

## Shawn Ratigan had an enjoyable Scout experience in Troop 306 Fr. Shawn Ratigan a priest who continues to support Catholic Scouting



***Fr. Shawn Ratigan and mother share their joy when they were special guests at a priest appreciation dinner sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Serra Clubs in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO.***

Scouting was always fun for me. We had awesome leaders that went out of their way to make sure each boy in Scouting received special attention.

I think the most enjoyable times were spent either camping or at Summer Camp at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation.

The qualities that I learned while in the scouts have helped me mature in my vocation to the priesthood. I attained the rank of Life Scout, and I have always regretted not becoming an Eagle Scout. But I do not regret the time and effort of being a member of Scout Troop 306 at all.

I think the one thing that influenced my vocation were the fine leaders of the troop. They always conveyed the message of looking out for others, and don't be so worried about yourself. It was almost like

they were telling us to love our neighbors.

We always had very good leaders for our troop. I can remember quite a few of the camp outs we went on, but one in particular stands out. We went down to southern Missouri and went into a few of the marvelous caves in one of the Missouri State Parks. It was a very regulated trip to keep us kids from getting hurt, but we were allowed to explore the caves under supervision. I have always cherished the fond memories from scouting.

In 1984 I graduated from Savior of the World High School Seminary in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, in 2000 graduated from Conception Seminary College and in 2004 Mundelein Seminary. I was ordained to serve the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO on June 12th 2004. My first year as an associate pastor at St. Thomas More in Kansas City, MO was a joyful experience. In July of 2005 I was received a new challenge of being a pastor of St. Mary's Parish in St. Joseph, MO and St. Joseph's Parish in Easton, MO.

Rev. Shawn Ratigan  
Pastor of St. Mary's Parish  
1813 S. 12<sup>th</sup> ST  
St. Joseph, MO 64503  
Phone: 816-279-2594  
E-mail: Sratigan@yahoo.com