

## Meet Father Tony Taschetta

*"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."* In his homily on the day of my Ordination, Bishop Blanchette reminded me and the people, who I was to be and what I was to do. *"You are a servant of the Lord Jesus and you come to minister to His people."* For twenty-five years I've been trying to understand what that means and how that is manifested in action. Sometimes it has been as easy as breathing and other times not easy at all.



As a priest I have the luxury to waste time with God (they call it prayer), hang around with people (they call it ministry), and touch eternity (they call it salvation). And for this I am well compensated, materially comfortable and loved by the people I serve. Not a bad deal. In exchange for this I have promised to listen to my bishop (they call it obedience), have no single exclusive relationship except for the one with my God (they call it celibacy) and mediate between God and the people I am called to serve (call it what you want). It's not a big deal. But it is a big deal! It's the biggest.

I can't imagine another life where an individual is able to impact so many people at such a deep level so often. I have often said that you don't really need a priest until you need one, and when that happens, no one else will do. At the moments of birth and death, at the times of union and separation, at the events of Reconciliation we are invited to be there in the midst of God's people's pain and joy.

It's a wonderful life. I am filled with gratitude to my God, my parents, my family and the Church for calling me to it. And I wish to add my voice in calling forth young people to hear the inner voice of God calling them to serve.

Father Tony Taschetta is a Joliet Diocesan priest and celebrated his 33rd anniversary as a priest on September 22, 2005.

If you think you would like to be a servant of the Lord, contact Father Mark O'Donnell, Vocation Office, Diocese of Norwich, 201 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360 (860)-887-9294 or E-Mail him at [vocations@norwichdiocese.org](mailto:vocations@norwichdiocese.org). Visit the web site at [www.God-calls.org](http://www.God-calls.org)