

Introducing.... Fr. Peter Petroske, Sacred Heart's next pastor

I have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy a rich life filled with many blessings. My life has taken me to many places and lands, and in the process I have come to experience countless people who have been a source of blessing in many ways.

I was born in Frankfurt, Germany and lost my birth parents while very young and left orphaned. Two wonderful and loving people, Clifford and Maria Petroske took me into their home and gave me a wonderful life and worked hard to provide a solid education, the majority of which I owe to Catholic Schools.

I was ordained to the priesthood at the hands of the Most Rev. Mark Frances Schmitt, the then Bishop of the Diocese of Marquette on the Solemnity of the Triumph of the Cross, on September 14 of 1984. My first assignment was as Associate Pastor at the Parish Church of St. Anne, Escanaba. I served there for two years and was then appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist in Garden and its "mission" of St. Peter the Fisherman in Fayette. After four years of having served those communities, Bishop Schmitt asked me to take on two additional communities, St. Anne in Cooks and St. Andrew in Nahma, which I gladly did! In those days, I traveled 70 miles per weekend to offer Masses in the four different communities!

Eventually some significant changes took place in my family and in my own life. As a result, I applied for incardination into the Archdiocese of Detroit in 1991. Adam Cardinal Maida accepted me and after three years I was fully incardinated into the Archdiocese of Detroit as an Archdiocesan priest. My first assignment in the Archdiocese was in 1991 at the Parish Church of St. Rene Goupil in Sterling Heights under the pastorate of the then Msgr. Bernard J. Harrington, now Bishop of Winona, Minnesota. I served at St. Rene for two years after which I was assigned to the parish church of St. Anne in Warren. I remained at St. Anne's until I was appointed to serve at my current assignment, St. Pius X in Southgate, having served for the past 14 years.

My undergraduate work was completed at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. I completed my graduate studies at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan. I currently hold my undergraduate degree together with a Masters of Divinity degree. After having moved to the Archdiocese I had taken some graduate courses in clinical counseling and psychology.

I feel honored and look forward to serve in your parish and school communities. It will be good to meet you in the very near future whereupon I can greet you personally. Until then, know of prayers for you and your faith community as you prepare to say farewell to Fr. Larry. I have spoken with him in the past and I know him to be a priest of sterling quality who will be missed. Many blessings to you as we journey toward the great festival of Easter!

Fr. Peter Petroske