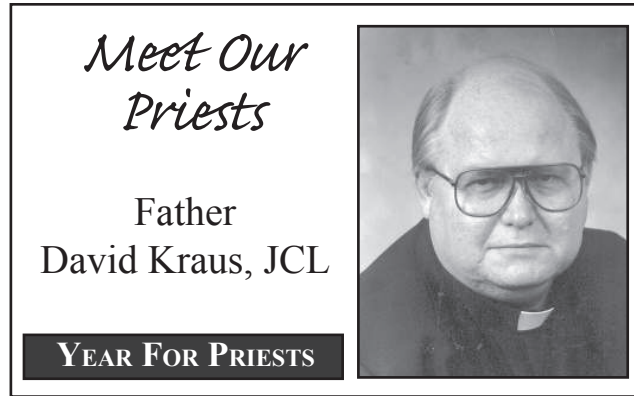


Father David Kraus: Greatest joy is in 'keeping God present among the crowd'

Father Kraus is a vocation from St. Aloysius, Ransom. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, 1967, by Bishop Marion F. Forst. He was granted a J.C.L. degree in canon law from Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1989. He served the diocese as chancellor, several posts in the Tribunal, and numerous pastorates. He retired to Ransom in 2004.



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

I had the thought since I was a young boy. With the Capuchin Fathers taking care of St. Aloysius in Ransom, we had a close relationship with the priesthood. I continued on through grade school, high school, and finally entered St. Mary of the Plains College. It was there with the examples of several priests I took seriously the call to the priesthood.

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

There was no a particular individual, but my parents and grandmothers were definitely in favor of my thoughts of the priesthood. Then the example of the many priests I came to know really inspired me.

Who were the people who encouraged you in your vocation?

All my relatives and friends were helpful while I was studying for the priesthood. The Dominican Sisters of Great Bend, where my aunt Sister Martha was a member, also encouraged my vocation.

What do you like most about being a priest?

The freedom to keep God present

“...One day I was walking in the street near the Vatican and this cardinal came toward me with his hand out for me to shake it. It was Cardinal Ratzinger – now Pope Benedict XVI. He recognized me since I had given him Communion the Sunday before.”

among the crowd is pleasant vocation. Also, I really enjoy visiting the sick and providing sacraments to the elderly.

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

I would say that maintaining my necessary connection with the diocese and my brother priests has at times proved to be challenging. I’m so glad that our Lord and Savior helped me through difficult times.

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

I think studying Canon Law at the Gregorian University in Rome was a great highlight. I met many priests from all over the United States who were definitely supportive. Many of these, and one good friend, are now bishops. I truly enjoyed helping with Holy Communion at Papal

Masses at St. Peter’s, about 10 times in two years. My parents even saw me on television doing my job as a priest. Also, one day I was walking in the street near the Vatican and this cardinal came toward me with his hand out for me to shake it. It was Cardinal Ratzinger – now Pope Benedict XVI. He recognized me since I had given him Communion the Sunday before. I haven’t washed my hand since!

What do you do in your free time?

Believe it or not, I think a little, and pray some. I used to read considerably, but now enjoy – since I’m retired – having coffee a couple times a day with other seniors in Ransom. Now and then I travel to Ness City to help with confessions and it’s a pleasure to have the noon meal with the teachers and students of Sacred Heart School.

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

I would like very much to spend some time in Rome again. Then visiting sites in Germany where my ancestors came from would be a lot of fun again.

What are your hobbies?

I used to collect stamps but now that’s set aside. Reading has always been big for me. At the current time I’m reading an English murder mystery called “Under Orders” by Dick Francis. I also subscribe to “Theological Studies” which contains articles regarding theology, church history, Catholic behavior and the like. I also listen to classical music – and all kinds of other music.