

Priests
of the
Diocese of _____

“I always loved working with the people... being part of their lives... enjoying their highs, and standing with them in their lows. Whether celebrating Mass in a cathedral, or on a kitchen counter in one of the tiny villages, I get a thrill out of “meeting the Lord” with them.”

“I rarely miss an opportunity to invite a single young man to think about diocesan priesthood.. From altar server, through high school and college students, and single young adults. I tell them that we need some Alaska residents (who know the territory), I say something about the brotherhood of priests in this small diocese, and I assure them that they would make a good priest. College kids home on holidays get a regular invite from me.”

“I am very often overcome by the awe
inspiring joy of the mystery that God has
called anyone, especially me to the
priesthood.”

“I find it very important that my brother priests want to pray together and to have a support group where we can voice any opinion/thought and be accepted. I feel deeply supported and accepted by the bishop/clergy of this diocese.”

“I saw a young boy at the grocery store and he told me, ‘I know you. You are my friend at church.’ ”

“The fact that God could have been inviting me personally to this was both very humbling and terrifying at the same time. I knew at that point that I wanted to be open and begin searching for God’s will in my life.”

“I pray each day, I would feel naked
without it.”

“Answer God’s calling! Like Jonah, it will
prove futile to flee.”

“All blessings I received in my life I want to share, especially with those who have tragedies in their life.”

“My pastor showed me how to lector, how to be a Eucharistic minister and how to serve on the altar. We also spent time watching TV and eating ice cream. He also showed me how to clean gutters.”

“I believe I am serving in the Person of Christ when I visit the sick. Also, when I pray with people and hear Confessions.”

“Every once in a while whenever I
celebrate Mass, it hits me – the beauty
and mystery of the Sacrament.”

“I wanted to be like my parish priests. I had some very good and personable parish priests who were with us for a long time.”

“Prayer in general; the daily Eucharist; liturgy of the hours; preparing to preach the Sunday homily, spending time with the Scriptures and ruminating over them. That helps me preach to myself. Certain encounters with people, even those with whom we struggle. You realize it wasn’t you at work, but God.”

“Ministry to the sick and homebound.
Anointing. First Friday calls. They make
you feel so humble it's unbelievable.”

“Eucharist -- when we gather. Hopefully, I have a decent homily. Nothing like seeing a full church and offering the best you can give them. Or seeing an empty church and still offering the best.”

A young father was killed in a car accident. I knew that I was Christ for them. The wife's mother said "if it wasn't for you -- you're like Jesus to us" Especially getting them through the funeral.

“Last Saturday -- the reading was the prodigal son -- I headed out to give an anointing -- I arrived -- and it was a Catholic who had not been in a church in 50 years. He was talking like the son. To be able to share in reconciliation, anointing and communion with him made it very real.”

“In the confessional. They come because they're coming to Christ. Some things come out of me that I know are from the Holy Spirit.”

Every day can be a great adventure.
There are small fires and large floods. I
look at Jesus Christ and I say to myself “I
know what He did, but how do I do it? Do
I want to risk? Or do I want to preserve
myself?”

“I was friends with two young men who are now our priests. When one of them was making his decision, I said to him “if you don't try it, you'll never know.” I encouraged him to try. He did. He's a priest today.”

“It could be the greatest vocation for anyone in this life. What is available is totally unbelievable. Presently the priesthood seems so difficult, so people don't consider it. They see an older graying priesthood where the guys work hard. We need to show the happiness and joy.”