

Father Wesley Schawe:

‘I want to help people get to heaven’

Meet Our Priests

This week’s featured priest:

Father
Wesley Schawe



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Father Wesley Schawe is the pastor of St. Dominic Parish, Garden City, and St. Stanislaus Parish, Ingalls. He has served these parishes since 2008. His previous assignments, as parochial vicar, were at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City, and Prince of Peace, Great Bend. He also serves as Diocesan Director of Pro-Life Activities.

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

Initially, I think it was just a pull, a real attraction that’s hard to explain. Now it’s still that, but it’s also more focused: I want to help people get to heaven.

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

Father Keith Weber, chaplain at the K-State Catholic

Student Center (St. Isidore’s) was probably the inspiration closest in time to my actual decision. Earlier inspirations were Father Marvin Reif, Father Brian Hipp, Father Jonathan Callison, Dave Geist, and my parents — who helped us grow up with priests.

Who were people who encouraged you in your vocation?

The most important: my family — parents, siblings, aunt and uncles, cousins.

The most memorable: my non-Catholic friends — college roommates, teammates, girlfriends, instructors — they were fascinated, surprised, puzzled, but always supportive.

What do you like most about being a priest?

Hearing confessions is probably not my most comfortable

moment (from a personality perspective), but I like it so much because I know what it means, what it does, and how important it is.

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

People turn to a priest in the face of death, violence, anger, or despair, looking for some hope. I think my greatest challenge is wanting to help everyone in every moment of pain or sadness, but knowing that I can’t. It gives a lot more perspective to fixing air conditioners, parking lots, and sound systems!

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

Just one? There have been many, but building up and supporting Natural Family Planning in our diocese has

certainly been a highlight for me.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy playing and watching sports, and playing and watching music.

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

I think the Pacific Northwest would be a fantastic place to visit.

What are your hobbies?

My most recent hobby has been “trying to make reading a hobby.” I finally decided that if I stopped limiting myself to books designed to make me holier or smarter, reading could be a lot more fun. “Reading good books” is a much better hobby than “falling asleep while I read boring books.”