

NOT WHAT I EXPECTED

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL



If you had asked me what I thought my life as a priest would be when I started discerning a vocation, I would have been really far off. Even after I began my seminary formation, this is not what I expected my life would be. And before you start getting worried, this is not a midlife crisis. While there have been some events during my

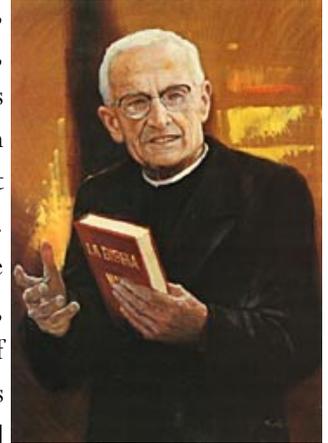
priesthood that I would have preferred not having gone through, I am enjoying my life as a priest. It is just that it is not what I expected. Please allow me to explain.

I started thinking about being a priest when I was about seven years old. I read stories of missionaries, and I wanted to be like them, I wanted to bring as many people as I could to Christ. After high school I started taking my discernment more seriously, and joined the Society of Saint Paul, a religious order which ministers primarily through mass media-printed and digital. Eventually I left the order because God was not calling me to be a Pauline Father. Part of the reason why I arrived at that decision is that I could not see myself spending my priestly life just writing and printing periodicals and books, and designing websites (which was my assignment while I was there); I felt I also needed to have regular contact with people, that I needed to be in a parish. And so, after I left I thought my days working in printed media were over. But I was wrong.

Between a weekly message on Lines of Faith, a monthly article for our newsletter, a regular column on Canon Law for The Lumen, and occasional canonical advice for other articles, a good part of my ministry consists in writing; and I love it! Now I can look back and see how Our Lord started planting the seed

earlier in my life, and later when I joined the Society of Saint Paul, of what my ministry would be like.

For some people, priests included, this may seem like a waste of time, but as the number of priests dwindles, we need to get creative in how we preach the Gospel, so that many more will become disciples. Blessed James Alberione, the founder of the order I belonged to, saw in Saint Paul the model of creative preaching. Through his letters, Saint Paul not only preached the Gospel to the communities to



Bl. James Alberione

whom he wrote, but he still keeps preaching to us. Blessed Alberione used to say that for the religious order, for the Pauline Fathers, the printing press was their pulpit; I guess I could say that my desk and my computer are an extension of my pulpit, as that is one of the ways in which I exercise my teaching function as your pastor.

My brothers and sisters, I want to take now the opportunity to remind you that we are all called to be missionaries, we are all called to make disciples for Christ. Perhaps you have an idea of what that looks like, but have you asked God if there is more that you could be doing. Many of you are more tech savvy than me, and God wants you to be the new Pauls. We need to reach out to more people, the soil is fertile to receive the Gospel, but we need to find creative ways to make the seed reach every single corner, near and far. For a long time, the pulpit for parents has been the home, for most lay people it has been the workplace, or the places where you hang out with friends, but we need to find those creative pulpits that Saint Paul would be using today. What will your pulpit be?



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Confession, Reconciliation, Penance – whatever we call it – has been referred to as the “forgotten sacrament,” because of distortions and misunderstandings throughout the past several decades. The teaching on when, where, how, and why we need to go to confession has never changed. For instance, we are still bound to confess all mortal sins before receiving any of the other sacraments, and

most especially before receiving the Holy Eucharist at Mass. The Cathedral Parish is blessed to have scheduled confessions available seven days a week. Because more and more people are beginning to rediscover the necessity of confession for a healthy spiritual life, this has resulted in some Catholics who are unfamiliar with what the confessional *is* and what *it is not*. In this article, I will give a brief overview of how to approach the Sacrament of Penance.

First, we ought to spend time in quiet prayer to examine our conscience, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any sins we have to confess. We should not go into the confessional unprepared or unsure of what to say. Once we have sufficiently prepared, we go to the confessional and will be greeted with the Sign of the Cross. We then say “bless me Father, for I have sinned,” and tell the priest how long it has been since our last confession.

We then proceed to confess our sins, and this is where we must remember the advice of an old seminary professor: **“Be sorry, be brief, and be gone.”** This pithy statement is not meant to make light of the sacrament, but to remind us that

the confessional is not the place for spiritual direction, prolonged advice or discussions, the telling of stories, or conversations in general. When we confess our sins, the priest simply needs to know the kind of sin and how often it was committed. The priest does not need to know various details or stories surrounding sins, and if he needs more clarification, he will ask. After confessing our sins, the priest will then give encouragement and, if necessary, some brief advice. He will then give us our penance and we then recite an Act of Contrition, which is meant to demonstrate our true sorrow. Once we are finished with the Act of Contrition, the priest will speak those beautiful words of absolution, in which Jesus himself is acting through the priest.

What is required of us as the penitent is to be truly sorry for our sins, to humbly confess **our** sins (not the sins of other people), to confess with brevity (not attempting to justify ourselves through telling stories or unnecessary details), to receive our penance and absolution, and then to leave with a firm resolve to be more faithful to the commandments of God. In other words: be sorry, be brief, and be gone. In the confessional, the priest is charged with one role: to be the instrument of mercy that forgives sins. Anything requiring more time, discussion, and in-depth advice is better suited for a meeting with the priest outside the confessional.

This helps us see clearly what the confessional is and what it is not. The confessional is not a counseling booth, a place for casual conversation, or a time for spiritual direction. The confessional is, however, the overflowing font of God’s grace and mercy. Only in the beauty of this sacrament can we so easily, quickly, and graciously receive the never-ending mercy and healing of our Lord.

STARTING WITH CATECHISM CLASSES

Mrs. Santa Fernandez



The month of September is always very emotional for catechists, since we always have Catechetical Sunday which gives us a great opportunity to reflect on the role that each catechist has, by virtue of Baptism, in the transmission of the faith and in the witness of the Gospel. This year, the church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 19 and the theme is: **“One Word of You Will**

Enough to Heal Me.” Those appointed to serve as catechists will be summoned to be commissioned by their ministry.

September is a month of a lot of preparation since I spend it very busy from the organization of the groups and with the

selection of the material for the classes.

The catechists also organize their personal life to be able to come to give their service to the church through catechesis.

We are very excited to start classes from **Wednesday 22 and Friday 24 September**, we will continue with two schedules per day for children who will attend for the first time as well as those who will return to their second year, children and young people who will prepare to celebrate the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation in 2022.

This year due to the limited number of students, classes for First Communion will be taught in English and Spanish for one day and classes for the Sacrament of La Confirmation in English and Spanish another day. It has not yet been determined what the day will be for each group, but as soon as the information is available, it will be communicated to everybody by one of the media that we have here in the cathedral.

PARISH UPDATES

SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR NEEDED

The Cathedral of the Epiphany is looking for a Sacramental Coordinator. This person will work with parishioners preparing for the sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony, with parishioners preparing to join the church through RCIA, and with parishioners organizing funerals; as well as with the clergy celebrating these sacraments. The applicant must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. The candidate must also be effective in written and oral communication in English and Spanish, and possess good interpersonal skills. Knowledge of Catholic Theology is a plus, but not required. Please contact Carla Kramper at ckramper@sccathedral.org to apply or for more information.

IMPROVING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Magnificat Northwest Iowa Chapter is hosting an event at the Cathedral on Saturday September, 25 from 8:30 am to 2 pm. The speaker will be Fr. Ryan Browning, from the Diocese of Rockford. Tickets are \$35, and include 2 meals and prayer booklet. *RSVP by Sept 18*. Pay via PayPal from magnificat-iowa.com or by mailing payment to Michele Leiting, 19546 Aspen Ave, Westside IA 51467

THE FINANCIAL CORNER

INCOME		July 2021
Weekly Offerings	\$	48,451.00
Loose Offerings	\$	15,349.36
Prog. Support	\$	8,828.00
Other income	\$	8,082.00
Total Parish Income	\$	80,710.36
EXPENSE		
Salaries & Wages	\$	34,294.85
Administrative Expenses	\$	6,210.10
Ministry Expenses	\$	1,649.39
Utility Bills & Repairs	\$	12,606.49
Assessments	\$	7,958.00
Other Expenses	\$	3,606.27
Total Expenses	\$	66,325.10
NET INCOME	\$	14,385.26

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

This is a great time for Catholic men ≥ 18 years to join the Knights of Columbus (www.kofc.org/joinus). Use code MCGIVNEY2020 for 12 months of free membership – \$30 savings. Please join us at our monthly Business meetings on the 2ns Thursday of month at 6:30 pm to learn more.

Here are some activities that we are working on based on charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism:

- Rosary Events
 - Monthly at Calvary Cemetery (date varies based on weather conditions)
 - Weekly at Mary's Choice Wednesdays at 11 am.
- Wood Creation Fundraiser Project – making and selling log stands and plaques
- Tootsie Roll Drives– for disability assistance
- Recruitment Drives – after selected weekend Masses, rotate between our 3 churches
- Monthly Meals - excited to start our first breakfast on Sunday September 12th at the Cathedral basement hall
- Can/Bottle Drives – Collecting empty cans/soda bottles uncrushed on the 4th Saturdays of the month for Camp High Hopes and Food Bank of Siouxland (inc. Soup

SEPTEMBER 2021 EVENTS

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

4, 5- Buildings Fund
11, 12 - Together As One (Spanish only)

BAPTISMS

4, 18 - Spanish (11 am, Cathedral)
12, 19, 26 - Baptismal Spanish Classes (9 am, Cathedral Conference Room)

MEETINGS

9 - Knights of Columbus (6:30 pm, Cathedral Hall)
3,10, 17, 24 - Bible Study (6 pm, Cathedral Conference Room)
5, 12, 19, 26 - Youth Bible Study (6:45 pm, Cathedral Conference Room)

SOCIALS

1 - Busy People Lunch (12:30 pm, Cathedral Hall)
12 - KofC Breakfast (9:00-11:30 am, Cathedral Hall)
16- Lunch with parishioners (1 pm, Minerva's)

OTHER EVENTS

16 - Deadline to submit items for October Newsletter



Cathedral of the Epiphany

1000 Douglas Street
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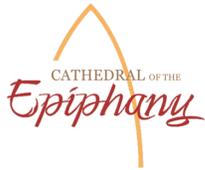
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Cathedral of the Epiphany

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Rev. Andrew Galles, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Jeremy Wind, Parochial Vicar

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MASS SCHEDULE

MON.-SAT.: 12:00 pm Cathedral *English*
MON.-FRI.: 5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

SATURDAY: 4:00 pm St. Boniface *English*
6:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

SUNDAY: 8:30 am Cathedral *Latin*
8:30 am St. Joseph *English*
10:00 am Cathedral *English*
10:30 am St. Boniface *Spanish*
12:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
12:30 pm St. Joseph *Vietnamese*
1:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

HOLIDAYS: 9:00 am Cathedral *Bilingual*

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

ANTICIPATED / VIGIL:
5:30 pm St. Boniface *English*
5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

THE DAY OF THE SOLEMNITY:

7:00 am St. Joseph *English*
12:00 pm Cathedral *English*
5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
7:00 pm Cathedral *Latin*

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration
Adoration Chapel - Epiphany Center

CONFESSIONS

SUNDAY: 8:00 am-8:20 am Cathedral
8:00 am-8:20 am St. Joseph
MON.-FRI.: 4:30 pm-5:15 pm Cathedral
FRIDAY: 11:30 am-11:50 am Cathedral
SATURDAY: 3:00 pm-3:45 pm St. Boniface
5:00 pm-5:45 pm Cathedral

OFFICE HOURS

MON., TUE., THUR.: 10:00 am-4:00 pm
WEDNESDAY: 10:00 am-1:00 pm
2:00 pm-5:30 pm
FRIDAY: 10:00am-5:30 pm
SAT.-SUN.: Closed