

Parish Life

Two Parishes, One Mission



DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 14, 2020

Dear Fr. Ronald Serrao, Fr. Richard Rhinehart and the faithful of the parishes of St. Peter the Fisherman, Eagle River, St. Theresa, Three Lakes, St. Kunegunda, Sugar Camp, St. Mary, Phelps, and St. Albert, Land O' Lakes, I am hoping this letter finds you all safe, healthy and enjoying the warmth of the summer months.

In 2016, Fr. Patrick McConnell, was the Parochial Administrator of St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, Eagle River and served as a priest (Sacramental Minister) for the parishes of St. Mary, Phelps and St. Albert, Land O' Lakes, with Michele Rein serving as Parish Director. In the same year a few months later, the Parochial Administrator, Fr. Madanu Bala Showry, assigned to the parishes of St. Theresa, Three Lakes, and St. Kunegunda, Sugar Camp, was needed in another parish setting. Fr. Bala Reddy Allam replaced him as a Sacramental Minister. Because St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, Eagle River, was close by, Fr. Patrick McConnell was assigned as the Parochial Administrator. On June 17, 2019, Fr. Ron Serrao replaced Fr. Patrick and was assigned Pastor of the three (3) parishes of St. Peter the Fisherman, Eagle River, St. Theresa, Three Lakes, and St. Kunegunda, Sugar Camp.

Now with the departure of the Parish Director, Michele Rein, Fr. Ronald has also been named Pastor of St. Mary Parish, Phelps and St. Albert Parish, Land O' Lakes. This forms the new five (5) parish cluster of St. Peter the Fisherman, Eagle River, St. Theresa, Three Lakes, St. Kunegunda, Sugar Camp, St. Mary, Phelps, and St. Albert, Land O' Lakes under the spiritual and administrative care of Fr. Ronald. Fr. Ronald will be assisted with these responsibilities by Fr. Richard Rhinehart, new Parochial Vicar of the cluster, effective July 1, 2020.

It is my hope and prayer, that working closely and collaboratively, all five (5) parishes may not only maintain but grow and enhance the vibrancy of parish life and spiritual wellbeing of all. As the new life of this cluster unfolds, each parish will remain responsible for their own particular expenses, such as the care and upkeep of the buildings and programs specific to an individual parish. There will also be common expenses shared between the parishes such as, but not limited to, the priests' wages, housing and mileage. As the realignment of duties takes place, this may include the sharing of administration expenses and other cluster personnel.

This will all take time and I know that Fr. Ronald, Fr. Richard, with assistance from the Dean of the East Deanery, Fr. Christopher Kemp, and of course with assistance from the faithful, the transition should be as smooth as possible.

With the official clustering of these parishes, we are opening a new phase in the history of the Catholic Church in the Northeast part of the diocese. Be assured of my personal support and that of other diocesan staff during this time of transition. I know that with prayer, good will, sacrifice, and support of one another, the saving work of Christ will not only continue but will flourish.

I remain sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. James P. Powers

Most Rev. James P. Powers
Bishop, Diocese of Superior

The Lord believes in us and he asks you: "Do you want to be a builder of unity? Do you want to be a prophet of my heaven on earth?" Let us be challenged by Jesus and find the courage to say to him: "Yes, I do!"

Pope Francis ~ June 29, 2020



Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O Good Jesus, hear me.

Within your wounds hide me.

Permit me not to be separated from you.

From the wicked foe, defend me.

At the hour of my death, call me and bid me come to you

That with your saints I may praise you for ever and ever.

~Amen

Meet Fr. Rich...

Greetings to all of you as I start my new assignment at this 5-parish cluster for the Diocese of Superior. When I heard I was coming here, I was and am super excited to be one of your priests and share my priesthood with you. And now, a little about myself...

My grandmother and her brother settled in Iron River and Caspian MI in the 1920's. My dad has been coming up north his entire life as have I. Alyce Regozzi moved to Chicago where she met my grandfather and is where my parents met as well. I attended Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School where my dad taught for over 40 years. My mom was a registered nurse for over 47 years and a parish nurse for 13 years, both my parents are retired. I am the youngest and oldest in our family as I'm an only child. We bought a cottage in 1980 on Cranberry Lake in Eagle River and I have spent summers enjoying all the Northwoods has to offer. I went to St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights IL, then Parks College of St. Louis University

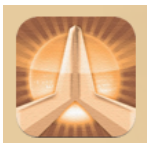
with aspirations of being a commercial pilot. I still have all the pilot licenses and want to get back in the air soon. I started 15 years of management and business career at UPS, then FedEx Ground, and Home Depot as the flying took a back seat. I went back to school and received an MBA from Dominican University. One day, I woke up and told my mom I wanted to be a priest...she said, "I know". I asked her how she knew, and she said that she knew this would eventually happen. It took a long time as I never considered the priesthood until that day when the Holy Spirit moved me to follow God's will and not my own. I entered a discernment group for the Archdiocese of Chicago and was accepted to Mundelein Seminary for four years in that Diocese. I realized, after much prayer and discussion with my spiritual director that I was not in the right place, as my heart has always been up here. I left the seminary in October and contacted Fr. Patrick in Eagle River in February. The following August, after being

accepted to our Diocese in Superior, I started the last two years of seminary studies at St. Francis de Sales in Milwaukee. I was ordained a Deacon at St. Peter the Fisherman in December of 2017 and the Sacred Order of the Priesthood June 24, 2018. The last two years I have been assigned to St. Bridget's in River Falls, St. Mary Immaculate Conception in Hammond, and the St. Thomas More Newman Center at the University of Wisconsin River Falls. My parents moved to Eagle River 2 years ago when I became a priest and they spend their time between their condo and our cottage on Cranberry Lake. I am so blessed to be back home! I look forward to meeting all of you and sharing my priesthood with you as well. As I start my new assignment here, may God bless all of you and your loved ones!

In Christ through our Blessed Mother Mary,

~Fr. Rich

Digital Prayer Resources



Ibreviary

[App Store](#)
ibreviary.org

The Liturgy of the Hours
The Daily Missal for the celebration of Mass
Catholic Prayers and Rituals



Laudate

[App Store](#)
[Google Play Store](#)

Prayers
Catechism
Hearty of Mary
Liturgy of the Hours
Catholic Media
Bible And More!



MyParish

[App Store](#)
[Google Play Store](#)

Mass Information
Calendars ~ Homilies
Prayer Resources



Catechism of the Catholic Church

vatican.va
The teachings of the Catholic Church



IPieta

[App Store](#)
[Google Play Store](#)

Bible, Prayers,
Calendar

The Beauty of Private Prayer



The liturgy of the Mass in one long prayer and when I am at Mass I am praying publicly with all the people. The liturgy of the Mass, for the most part, the same every week, and the only times for private prayer are when I voice interiorly the intentions in my heart after the prayers of the faithful and after communion when I am kneeling and saying prayers of thanksgiving.

Private prayer is different. I wouldn't dream of getting out of bed without saying good morning to Jesus, our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. I pray to St. Michael and St. Padre Pio for protection. I pray the prayer from the breastplate of St. Patrick and the Anima Christi. I pray them all out loud. I kneel before the crucifix and say two prayers. The

same two prayers every day. There are rosaries and Divine Mercies to pray and the Bible to read and a prayer to the Holy Spirit to help me understand what I am reading. I say a short prayer, "Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner, throughout the day. There are prayers at night and an examination of conscience.

The beauty of these private prayers is that I can say them out loud and there is no one to hear me but the Lord. I can vocalize my sufferings, my sorrows, my joys, my dreams. My faith deepens with private prayer. Sometimes I think, "what if I don't pray today," and I immediately feel unsettled and lost. Private prayer carries me throughout the week until the next Mass and keeps me in touch with God.

There is beauty in public prayer and there is beauty in private prayer. No prayer, whether public or private, goes unheard.

~Parishioner Submission

Why join a parish?

When we are baptized we become a child of God, a part of His family.

As one of seven children, I have seen our family grow. When I was asked to be a godparent, I was glad that I had been confirmed, since it is required of a godparent. Because my wife had been a parishioner at her parish we were able to get married in the Church by her family. When we wanted our children baptized it was nice to belong to our parish and not start the process of joining a parish prior to setting a date for a baptism. When my father passed and was no longer a parishioner at the time due to circumstances that occurred at the parish he had been a parishioner, the priest at our parish said a funeral Mass for him at our parish.



While acting as sacristan at our parish I recall commenting to our pastor that he looked very tired, and he told me how again he had been up during the night because he had been called to the hospital to give the last rights. At very important times in our lives we turn to the Church for our spiritual needs. As I have grown and received again and again the graces the Church makes available, I have become more and more grateful for all the Catholic Church provides.

I accept the precept of the Church to help provide for the needs of the Church, and strongly suggest that others join a parish and help provide for the Church. I believe you will be pleased you joined and will receive many graces in heaven.

The Church is always waiting with open arms to receive anyone that desires comfort and care and will give to fulfill your needs.

~Ed Randle

Sitting in the presence of the Lord....



Eucharistic Adoration is a common practice within the Catholic Church, but it also is one of the most misunderstood practices, so let's take a deeper look at it.

First it is important to understand what it Eucharistic Adoration is. So let's start with the word 'adore'. The definition of the word adoring according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is "feeling or showing great affection and devotion." The Eucharist is the Real Presence of Christ in the consecrated host. So when we refer to Eucharistic Adoration, we are meaning to adore Christ in the Eucharist.

When most people refer to "sitting in adoration" they are referring to Eucharistic Exposition which is when the body of Christ is placed in the monstrance for us to see and adore. However, one could 'sit in adoration' by simply sitting in front of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. Either way, one is sitting adoration of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Why spend time in adoration? To sit in the presence of Christ is to allow for Him to see you and to give you a chance to open your heart entirely to Him. Adoration also reminds those who come before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament of His sacrifice and inspire attitude of self-gift, which is the heart of Catholic social doctrine. Time spent sitting in adoration aids the faithful in becoming more deeply linked in communion of the Mystical Body of Christ. Eucharistic Adoration brings the faithful of the New Covenant throughout the Catholic world to adore the same Lord present in every tabernacle.

Five tips for sitting in adoration:

1. **Be Patient.** If you are not familiar with spending time with the Lord in this way, it can take some getting used to. Focus on him and not on the clock.
2. **Bring Scripture.** Open to your favorite story, or where you last left off. The readings of the day (uscgb.org) or for the upcoming weekend are also a great place to start. Some folks prefer to simply open the book, and see what God is putting on their heart.
3. **Pray the Rosary.** During this time, focusing on the prayers, the beads and the mysteries of the rosary can be very calming and insightful. These links may be helpful if you find yourself wanting a refresher on the "how to" of both the rosary and the chaplet. [How to pray the rosary, USCCB](#) [How to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, USCCB](#)
4. **Listen to Praise and Worship Music.** For some people, listening to music can be quite fruitful during adoration. Just make sure you are also taking time to listen. Choose the music/genre that suits you, that lifts your soul.
5. **Be ok with silence.** The noise of the world today is louder than of any other time in history. Many of us do not know how to just sit in silence, no music, no talking, just silence. It may take a while to get used to but see tip #1... **be patient.** It may take a few minutes just to allow your brain to settle down. When in doubt, just pray: 'Jesus I am here, I love you, enter my heart.'

Lectio Divina

A method for praying the Scriptures known as "Lectio Divina" is translated as "divine reading." Praying this way invites the Word to become a window to bring the events of daily living into focus. It also can help one live more deeply and find God present in every day events.

Read: (Lectio, reading) Read the passage for the first time slowly and thoughtfully. Pay close attention to what word or phrase comes on to your heart.

Reflect: (Meditatio, meditate) Read the passage again, slowly and prayerfully. Consider what God is saying to you in this passage.

Respond: (Contemplatio, contemplation) Slowly and prayerfully read the passage again. Allow yourself to respond to God from your heart.

Rest: (Oratio, prayer) While reading the passage a final time, sit quietly in God's presence. Be careful to listen, quietly with an open heart.

