



## **SAINT CLETUS PARISH**

*Living our Faith, Building our Future.*

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The 2022 winner of the Father Gallagher Award for Service to Church and Country is Rod Bradford.

Rod grew up in Denver, with three older brothers in the Marine Corps Reserves, and enlisted in the Marines while he was still in high school. After graduation from high school in 1962, he went through boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina, and to electronics school in Jacksonville, Long Beach, and San Diego. He was stationed in Yuma, Arizona and eventually to Iwokumi, Japan, where he served until he was discharged in 1965. He served two more years in the Marine Corps Reserves in Denver.

Rod lived in Denver until 1996, raising his children as a single dad, when the company he was working for transferred him to Chicago. There, he met his second wife, Diane, and along the way donated a kidney to her in 1998. They were married three months after her operation. Diane introduced him to Catholicism, and Rod went through RCIA at St. Barbara in Brookfield.

Diane had attended St. Cletus as a young person, and when she and Rod moved to LaGrange in 2004, she wanted to come back to this parish. Rod says he became really active at St. Cletus around 2012 and continues to be active today. He sings in the choir and has been the president of the Holy Name Society for six years.



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Diane passed away in 2016. Rod has four adult children: two in Colorado, one in Texas and one in Kansas. We hope he will be at St. Cletus for many years to come!

We are happy to present the Father Gallagher Award to Rod Bradford.