia and a marriage in the Catholic Church was of great importance. So, in 2004, while working and living in Cortez, Josh and Marisol prepared for marriage with Father Derrick Scott (who is now the Vicar General with the Diocese of Pueblo). After much planning and preparation, a trip to Colombia and a wedding in the Catholic Church in South America was fulfilled.

During this time Josh was working as a Port of Entry Officer and eventually accepted an officer position with the Colorado State Patrol, while Marisol was working in the hospital. They were members and attended St. Margaret Mary’s Church, but it was difficult to be involved and commit the time; between their work schedules and the birth of their two beautiful daughters; Tori and Belle. However, as we all know the Lord works in wonderful ways, Josh was promoted in 2014 to Sergeant in the Gunnison Office. Once in town, they joined St. Peter’s Catholic Church and ironically, it was the same month as when Father Andres arrived in town. It didn’t take Josh and Marisol long (one weekend) to discover Father Andres was having a Spanish Mass and that was where they settled in. Josh joined the Knights of Columbus right away and since has taken on the task of being the Grand Knight, Marisol has been on the Parish Council, and for over six years working with the Hispanic Community and helping with Baptismal preparation.

Also, during this time, Josh watched Deacon Mike Anderson go through his Deacon formation and it gave him food for thought. It was a big commitment and Josh was praying and trying to discern if this was the path he

should take. Father Andres was out of the office at this same time, in the Holy Land, so Josh was not able to discuss his discernment with him, but the Holy Spirit kept tugging at Josh. He would have dreams and visions about it and when he told Marisol of all this, she wondered if he was too young for such a task. But the Holy Spirit kept tugging on Josh and after praying together with Marisol, they both agreed this was his path to take. As soon as he made this decision, Josh could feel the strong presence of the Holy Spirit. After Father Andres returned, Josh asked Father for a meeting, he did not tell him what he wanted to discuss, but Father Andres said he too wanted to meet with him as well. So, when they sat down together, they discovered both were discerning the Deaconate program for Josh! How is it that they both came to be thinking and feeling the same about the Deacon formation for Josh around the same time? They could never quite confirm the date/time when they both felt this as a next step for Josh – but it certainly makes you wonder?

Now for the last four and one-half years, Josh has been spending weekends and evening in retreats and classwork, constantly learning and growing in his spirituality. But the journey was not easy and during this time of commitment, Josh faced many challenges and there were times when felt like; “I cannot do this anymore.” He had been involved in a shooting on the job, slipped and fell and has had five surgeries from the incident, he had two kids at home that needed his time and attention, and his family was facing other health issues. But Josh kept reminding himself that God never gives you more than you can handle; and he had to learn to place his faith in God’s hands and listen and follow him. He had to learn how to give up steering the boat, which was very hard to do, step out of the way, and let God do it. This could have possibly been the hardest and most important lesson he learned in his Deacon formation journey. It wasn’t easy, but it brought peace and joy to his heart and taught him to focus on God, ask him for help, for direction and most importantly to listen. He prays to the saints in this same way, not any one saint in particular, they all bring their own strength and guidance to lead the way he needs to go.

Josh’s Mother once told him, “I don’t know how to pray.” He could tell this really bothered her, but Josh feels that prayer comes in many forms and levels and that it is truly a path to developing a deeply personal relationship with God. When I asked Josh about prayer in his day, he was not able to pinpoint thirty minutes each morning or a designated time. His prayer is constant – striving to focus each day – all day on how he can glorify God, love others, and build a relationship of faith and trust - with an ability to continue to listen for God’s guidance. That can be frustrating and not always the answer you think it should be – sometimes you get “knocked off your horse” with a dose of humility, but these last four and one-half years of deaconate studies has helped Josh to recognize he needs to be open to God’s calling. It really is mysterious - yet the goal is to help others see this beautiful mystery and for us all to enter into heaven one day.

In fact, that is one of Josh’s gifts. After being “knocked off his horse” as a teen in a car accident, he suffered a head injury, which caused him to struggle with his learning. One weekend, his parents talked him into going with them on a retreat in Santa Fe and that is where he discovered the Spanish language and strangely enough, he was able to understand it better than English at the time. So that is when Josh decided to major in Spanish in college. Which has been such a gift for him to share. It has allowed him to be able to reach out to so many more people and listen to them, helping them to develop an understanding of their situation and to find their own solutions. Sometimes the answer is to just let go because we may never know why things happen. He has found Christ in so many people this way, sometimes a conversation just “out of the blue.”

Which leads us to Josh’s favorite Bible passage, Matthew 4:19: ‘He said to them, “Come after me and I will make you fishers of men.”’ **Thank you and CONGRATULATIONS Josh on your Deacon Ordination on Friday.**

**We are so blessed and grateful to have you share your time and talents with our Parish Communities. May God Bless You!**