

Bob Malone  
March 28, 2012  
Valley Catholic Biography

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Robert David Malone

**Place of birth**

Santa Rosa, California

**Schools attended**

Attended St. Rose Elementary (Santa Rosa), Cardinal Newman High School (Santa Rosa) 1975, Santa Rosa Junior College (AS Degree) 1978, University of the Pacific (BS in Engineering) 1981, currently enrolled in Santa Clara University's Pastoral Ministries Degree Spirituality (MA in progress).

**Family information**

I am married to the wonderful Jill Malone. My children are Matthew, Katy, and Tyler.

**Parish affiliations, particular ministries, specific affiliations**

I am currently affiliated with St. Julie's parish in San Jose, where I am Director of the Tijuana Ministries program and the InnVision Breakfast Ministries.

**Work experience, Career**

I began working for PGE in 1981, where I served as an energy management engineer for four years. In 1985 I transitioned to owning my own business Malone Controls Corp focusing on energy-related building control systems.

**Work experience related to church, paid or volunteer. Specifically doing what ministry, under whose auspices, what timelines**

I began working with the church as a financial committee member at St. Leo's in the 1990's when Father Tom Shea was the pastor. In 2007, my whole family became involved in Tijuana Ministry work at St. Julie's through my daughter's desire to join a ministry experience. After seeing the trip was a week long I tried my best to steer the family away from it, but my daughter held out and there we went! It was an incredibly transformative life changing immersion experience, which led to a powerful conversion experience for everyone. I owe a great debt of gratitude to my daughter for forcing me to move out of my comfort zone and embrace the wonderful, loving people of Tijuana. I've served with Tijuana Ministries for five years now, and have been part of the leadership for the trip for the last three years. We have been blessed to have built ten houses for at risk families in Tijuana! Last year I was blessed to see a long term goal come to be, and we were joined by seven different parishes for this ministry. I was introduced to the other ministry I serve with, InnVision, in 2003 when I was invited to join others in a small faith group in fixing breakfast downtown on a Saturday at Montgomery Street Inn. At the time, there were two gentlemen who had been doing this breakfast since the late 1990's (Tom Hermanson and John Solomon). Tom and John had self-funded the breakfast since losing parish funding earlier in the year, and had faithfully continued serving once per month. I worked with them for a while, and invited people from the Cursillo Community to be involved. People began to join in and support the program, and we were able to expand to two Saturdays per month. The following year, we had gained enough support to provide breakfast every Saturday of the year. We've grown from serving 600 hot breakfasts per year to almost 10,000 per year, completely staffed and self-funded by volunteers!

**Any significant events which have shaped my Faith and /or my vocation:**

There are several significant events that have shaped my faith. As a student graduating from Cardinal Newman high school in Santa Rosa, I remember a funny moment when my friend Chuck Mache, asked Father Bill Finn, our religion teacher, if anyone in our class was going to be a priest. His response was immediate: "Probably Bob Malone." I laughed when I heard this, but I began to hear the call to serve. Father Finn had recognized something in me, that I had not, and it was something that would continue to grow throughout my adult life.

I was raised in a devout Catholic family, and I remember from the earliest age my parents always helping people. I grew up in that home, and just was fortunate to think that was a requirement: you just helped people. My parents were involved in my parish, my school, ran the St. Vincent DePaul society, and I remember constantly stopping to help people that needed food. I hated it! I remember thinking, "We have to stop

somewhere again?!” I honestly believed everyone did it that way! As I grew up, I was immersed in service as a family tradition and as part of who my parents were. I was always blessed with a very strong faith that kept me close to the church. I look back and realize that I was unbelievably lucky to have the faith I have, and to have met the woman I married. She has helped me manifest this faith, and has challenged me to grow in my faith. The first homeless shelter I visited was with Jill, and I constantly am amazed at her strength. Jill helped me (almost like an incubator) and allowed my faith and desire to serve to grow. The Cursillo Movement also made a huge impact upon me. I made my Cursillo weekend in 2001, and that is really what started my whole desire to serve in a more formal way. I felt the weekend helped gather my spiritual kindling, and light it. The Community (and small faith groups) helped me add more wood to this fire, and aided this fire to become something that has continued to burn. This has really manifested itself as my desire to enter formal ministry.

### **Why I want to be a Deacon**

I’ve heard the call to serve all my adult life and the decision to enter the deacon formation program became the culmination of that call.

By coincidence, or rather, **by God’s timing**, my journey to the diaconate began on a Good Friday. Six years ago I was invited to a Rotary Club’s annual Good Friday breakfast. It was there that I met Marie Bernard, who at the time was working for the Chancery. We talked extensively about our church involvements and I shared with her that I was thinking of becoming a deacon. Marie affirmed my desire to serve and told me to get in contact with the diocese. She then gave me Fr. Joseph Benedict’s phone number and directed me to call him the next week. I did. Marie has since become a continual advocate and source of strength throughout the formation process. I then contacted Fr. Jim Mifsud, my pastor at Queen of Apostles, who had been my mentor as well as Jill’s and my dear friend for many years. I shared with him my desire to enter the deacon formation program. He exploded with enthusiasm and affirmed God’s call for me to serve. He said he knew it all along and that I would be a great deacon and servant to God’s people. I had always hoped to serve alongside Fr. Jim, yet his ‘Never Give Up’ spirit is in my heart and will always be an integral part of my ministry.

Finally, I’ve come to realize that it is not **me** wanting to be a deacon, but it is **God** who chose me and formed me and prepared me every step of the way. I recognized I needed more formal academic and spiritual development so I would be better able to serve my existing ministries and my future ministries. I’ve been very blessed to have attended and graduated from the ILM under Anne Grytz’s loving direction. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from brilliant, spirit-filled professors at Santa Clara University and be part of such an incredible group of women and men who share a desire to serve and make the Gospels come alive.