

On behalf of my Benedictine brothers I thank all assembled here. Your very presence is itself an offering, a prayer for the priesthood of Fr. Stephen, both for today and all the days of his ministry. I thank the choir for worshiping with us today and adding both beauty and magnificence to our celebration.

A special thanks to Bishop Libasci for presiding at this ordination. Bishop your support and consideration for our community is always both very evident, and very much appreciated.

Bishop McCormack, such a good friend to our community for so many years now, thank you.

We express gratitude as well to Fr. Denis Robinson and his confrere Br. James who traveled from Indiana where Fr. Stephen attended Saint Meinrad's Seminary. Fr. Denis is the rector of St. Meinrad's, where Fr. Stephen was instructed and guided so well and with such great charity.

Saint Meinrad's Seminary just happens to be the *alma mater* of Bishop Libasci as well. Bishop you now have a spy firmly implanted in the Abbey.

We are most grateful to Fr. Stephen's family, his father, Frank and his mother, Susan and of course his 7 brothers. We are indebted to them for Fr. Stephen being raised in an atmosphere of faith and hope and love, characteristics we pray will be evident throughout Fr. Stephen's priesthood.

Finally, to Fr. Stephen himself we say thank you for the generous offering he makes today. It is a great sign of hope for us and for our Church. God bless Fr. Stephen and God bless all of us.