



Father David E. F. Scharf - 25th

When Father David Scharf was a junior at Quigley Catholic High School, he was an altar server for fellow parishioner Bishop David Zubik, who was celebrating his first Mass. At that occasion, he began to consider the priesthood as a vocation.

"With the encouragement and support of my parents, family and friends, various women religious, my pastor, Father Joseph Koloszczyk, and Father Edward Farina, the seed of my vocation was planted."

Father Scharf is celebrating his silver anniversary as a priest in

Friday, April 16, 2010

service to Jesus Christ.

He was born in Sewickley. He attended St. Stanislaus and Ambridge Area Catholic schools, along with Quigley Catholic in Baden. In 1980, he earned a bachelor's degree from St. Mary College in Orchard Lake, Mich. Later, he earned a master's of divinity degree from St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe in 1985.

He was ordained on May 11, 1985, by Bishop Anthony Bevilacqua at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Stanislaus Church, the church where he was baptized.

Father Scharf recommends the diocesan program to someone considering a life in the priesthood.

"The diocese has a very good program to help one discern if a vocation is present. Do not be afraid to ask questions. Above all else, pray for guidance."

His first assignment was as parochial vicar at St. Michael the Archangel in Butler where he served from June 1985 to June 1987. He also served as parochial vicar at the following parishes: Our Lady of Grace in Scott Township from June 1987 to February 1992; Our Lady of Fatima in Hopewell Township from February 1992 to January 1997; and St. Robert Bellarmine in East McKeesport from January 1997 to August 1998.

From August 1998 to January 1999, he took a sabbatical to the North American College in Rome. Father Scharf served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Consolation and St. Hugh in Carmichaels from January to December 1999.

He also served as pastor of St. Philomena in Beaver Falls from December 1999 to November 2003.

He is currently chaplain for the nursing home at Villa St. Joseph and for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Baden.

Reflecting on his years as a priest, Father Scharf describes each ministry as unique in itself. "The love that is shared for the people of God has been returned with countless blessings."

Father David's current assignment offers insight into those who have responded to the calling of women religious. He has observed how they share their vocation with God's people in various ways. "I am privileged to hear their history, their spirituality and their current struggles."

He plans to celebrate his anniversary with those he serves, the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse and Villa St. Joseph. Father Scharf will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving for family and friends on Sunday, Aug. 22, at Baden motherhouse.