

## **A TRIBUTE TO FATHER RIC POLMOUNTER**

### **“40 Years of Service, Devotion, and Faith”**

Father Ric Polmounter is the son of the late Frederick and Catherine (Maduro) Polmounter. He was born in Hazleton on November 24, 1952. He attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Elementary School and graduated from Hazleton Senior High School in 1970. He later attended St. Pius X Seminary in Dalton and the University of Scranton with a BA degree in history. He pursued graduate studies at St. John's Seminary: School of Theology in Brighton, Massachusetts. Ordained to the Diaconate on April 15, 1977, he served at Holy Saviour Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and later his Diaconal Internship at St. Rita's Church in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Father Ric was ordained to the Roman Catholic Priesthood by the late Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, Bishop of Scranton, on May 6, 1978. He celebrated his First Mass at his home parish, Holy Rosary Church in Hazleton on Sunday, May 7, 1978. His first priestly assignment was Assistant Pastor at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Plains, from 1978-1981. He was then assigned to Assistant Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Dunmore from 1981-1986. While there he pursued and was awarded a Master of Science degree in Religious Education from Marywood College in 1983. Bishop Timlin appointed him the Spiritual Moderator of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Men in 1984. In 1986 he was appointed Assistant Pastor of the Church of St. Mary of the Assumption in Old Forge, Pennsylvania.

He received his first pastoral assignment on July 9, 1990, to St. Mary, Help of Christians Church and St. Mary's Assumption Church in Pittston and Administrator of St. Mary's Assumption School. In addition to his pastoral assignment, Bishop Timlin appointed him to the College of Consultors and the Presbyterial Council. Other diocesan appointments were to the Board of Education and Finance Committee of the Diocesan Schools Office and the Priests Retirement Advisory Board. He was a member of the Greater Pittston Ministerium. He also served on the Tunkhannock Clergy Fellowship and the Lay Chaplains Board of Tyler Memorial Hospital and was Vice President of the Board of Pastors of Seton Catholic High School in Pittston. He was a member of the Administrative Board of Region 7 Catholic Schools and the Priest's Advisory Committee for the Diocesan Annual Appeal in 2006.

Father was appointed as the Pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin March Church in Tunkhannock and St. Mary of the Lake Church in Lake Winola in 2006. In 2007 Bishop Martino appointed Father to the Diocesan Finance Council, to the Planning Commission and was elected to the Council of Priests. He was named to the Diocesan Implementation Commission for “Called to Holiness & Mission” in 2009. He served on the College of Consultors and Episcopal Vicar of the Northern Region. In that capacity he also served as a member of the Seminary Admissions Board, Seminarian Evaluation Board and Diocesan Safety Commission. He currently serves on the Priests Personnel Board, Presbyterial Council, Seminary Admissions and Evaluation Board and the College of Diocesan Consultors.

Father Ric was appointed by Bishop Bambera on August 17, 2015, to Pastor of St. John Bosco Church in Conyngham. He will celebrate his 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly Ordination on Sunday, May 6, 2018, with a Mass of Thanksgiving offered at St. John Bosco Church followed by a reception beginning at 1:00 PM at the Valley Country Club.

Throughout these past 40 years, Father Ric has always been a truly dedicated assistant, pastor, teacher, manager and counselor. In the short time that Father is here with us at St. John Bosco, we realize that of the many roles he may take part in, the most important one, first and foremost to Father, is that of Priest. He is not only the key to our success, but he is our key to heaven.

May God grant him many more years of service to the faithful on this occasion of his 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.