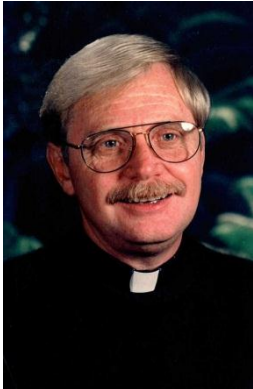


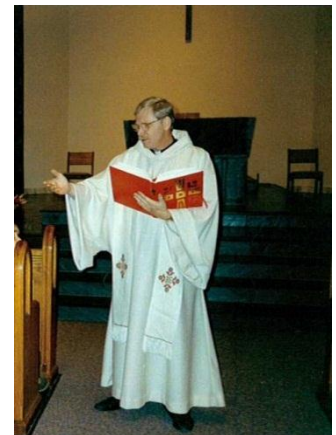
Fr. Jerry Finnestad



Father Finnestad was born in DeKalb, Il. to Harland and Clevia Finnestad. Upon graduation from DeKalb High School, DeKalb, Il., he entered Northern Illinois University only to be drafted into the U.S. Army for two years, mostly in Germany, with a concluding rank of Sergeant E-5.

After returning to the United States he continued his education while working and transferred to the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks to finish his bachelor's degree with a double major in education for primary and secondary grades with an emphasis in history and social studies in the secondary level. While at UND, Fr. Finnestad began attending daily Mass and decided that a call to the church would be the best way to serve both God and people. He spent six months at the Cardinal Muench Seminary in Fargo before attending St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado. He studied theology for four years and graduated in May of 1980.

On June 15, 1980 Fr. Finnestad was ordained a priest by Bishop Justin Driscoll at the first church he joined when arriving to North Dakota, St. Michael's in Grand Forks. His first assignment as a newly ordained priest brought him to Fargo and St. Mary's Cathedral for four years. He next served the Nativity Parish in Fargo for 18 months before moving to the Newman Center and St. John's Parish in Wahpeton until 1993. His next assignment brought him back to the town of his ordination, Grand Forks. He served St. Mary's Parish for 12 years until 2005 and celebrated his 25th Anniversary on the Feast of Pentecost. He currently serves St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Lisbon, ND and St. Vincent parish in Gwinner, ND. He has noted that Lisbon is the smallest town he has ever lived in and that he is "amazed at the beauty of the town and the surrounding area. The people have been friendly and helpful."



Although Fr. Finnestad doesn't have any specific hobbies he does enjoy participating in a variety of activities including reading, cooking, and traveling. He also has a love of animals as evidenced by the dogs he has cared for during his life.