

## Verger Makes Good as a Deacon

On 4 December 2004, T. Vincent Jang, who was sometime Assistant Verger and Sacristan at Grace Cathedral and Assistant Cathedral Verger at Washington National Cathedral was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon. Verger Nancy Paulin from Canada was present and assisted in the Liturgy.

What was it like to go from a Verger to a Deacon? In most places the Deacon is with the consent of the Rector, the person-in-charge of the setting of the Liturgy and creating the details of same.



While I was Verger, I received the instructions from the clergy or in some cases, the Deacon who is the Liturgist of the Parish. As a Verger I carried out the instruction as well as making sure that all the logistics of the upcoming liturgy is carried out. It will mean that these logistics will have to be discussed with the Deacon on how these logistical things are to be accomplished.

As the Deacon, I create the concept and work with the Verger to carry out these instructions. This is particular when a Verger is available. I have yet to do that in my own congregation, so I do two roles and that of a Deacon and Verger.

In addition, I am a member of the Clergy and Lay United for Economic Justice (CLUE) which is made up of many churches, unions and other agents who as a group will work on issues concerning the entire community. Recently I was involved with a Prayer Vigil on behalf of the hotel workers who are still trying to resolve towards getting a contract for their jobs in the various San Francisco Hotels. This is my way as a Deacon to become a witness to the concerns of the laborers in our town. There have been some interesting developments in progress, but I will not go into that here as the negotiations are still in progress.

The work of a Deacon at my parish at True Sunshine Episcopal Church does not end there. Because of the visibility of the Deacon in many roles in society, issues does not end at the above. I've been invited to become a Jubilee Center Site Visitor for the Episcopal Church. I believe here is a role for me as a Deacon to help create more Jubilee Center Ministries in the Episcopal Church.

The concept of a visible presence as a clergy presence is direly needed to help spread the gospel by just being there and providing the support as appropriate.

I see a lot of that as Deacons in the important role we place as the BCP says to become the bridge between the church and the world.