

Father Michael Helms: From truck driver to priest

Meet Our Priests

This week's featured priest:

Father
Michael Helms

YEAR FOR PRIESTS



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Father Michael Helms was born at La Crosse. He is a religious vocation from St. Theresa Parish in Dighton. He was ordained to the priesthood May 26, 1990, by Bishop Stanley G. Schlarman. He is currently pastor of St. Anthony, Lakin; Christ the King, Deerfield, and St. Raphael, Syracuse.

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

I like working with people in general.

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

Msgr. Arnold Weller was the greatest inspiration for me and one of encouragement.

Who were people who encouraged you in your vocation?

Msgr. Weller, my grandmother and a

lot of the people I worked with when I was a truck driver.

What do you like most about being a priest?

The feelings I have when I have a baptism, or giving children their first communion. Those feelings are unexplainable. Plus seeing the expressions on their faces when they get to receive the body and blood for the first time.

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

Dealing with the challenges that society gives the Church in preparing couples for marriage, or the teaching of the Church, plus the lack of commitment in the people of today.

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

This has always been working with youth and the expressions that I see when they receive one of the sacraments for the first time.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to travel, go hiking in the mountains, fishing, going to a good movie or a live concert.

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

I would like to travel to Rome and tour the Vatican. Go to Germany and Ireland where my family came from.

What are your hobbies?

Bike riding, fishing, swimming, horse-back riding, listening to music and traveling.