

From Fr. Mike Petrie

I'd like to introduce myself by way of this brief biography.

I'm the eldest child of Francis and Cecilia (Baus) Petrie. I was born on Easter Sunday April 17, 1960 in Chilton WI. I was baptized at Holy Rosary Church, New Holstein WI, on Sunday May 1, 1960 by Fr. Lambert Scanlan and received first communion there on Sunday April 21, 1968. Bishop Leo Brust confirmed me on Friday November 8, 1974 at St. George Church in Elkhart Lake WI. My siblings are Mark, Joseph, Diane and David. My father and brother, Robert, are deceased. I have five nieces, two nephews and one grand-nephew born this Palm Sunday.

I went to New Holstein Elementary School, Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah middle and high schools, St. Francis de Sales College, Marquette University and St. Francis Seminary. Archbishop Rembert Weakland ordained me a presbyter on Friday May 15, 1987. First I served on the pastoral team of St. Alphonsus Parish, Greendale WI, until January 1992. From that January until June I was temporary administrator of St. Mary Parish, South Milwaukee. Next I was associate pastor at Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, West Allis, until becoming the pastor of St. Kilian Parish on Tuesday September 27, 1994. I've been the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Horicon, since June 29, 2006 and have been serving our cluster partner, St. Matthew Parish, Neosho, since June 2015.

Several experiences helped me to discern and accept the church's call to serve as an ordained minister. The first time I thought about being a priest was during a class mass at Holy Rosary Church in New Holstein. We were in sixth grade CCD and had prepared an evening mass to which we invited our families and neighbors. We were standing around the altar, I under a palm plant, listening to Fr. Thomas Allen pray the Eucharistic Prayer. I had a hunch that I'd like to do what he was doing. That summer we moved to Glenbeulah. I forgot the incident. When I was in eighth grade I began playing the organ at St. Fridolin Church in Glenbeulah. That summer Fr. Gale Leifeld invited me to St. Lawrence Seminary. I excused myself saying that we had just moved and I was needed at home. In summer 1976, Fr. Cletus Kaiser sent me to the first church music camp led by two School Sisters of St. Francis, Marie Gnader and Mary Jane Wagner, and a Capuchin, Fr. Peter Kutch. It was a music filled, spirit filled, theology filled week. I never knew there were so many high school musicians interested in church music! A few years later Fr. Kaiser asked me, "Have you ever thought about being a priest?" I trusted him, so I answered honestly and accepted his advice that I give St. Francis de Sales College a try. I graduated from college and completed two years of seminary. I had some doubts and was tired of school, so I planned a year-off. Fr. John Wutscheck offered me a job as organist and music teacher at St. Adalbert's Parish in Milwaukee. It was just what I needed. The skills gained from living on my own built self-confidence. I could function effectively in a parish environment. I had discovered what I needed to say yes to the call.

Folks are often curious about my interests. I sing, play piano and organ occasionally, swim, walk and read. I enjoy genealogy and local history, especially the research. I've been a past volunteer for the Washington County Historical Society, past member of the Bach Chamber Choir and Moraine Chorus. I like to watch gymnastics and go to choral concerts. My favorite composer is Johann Sebastian Bach. My favorite hymn tune is ADORE TE DEVOTE 6565D, commonly known as "Humbly, We Adore You" or "Godhead Here in Hiding." My favorite

hymn text is the Magnificat (Luke 1: 46b-65). The song that has held my attention the longest is “Winchester Cathedral”. I first heard it on the “Lawrence Welk Show” when I was five years old and was captivated by the tap dancing that went along with it. As for musical styles, I like them all except heavy metal, hard rock and country western. The best day imaginable: a snowstorm and a good book.

In each parish where I’ve ministered, I’ve met many wonderful people desiring to put their time and talents at the service of God’s reign. I look forward to getting to know your names, celebrating the Eucharist with you and discovering how you feel about the many issues facing the church in the next several years. Soon we will be meeting one another in person and together place our time and talents in service of God’s reign as we travel into the unknown future. It’s in this journey forward that the Holy Spirit works God’s purpose out.