



MEDIA ALERT
May 11, 2017

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SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE SAVIOR ANNOUNCES ORDINATION OF DEACON MICHAEL NEELAND SDS
Sensing God's Persistence – He Answered the Call
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WHAT: Society of the Divine Savior announces the ordination of Deacon Michael Neeland. He will serve his first Masses of Thanksgiving at St. Pius X in Wauwatosa and then in his hometown of Alden, N.Y. before beginning his ministry as associate campus minister, at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Fla. this summer.

Prior to discerning life as a Salvatorian priest, Neeland lived in an L'Arche Community in Tacoma, Wash.: He spent two years living among individuals with, and without, disabilities, in accordance with the beatitudes. "It's life-changing to live alongside people who are different...who society turns its back on," said Neeland. "You begin to see Christ in them. People are broken and saying to you 'come into my life.' You learn unconditional love."

Ten years ago a priestly vocation was not even on Neeland's radar. He had served as a volunteer firefighter/EMT and had worked as a social worker for a nonprofit in Buffalo, N.Y. "It's impossible for me to explain my 'call' but I fought it for a long time," he said. "I would look at situations and feel something."

Looking forward to his ordination, Neeland shared, "Eighty percent of Jesus' ministry was through action...not words. Salvatorians go outside of action...not words. We go outside of the box," he said. "My prayer is a prayer of action." He sensed God's persistence, and answered the call to become a Salvatorian priest.

ORDINATION: **Sat., May 27, 2017**
11:00 a.m. Mass
St. Pius X Parish
2506 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI

FIRST MASSES: **Sun., May 28, 2017**
10:15 a.m. Mass
St. Pius X
2506 N. Wauwatosa Ave.,
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Sunday, June 11, 2017
11:00 a.m. Mass
St. John the Baptist (Hometown)
2021 Sandridge Rd.,
Alden, NY 14004



SALVATORIANs

Salvatorian priests and brothers are members of the Society of the Divine Savior, a Catholic religious community founded in 1881 by Fr. Francis Jordan. The U.S.A. Province is headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., and led by Fr. Joseph Rodrigues, SDS, U.S.A. provincial. As men of prayer and action, Salvatorians are encouraged to use their unique and diverse talents through "all ways and means" to spread the word of God. They work as equals within the family of Salvatorian sisters and lay, priests and brothers.

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