

## Meet Deacon Dennis

Deacon Dennis Purificacion, the son of a career U.S. Navy sailor, was born in Manila. At age one, he immigrated to the U.S. with his family and settled in the San Francisco Bay Area. As a teenager he became more involved with his parish in Milpitas after his grandfather died, especially the Jr. Legion of Mary and as an altar server and catechist. The Legion of Mary and the parish deacon planted seeds during his teenage years to become a married deacon.

He attended USF where he graduated *magna cum laude* in Theology with a Philosophy minor and later completed an M.A. Theology degree from CUA with a thesis in moral theology. He taught Religion at St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School in Vallejo and later earned a doctorate in education administration (Ed.D.) from the USF Institute for Catholic Educational Leadership with a dissertation on church-state relations. His S.T.L. thesis focuses on the theology of war and military ethics from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley.

Dennis first met his wife Tove Ann while she was Confirmation Coordinator at St. Catherine's Church in Vallejo, and they were later appointed delegates for the Third Sacramento Diocesan Synod. As an education administrator, Dennis co-founded and/or sustained five Catholic post-secondary institutes, formally taught over 1,000 students, and drafted a graduate catechetics degree. He is Diocesan Director of Religious Education for the Santa Rosa Diocese and serves as a reviewer for the U.S. Bishops Subcommittee on the Catechism. Dennis and Tove Ann married at St. Catherine's on July 12, 2003, after he proposed to her at World Youth Day in Toronto.

Tove Ann completed her Ph.D. dissertation on culture, religion and politics and serves as President of the Maris Stella Institute, a growing catechetical institute in American Canyon ([www.MarisStellaInstitute.org](http://www.MarisStellaInstitute.org)).

Their 5 children are John Paul (age 10), Emmanuel Jeremiah (age 6), Mariana Mahal (age 4), Faith Marie (1.5 years) whom Deacon Dennis baptized on the same day as his ordination, and Therese Maria Hope (in utero). Their first family pet fish were named Admiral Ackbar and Nemo. The Purificacion Family enjoys family time at the Vallejo waterfront.

Following ordination to the diaconate on June 28, 2014, he was assigned to his home parish of St. Catherine's in Vallejo and, effective Oct. 11, 2015, will be assisting as well in St. Joseph's in Vacaville.