

# CRAWFORD

## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2019

### Graduation Cruise

We began our year with an Eastern Caribbean Cruise to celebrate Ethan and his cousin Justin's upcoming graduation. We flew into San Juan and then set sail to the islands of St. Thomas, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, and St. Maarten. We enjoyed snorkeling, mud baths, the world's steepest zip line, and kayaking in a bioluminescent bay while celebrating with the graduates - it was a great time with family!

### Ethan's Graduation

Ethan turned 18 in March, and graduated in June. We had a great mini-family reunion here at Camp Crawford and enjoyed a poolside barbecue while sharing some memories and advice with the new graduate; and perhaps roasting him just a wee bit ;-)  
Ethan began classes this fall at Sierra College where his first two years will be free. He is then planning to transfer to another school to complete a degree in mechatronics/mechanical engineering.



## Year in Review 2019

It's been another busy year for the Crawford Clan in Northern California! God is good, and we are very grateful for our blessings as we come to the end of another year. We made many great memories with our family and friends, and we are very appreciative of our continuing growth as we progress through diaconate formation together.

We had a great time celebrating our Scottish heritage with our "extended" family at the Highland games in Woodland this spring. We also completed some much needed repairs in our pool area by completely replacing the fence that had rotted and fallen down with one that is a combination of sheet metal and pressure treated wood. Logan and Katie and the boys surprised me with a Father's Day gift of a weekend work party on the property, and we were able to make some serious headway on projects that needed to be completed! In June we were able to get to Bend for our nephew's graduation and celebrate with family there as well.



## Montana Mission Trip

End of June Seth and I left for a 10 day mission trip to Montana with Young Neighbors in Action. We were able to serve at a Vacation Bible School, help out at a St. Vincent De Paul thrift store, and spend time with young men and women at a Youth Correction Facility. It was a great time for the two of us, and we got to cover a lot of beautiful country along the way. Seth is a junior this year and is a three sport athlete competing in track, football, and soccer.

## Diaconate Formation

Missy and I completed our first year of active formation in May, and in August I went through a Rite of Candidacy to become an official Candidate for ordination to the permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Sacramento. Our second year began in September and we have been staying quite busy with formation weekends, online classes, ministry to the homeless and sick, mentoring opportunities, and spiritual direction. God willing, I will complete formation in June of 2022 and be ordained as a deacon in the Catholic Church. Please keep us in your prayers.

## Second Half of 2019...

Missy and I bought kayaks this year and had a great time exploring some of our lakes and rivers. As soon as we completed our purchase Missy said, "You know, we probably should have spent that money replacing our washer and dryer which are about to break..." and sure enough, the very next week our appliances completely died. We now take our laundry with us when kayaking and wash our clothes in the lake...

End of July Missy and I were able to head down to Carmel and Monterey for an extended weekend and had a great time exploring a section of Hwy 1 and Big Sur, and met up with our friends the Grays who took us through 17 Mile Drive and Pebble Beach as well.

End of August Ethan went skydiving, a birthday gift from his parents - and survived! In September we spent a weekend in Reno with Logan and Katie celebrating his 21st birthday. We caught a great magic show and I introduced everyone else to the excitement of the craps tables.

Our fall was marked by rolling blackouts as PG&E kept turning off the power in order to try and prevent a repeat of the fires that decimated Paradise last year. We were finally able to get our hands on a generator, and have just put in an interlock and 50 amp plug off of our electric panel, so we should be better prepared in the future.

In October we went with Ethan, Logan and Katie to Yosemite for a weekend. We had great weather and it was Logan and Katie's first time in the park. We are constantly in awe of all the beautiful areas that we live next to, whether it's Lake Tahoe, the Mission at Carmel, Yosemite National Park, Hwy 1 and Big Sur - truly we are blessed to live where we do! Missy's mom was able to come for a visit first part of November and we went to Apple Hill to enjoy the fall colors and lots of homemade apple pies and treats!

Advent has begun, and as we prepare for Christmas our thoughts turn to the countless ways God has blessed us this year; and to you, our family and friends, who constitute our greatest blessing! We are so grateful for all of you, and we pray that God may richly bless you and your loved ones - this year, and in all the years to come!







