

Dreams of priesthood were born on drive home from church

Meet Our Priests

This week's featured priest:

Father
Reggie Urban

YEAR FOR PRIESTS



“I remember driving home with my parents after Sunday Eucharist, sitting in the back seat of our '52 Chevy.... It seemed like everything was right with the world because we had been ‘to Church’.”

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

The main thing that drew me to become a priest was the Liturgy. I loved the singing, the praying, and the liturgical actions that were part of my childhood. I remember driving home with my parents after Sunday Eucharist, sitting in the back seat of our '52 Chevy, having a deep sense of satisfaction and well-being as we drove back to our farm. It seemed like everything was right with the world because we had been “to Church”. Once I started serving it was all over! I was “hooked” forever “according to the order of Melchizedek”.

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

If I were to name one person, it would be my mother's father, Grandpa Alois. He was such a great person. A teacher and a farmer, he kept telling me that I would be a good priest. I remember sitting at his feet when I was about 5. He asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I told him a “police”, meaning I wanted to be a policeman. Grandpa took advantage of the moment and said, “Oh, you want to

be a priest!” He was my best cheerleader from then on.

Who are the people who encouraged you in your vocation?

Lots of people. Among them were: my parents; both sets of grandparents; Father Ultan Murphy; Father Paulinus Karlin; my aunts and uncles; my siblings; the people at Loretto.

What do you like most about being a priest?

Celebrating the Liturgy. My main reason for being a priest hasn't changed! Even though I enjoy doing many other things as a priest, the Liturgy still gives me the greatest joy. I invariably leave “Church” feeling a deep sense of well-being as I did when I was a child.

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

The lack of time to do everything qualitatively well, especially in recent years, due to the shortage of priests. I tend to be a perfectionist, and it is hard to do a lot of things well.

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

The rituals of the RCIA process have been a great highlight. Of course, this goes along with my main reason for being a priest! I have found that the rituals bring the whole community together in a way that nothing else can. The catechetical part of the RCIA process is a treat as well, since I love to teach people new things, especially about the Bible.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I do like to be out-of-doors. I enjoy playing golf when I can play twice a week. At this time I can't do that, so I have turned to reading (e.g., Carl Jung's writings) and target-shooting with a compound-bow on my Grandpa Alois' farm when the weather is favorable.

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

Right now I would like to go to Egypt, partly because it is so different than anywhere I have been. I am also intrigued by the Egyptian civilization's contribution to world history. I became fascinated with Egypt when I did a report in high-school on the Rosetta Stone.