

## **Interview with Tod Simone, Pastoral Minister at St. John the Evangelist**

### **When did you begin thinking about working in the Church?**

I was approached by my pastor. He wanted to discuss the opportunity with me.

### **Who was involved in your considering lay ecclesial ministry?**

My wife and I gave it careful consideration. Since she knew this was something I really wanted, she backed me 100 percent.

### **How did you prepare for your role? What training did you receive—from where? From whom?**

In my case my degree is in Business Management. Having said that, most of my initial training was done by my Pastor, Assisting Priest, and my fellow Pastoral Associates and Ministers.

### **What is your title and what do you do?**

My job title is Pastoral Minister. My duties focus on preparing funerals, along with visitation of the sick and homebound. I prepare the liturgy committee agenda and participate in Holy Day Masses. However, with a small staff, I pitch in where needed.

### **What is your advice to others thinking about a similar path?**

The profound sadness that goes with planning a funeral is offset by the knowledge that you are doing your part to guide a family through the worst period of their lives. We also balance that with the joy of Baptism or First Communion. The advice I was given when I first started was: Treat every person who comes to you in need as if it was Jesus Christ himself. That has stuck with me to this day. That is advice I would pass along to someone considering this type of career.