Dave Bofto

Let's meet **Dave Bofto .**

Please tell us a bit about yourself. (How long have you been in the parish? Your family? How do you "make a living", or what did you do before retiring?)
I've been a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church for 50 years. My wife, Linda and I have three children - Shane, Sam and Beth - and six grandchildren. I retired from working as a pharmacist in 2003 after working for 36 years. I began working in Illinois, where I met my wife and then transferred to Billings. Activities outside of church include fishing, hunting, golf, bowling and gardening. I had a great raspberry patch this year!

Please tell us which Mass you proclaim at and how long you've been a Proclaimer. What brought you to this ministry initially?
I began proclaiming at Mass while Father Nat Bourke was our pastor, with encouragement from Kathy Lombardozzi. At first, I began reading at the weekday Masses. Then I started proclaiming at the 5:00 pm weekend Mass and now I am proclaiming at the 10:30 am Mass. This all began about 30 years ago.

What changes have you seen in your ministry over the years, particularly since the pandemic restrictions? Why have you chosen to continue serving? Have you volunteered in other capacities?
I believe Nick Coffman was helpful in training Proclaimers. I'm very happy to see that Proclaimers don't have to deal with masks. I continue to serve because I believe serving the parish is essential to being Catholic. I feel this is important to my faith journey.
I also, over the years, have been a Greeter, Eucharistic Minister, participant in Adult Education classes, Religious Book Club and have been a member of the Knights of Columbus council here, as well as part of the Secular Franciscan Order.

As more people are vaccinated and hope rises for an end to the pandemic, what message or story do you have to share with your parish family?
I feel an important element to our parish family's growth is to open up our many faith groups to meeting and faith-sharing again. I see this is beginning to happen.