

TOGETHER

a monthly bulletin insert from the archdiocese



ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE

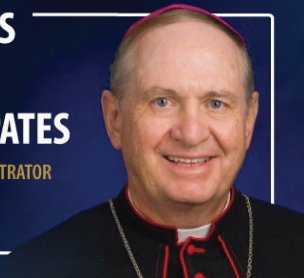
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MESSAGES FROM BISHOP PATES

APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR



June 5, 2023

INTERIM NEWS

I am celebrating the two-month mark of serving as Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese. My first comment is one of heartfelt gratitude for the welcome that has been extended to me on all fronts. Secondly, every evidence is that this faith community has deep roots and on that basis is making Jesus Christ known and loved in our time and place.

The season calls for much activity and celebrations. Clarke University and Loras College experienced beautiful graduation ceremonies, which I attended. It is always a thrill to be caught up in the enthusiasm and appropriate sense of accomplishment expressed in these events which are further enhanced by the Catholic character of the schools. Congratulations are also extended to all of the Mount Mercy University graduates.

My travels have crisscrossed the expansive Archdiocese. As a bishop, I have crozier and mitre, will travel, and confirm! The Sacrament of Confirmation is usually the last of the sacraments of initiation to be conferred in our contemporary sacramental context. I have found the young people basically from the ages of 13-17 to be excited and well prepared. Special recognition is due to the Confirmation Coordinators, the Confirmation sponsors, parents and priests. Our personal investment in the further development of these young people is so essential to their long-term involvement in the Church. Especially is this so in these days of many challenges to faith practice.

The highlight of these two months has been

the ordination of a “transitional” deacon, Greg Lambert, and two priests, Casey Flack and Jeff Frieden, for the Archdiocese. The three are a credit to their families and seminary formation. They will be a source of inspiration and consolation especially as celebrants of the Sacraments. Welcome Greg, Casey & Jeff! The Archdiocese is much blessed.

During these days, I have also been introduced to the Catholic schools, the Catholic Foundation, Catholic Charities, and Pastoral Planning and Leadership Development among other noteworthy undertakings which express the depth of our mission. One “fun” travel experience was a round-trip flight on “Gibbs Air” between Dubuque and Ames, piloted by Father Phil Gibbs of Resurrection Parish. Father navigated the turbulence well and we landed “on a bed of feathers”, each time. We attended the funeral of Father John Herzog at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Ames. In his lifetime, Father Herzog, shared the distinction of a “priest pilot” with several confreres.

About a year or so ago, along with family, friends, and parishioners, planning began for a pilgrimage to Florence & Rome which came to pass on May 3rd to 12th. The group bonded well, we were blessed with superb weather, experienced expected fatigue from endless sightseeing and of course, could not get enough of the Italian cuisine. At the Papal Audience on May 10th, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to greet Pope Francis, as the attached photo attests. Although hindered in mobility, the Holy Father was in high spirits. He asked that all of us in the Archdiocese pray for him. I was happy to assure him that we would fulfill his request.



As we anticipate the future, three events are on the docket:

1. The semi-annual meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, June 14-16th in Orlando, Florida.
2. The Convocation of priests serving in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, June 19-21st at Divine Word College, Epworth.
3. Saturday, June 24th, the ordination of nine permanent deacon candidates at the Cathedral of St. Raphael. The permanent diaconate in the Archdiocese currently consists of 115 active deacons and 23 retired. Under the leadership of Deacon John Stierman, Director of the Permanent Diaconate, the deacon community provides dynamic service in our parishes and in outreach to those in need. The contemporary deacon is referred to as “An Icon of Christ the Servant”.

The most significant future news is the naming of the 11th Archbishop / 13th Bishop of Dubuque. Everywhere I go appreciation for and recognition of the outstanding service of Archbishop Michael Jackels continues to be expressed.

At the same time, curiosity regarding the announcement of the new Archbishop is mounting. The best response is one of prayer for that individual. In this vein, a prayer has been created.

A Prayer as We Await a New Archbishop

O God, you send your Son,
Our Lord Jesus, as priest, prophet, and king.

We thank you for your abundant blessings
bestowed upon our Archdiocese,
and thank you for the ministry of
Archbishop Jackels.

In your grace, send us a bishop like Jesus:
a priest of deep and true prayer,
a teacher with a loving heart and firm
resolve,
and a shepherd of joy and peace,
who desires above all to do Your will.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

It is asked in the spirit of unity that this prayer be recited at the conclusion at each prayer of the faithful and that all of us recite the prayer individually when the opportunity presents itself.

Heartfelt thanks are extended to Deacon John Robbins, Director of Communications, and Father Greg Bahl, Director of Worship, who assisted with the composition and distribution of the prayer.

Meanwhile, we travel on as the Church of Dubuque deeply aware of God's past favors now enjoys great confidence that these favors are far from exhausted.



An interview with Fr. David Ambrosy

By Cassie Bird

Your generous support for priest retirement and the Priest Pension Plan is vital to supporting the Archdioceses' retired priests, who have dedicated their lives in service to God and the Church. This July, Fr. David Ambrosy and Fr. David Kucera (Holy Family Parish in Reinbeck) will be retiring from active priesthood and entering their next chapter as retired priests.

In the interview below, learn more about Fr. David Ambrosy as he reflects on his years of active ministry and what's next for him. Fr. Ambrosy is currently serving as associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Bellevue, St. Catherine Parish in St. Catherine, St. Donatus Parish in St. Donatus, and Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Springbrook.

Meet Fr. David Ambrosy

Rev. David Ambrosy is a native of Zwingle, IA, and the second of eight children. He attended Catholic grade school, Andrew High School, and then Loras College to obtain a business administration degree. Following his graduation from Loras, he worked as a building inspector for an insurance company before receiving the calling to enter formation. He entered seminary in Minnesota, and continued on in Maryland before being ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Dubuque on May 25, 1985.

After ordination, his first assignment was at St. Anthony's Parish in Dubuque. Throughout his time in active ministry, he has served churches in Dubuque, Marion, Cresco, Decorah, Anamosa, Postville, Mount Vernon, Vinton, Springville, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Waverly and Bellevue, as well as serving as chaplain in several hospitals and at Mount Mercy College.

What are your plans for retirement?

Fr. Ambrosy: I plan to live at St. Patrick's Parish in Cedar Falls and help Fr. Ivan Nienhaus and the other priests in the area to celebrate Mass and the sacraments. I've always loved being a parish priest and I want to stay close in retirement to celebrating Mass and the sacraments with the people in the parishes because they are the priest's spiritual family.

For the last three years I've been an associate in Bellevue, and I will miss Bellevue and its people. My home area is also 15 miles from there - my home parish being St. Lawrence in Otter Creek.

What spiritual practices have been influential on your faith life throughout your priesthood?

Fr. Ambrosy: In my years of priesthood, celebrating Mass each day, Liturgy of the Hours, the sacraments, praying the rosary, and praying with people at meetings and at parish functions have all sustained me in my spiritual life.

What advice would you offer younger priests who are just beginning their service as pastors and associate pastors?

Fr. Ambrosy: First, make God and prayer the center of your life. Second, have priest friends who will be there with you to support you, and for you to support them. Third, stay close to your family, your parents, your brothers and sisters, and the people who have helped sustain you through the years of your life.

It seems like just yesterday I was ordained on May 25, 1985 with Fr. Mark Osterhaus and Fr. Neil Manternach. The time has gone so fast and God has blessed me in many ways through the many parishes and colleges and hospitals that I've served. The time goes so fast as a priest, but God is there to sustain you through it all.

What will you miss most about active priesthood?

Fr. Ambrosy: God has blessed me through my 38 years of active priesthood in meeting so many beautiful people and sharing with

them the priesthood and celebrating the sacraments and preaching the Gospel. God has sustained me through the years with the people of the Archdiocese of Dubuque through their presence of being my friend and me being their friend, as well as getting to know their families.

Related to that, the part I'll miss the most is school Masses. I have loved serving in parishes where I get to know the children and their parents, grandparents and extended families. That's what I'll miss the most. That's why I think it's seriously been my gift as a priest, that I've been able to connect with people and their families, celebrating the sacraments with them and supporting them.

As you retire, what message would you like to convey to the younger generations about having a faith life and being part of the Church?

Fr. Ambrosy: Through my years working as a priest and in the colleges and hospitals, I have said that people need to make God the center of their life and make their prayer life important, as there are so many obstacles in their way each day that take them away from God. Making God and faith a center of their life is something to hold onto during difficulties in their life, but also to see that God is present in the joys and celebrations of their life, as well as in the sorrows.

What would you say to someone who has supported priest retirement through ArchdioceseOne?

Fr. Ambrosy: With priest retirement, it's important the priests receive their pension that's the same as what they receive right now for salary (during active ministry). In retirement, priests have to pay for their room and board, while in the past when they were an active priest, the parish paid for their room and board.

ArchdioceseOne Update

Thanks to your sacrificial gift, over \$15.7 million has been raised for the ArchdioceseOne special appeal. Over \$7.7 million of this amount has been left unrestricted, and over \$2.2 million has been restricted to Priest Retirement.