

John Newman Steward

John Steward is a man who always stood by his commitments. Born October 25, 1922, in Muskogee, Oklahoma, graduated Classen High School, Oklahoma City, employed at Tinker Field until drafted into the U. S. Army. He served in the army until 1945. He converted to Catholicism during wartime in 1944. His faith never wavered. On January 28, 1946, John married Mary Rose Cortassa. John and Mary were married 54 years. Since leaving the service in 1945, he has held only four jobs, two as a salesman, and two as an insurance agent. John's last fifteen years were spent in service to the church he loved so well as Deacon at Church of the Madalene, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Although he officially retired in 1999 as deacon, John still played very much of an active part in parish pastoral care at the Madalene. John stood by his commitments, because he committed to that which he loved.

John touched the lives of many during his lifetime. In the early years of his work with the Church, John served as catechist for high school students. He and Mary became involved in the diaconate community during his years of formation. He was ordained to the diaconate June 8, 1985. After ordination, John and Mary served the Diocese of Tulsa as presenters for marriage preparation for several years. He will be especially remembered by those sponsors, catechumens and candidates he served during his years as Director of Madalene RCIA. But by his own admission, Deacon John's most rewarding ministry was in pastoral care. As husband, father, friend and deacon, John Steward was always a man who stood by his commitments.