



Set against the backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains on a brilliant Saturday of Easter Week, the Episcopal Church welcomed its newest priest with the ordination of Jennifer Ronan Durant to the Sacred Order of Priests. Presided over by the Right Reverend Michael Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, this milestone event capped a nearly decade-long journey that took Jennifer and the entire Durant family from Massachusetts to North Carolina and two stops in Virginia, as Jennifer answered a call by God and his Church to the priesthood.

Jennifer, Matt, Chris and Kate Durant belonged to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cary between 2004 and 2008. During that time Jennifer served a number of St. Paul's ministries as she discerned her call to the priesthood. Following a late 2005 recommendation by a St. Paul's Parish Discernment Committee charged with that task, Bishop Curry accepted Jennifer as an Aspirant to the **North Carolina Diocesan Ordination Process**. She served a 6-month internship at Grace Episcopal Mission in Clayton, while taking preliminary classes at Campbell University Divinity School and completing a year-long Clinical Pastoral Education program at Rex Hospital.

In Summer 2008, the entire Durant family relocated to Alexandria, Virginia, so that Jennifer could pursue a Masters of Divinity at Virginia Theological Seminary. Midway through her studies, **Jennifer joined other seminarians on a 3-week sojourn to Jerusalem** to further study and soak up that sacred region. Following VTS graduation in May, 2011, **Jennifer was ordained as a Transitional Deacon** in June at Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh. She accepted a call as Assistant Rector at **Church of our Saviour** in East Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2011. Passing the National Episcopal Church's General Ordination Examination in early 2012 gave way to Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests at Church of our Saviour on Saturday, April 14, 2012.

Saturday's service was nothing short of spectacular. Standing before Bishop Curry in an alb created especially for Jennifer by her gifted mother, Linda, Jennifer was surrounded by a church brimming with family, friends and fellow priests, as well as Church of our Saviour parishioners and a number of St. Paul's parishioners. She answered each question of the Examination with an assured, spirit-filled voice.

Several members of St. Paul's played key roles in the service, including the Reverend George Adamik as Jennifer's sponsoring Presbyter and the Reverend Dr. Sally Harbold who delivered a heartfelt homily. Sally quipped that the state of her shorn head was not because she was ill, but that she had promised Jennifer she would shave off all her hair if Jennifer was ever ordained -- and Jennifer held her to it! Paul Gregg, who had served on Jennifer's Parish Discernment Committee, served as a lector, while Emery Anderson knocked it out of the park, accompanying the gifted COOS choirs and musicians with his trumpet on several hymns and a rousing Postlude.

The newly minted priest served as celebrant during all three services the following day with typical Jennifer aplomb and characteristic humor.

For those who attended this amazing service, and who have accompanied Jennifer on her journey over the past 8 years, it was a privilege and a blessing to share this weekend with Jennifer, Matt, Kate and Chris. The Reverend David Stoddart, Rector of Church of our Saviour, is a gifted Presbyter and an ideal complement to Jennifer. It is clear to all of us that the entire Durant family is exactly where they need to be at this time. They are thriving.

Written by Betsy Flagg McBrayer

Read the **sermon given at the ordination** by the Rev. Dr. Sally L. Harbold.

Click Read more... below for photos. **Click here for more pictures on SmugMug.**

Read **Jennifer Durant Ordained as Deacon, Jun 18, 2011.**

Read **Jennifer Durant Studies in Jerusalem, Jan 2010.**

Read **Ordination Process in the Diocese of North Carolina.**

Some of Jennifer's sermons: **4-17-2011, 7-11-2010, 6-20-2010.**

The Rev. Jennifer Durant and The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of NC



Matt and Jennifer



Emery on the Trumpet



The cover of Jennifer's ordination booklet



*The Ordination of
Jennifer Ronan Durant
To the Sacred Order of Priests*

*Saturday the fourteenth of April
in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve
Eleven o'clock in the morning
Church of Our Saviour
Charlottesville, Virginia*

Last Updated (Saturday, 05 May 2012)

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