

### 1. THANKS

My name is FRT – parishioner – and yesterday I was ordained.  
Initial application in '87 with Fr. Lucey – then again in '98.  
A year of interviews, examinations, psych – the 4 years of Seminary  
And yesterday Cardinal Law assigned me to \_\_\_\_\_.

This is a Mass of Thanksgiving – my 1<sup>st</sup> Mass as Deacon  
With Friends and Family that have supported me  
With Friends and Family that have asked me if I was crazy  
& I thank you all as we take this time to Thank God.

CONGRATS  
CARDS PRAISING  
GINNI

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### 2. In the midst of all this FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

& it's appropriate – a week of 911 memorials and the scandal in the church.

I was a pre-Vatican II CCD student (Srs. of St. Joe (habits) – St. Mary's in Pittsfield)  
Sin= Black Mark      God's big Ledger Book

Let me tell you something:

THE BOOK IS NOT FULL OF PERFECT PEOPLE

THE BOOK IS FULL OF FORGIVEN PEOPLE

- That's why I'm your Deacon
- They stopped looking for perfect Deacons and found a forgiven Deacon
- I'm not serving perfect people, I am serving forgiven people BELIEVE IT!

No matter what

Our faith is rooted in God's mercy and forgiveness.

Remember **JUSTICE : MERCY : LOVE**

We Sin

911 is real

The sin in the church is real

The sin in our life is real

The forgiveness of God, the mercy of God is also real.

- Payment would've been justice

### 3. In today's Gospel the Servant asks for TIME

- Time would've been mercy

King forgives the debt outright

*not Forgiveness*

- Forgiveness was out of love

Our God is a God of Love – and we are the beloved.

**This Gospel is about changed hearts.**

The King's Heart was changed – and became merciful.

The Servant's Heart was unchanged – and demanded Justice.

To want to forgive is a grace (DO WE HAVE THE WANT?)

As we continue with a Mass of Thanksgiving let's pray for FORGIVING HEARTS,  
MERCIFUL HEARTS – Hearts that go beyond mercy, to LOVE.