

Father Floyd McKinney: 'There is never a dull moment'

Father Floyd McKinney is a priest from the Diocese of Wichita. He volunteered for service in the Diocese of Dodge City in 2008. He has served as sacramental minister at St. Dominic, Garden City, and St. Stanislaus, Ingalls, (2008), and parochial vicar at Prince of Peace, Great Bend, (2008-2009). He is currently parochial administrator at Sacred Heart, Pratt, and sacramental minister at St. John, St. John.

What was it that made you want to be a priest?

Actually I never really thought seriously about religious life until I was out of college. There were times before that I had seen priests and wondered what that life was like, but it did not hit me as something I wanted to do with my life. I was a farm kid and I did not connect farm living with priesthood.

Was there a particular individual who inspired you to become a priest?

The story continues as I met Father Joe Gorentz in my last years of college. He would throw out hints that I should consider thinking about religious life, particularly being a priest in the diocese. However, I did not listen to his hints and kept pursuing my career. After college when I moved, by chance the bishop moved Father Gorentz also; I remained friends with him and he continued to throw hints about my vocation in religious life. So I can say he is the one who inspired me to think about going to the seminary. About the same time my girlfriend broke off our relationship and I lost my job; that

Meet Our Priests

Father
Floyd McKinney



“Working with the people of God is a blessing far beyond a simple sign of the cross. Knowing that I have been given the opportunity to help you find the spiritual in your life helps me want to work harder at finding the spiritual life that God calls me to live.”

is when I considered that the Spirit was throwing even bigger hints that I needed to listen to Father Gorentz.

Who were people who encouraged you in your vocation?

When I told my parents that I was thinking about the seminary they encouraged me by saying, “You are old enough to know what you are doing, so you can make that decision.” Even the guys I was working with as a welder thought it was a good thing for me to do and showed their signs of support.

What do you like most about being a priest?

There is never a dull moment. Working with the people of God is a blessing far beyond a simple sign of the cross. Knowing that I have been given the opportunity to help you find the spiritual in your life helps me want to work harder at finding

the spiritual life that God calls me to live.

What has been one of the greatest challenges you face in your ministry?

One of the challenges is to be able to preach each weekend. I do receive feedback on what I say and really appreciate when you, the people, tell me when I am or am not saying things that are pertinent to your life. The challenge is keeping the homily informational and inspiring.

What has been one of the highlights, so far, of your priesthood?

As icing on the cake, after parish work, is helping with Engaged Encounter. Being able to do that “extra” ministry and helping couples to prepare for their lifetime together is a joy.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to work with my hands. So I do work on bicycles and ride them to get at least some exercise, or as I say, get rid of extra-size. I have a cabin to go to on my day off and work on projects in my shop and fix things.

If you could take a vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I got back from a trip to Italy recently, so where more could I want to go? Even with all the traveling I have done, I am pretty much a home-body. I would just as soon be at my cabin, piddling.

What are your hobbies?

Bicycles, sewing, a jig-saw puzzle once in awhile, cards, dominos or as I just said, piddling around the shop.