

From the Pastor's Desk

Corpus Christ Sunday

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

You're probably wondering who this guy is who's now your new pastor. Rather than taking time away from the homily, or using the pulpit to talk about myself, I'd rather just put it in writing here. Most of the details are in my curriculum vitae on the reverse of this letter, so I won't repeat it.

I'm a secular (diocesan) priest of thirty-two years and have served in various locations in our diocese, as assistant, pastor, and school chaplain. Most of those assignments have been very good experiences, and a few were challenging, shall we say. Yes, I did request, and was graciously granted a leave of absence from public ministry by Bp. Jenky to discern my vocation. The abuse scandals hit me hard, and I had to ask myself if I wanted to continue to represent the church, and if so should I do that as a secular priest, and if so, which diocese, or should I seek a religious community. Thanks to the intercession of Our Lady, I came back to the diocese and resumed my parochial and school duties. Thankfully too, I'm no longer teaching. I find that as I get older my patience grows shorter, and frankly, being around kids for extended times wears me out. As I'd tell my high school students, "Thank you for reaffirming my celibacy!"

I'm proud of the fact that I am a Canadian citizen, as well as a naturalized citizen of the USA. I should be receiving soon the Letters Patent, granting me a personal "coat of arms" in the name of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. Heraldry is one of my interests, along with history, art, and architecture.

Although I was born in Canada, I was raised in the St. Louis metro area, and love my hometown. I'm glad when the Cardinals and Blues win, but I'm not an avid sports fan. Despite ministering and living in mostly rural areas here in our diocese, I am a "city boy" at heart, and enjoy the various cultural opportunities cities offer. My basic hobby is reading, so yes, I do have a sizeable library of my own. I also enjoy movies, both classic and new ones of various genres.

My ancestry is basically half French, Irish, English, Scotch, Welsh, Basque, and Native American (from my birth parents). Take out the French and the Basque, and you have my adoptive ancestry. I'm not sure from which side I inherited my diabetes & arthritis. I'm an ISTP on the Myers-Briggs, so I do enjoy the quiet, and alone time. I'm also learning how to cook dishes that my ancestors would have enjoyed.

My dad has gone to God, back in 1996, mom is alive and well at the age of 87, living with my sister in Florida. My brother and his wife still live in the St. Louis area. They've given me two wonderful nephews. The elder is in college and doing an internship in Idaho this summer. The younger is still at home driving his parents to distraction - typical sophomoric activities.

I am a life-long cat "owner". If you have cats, you know that they actually own you. My eldest is Roxy, who's a 20 year old calico, and sadly blind, but otherwise in good health for being such an old cat. My two younger ones are Finn, a male black cat who is a big cuddler, but will hide when someone unknown comes in; and then Maeve, my gray dilute calico who is very outgoing and friendly with everyone. Both of them are now 7 years old, and very active.

Oh yes, I do enjoy Irish whiskey in moderation (not scotch, rye or bourbon, mind you). I'm also an unreformed and inveterate smoker. If my mom and doctor can't make me stop, then please, don't try your hand at it either.

So, that's me in a nutshell. I look forward to working with you and serving the parishes. Please pray for me, and be assured of my prayers for you and yours. May God, Mary, Joseph, and Patrick bless us all!
Father Pat