

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PARISH PROFILES

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Father Marc Paveglio

On January 10, 2004—an unmemorable cold winter night for most people in Annville, PA—out of the darkness was born the light. Inside St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church on Spruce St. young Marc Paveglio was attending Mass and patiently waiting and praying for an answer he had sought for half a year. Was God calling him to be his priest?

In the homily, Fr. John Peck, the pastor, shared his own vocation story and how he had mourned for the wife and children he would never have. Marc immediately thought of his girlfriend of two years and how his heart would be pierced with the idea of giving her up (he told her later that night).

“I remember the Lord pouring out his love for me, waves of love, overwhelming love. The Lord’s message had been given and He was waiting for a response. This powerful encounter with the Lord was the clearest that ever happened to me. My soul shouted ‘yes.’”

Fourteen and a half years later his journey brought him to Roseville where he became pastor of the Saint Rose and Corpus Christi parishes at age 33. Today he is the eighth—and youngest—pastor in the 83-year history of Saint Rose.

Doors open, others close

After telling his shocked—and supportive—parents, Marc returned to campus where a group of priests from St. Vincent Archabbey, the first Benedictine monastery in the U.S., answered his many questions about how God works. One of those priests, Fr. David Griffin, cousin of Saint Rose parishioner Ed Griffin, provided advice, describing how God would be showing him the path to walk down—doors will open while other doors close. “He gave me a lot of peace,” says Marc.

Over the next three college years he began to talk with priests about the calling. After his sophomore year he attended the Archdiocese of Harrisburg’s Quo Vadis Days, a time of recreation, fellowship, prayer and discussion to help young men explore the Lord’s call in their life.

“It was very impactful for me,” he says. “That event helped me realize I wanted to become a priest. It took about two years from knowing that God is calling me for this to wanting to be called. I began to see what the life of a priest would be like and finding a lot of joys in living this kind of life.”



His summers during college were spent moving toward a priestly life: Living in the Joshua House in Harrisburg, an urban outreach resource center providing hope and support for at-risk youth; evangelizing and catechizing in Minnesota, North and South Dakota.

Moving on and dropping anchor

After graduating from Pennsylvania State University Marc went to the Mount St. Mary Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains about 60 miles north of Washington D. C., the 214-year-old seminary has produced 2,600 priests and more than 50 bishops.

During his three years at Mount St. Mary Marc came to realize he was meant to be a parish priest. In the summer of 2009 he met Fr. Andrew Cozzens (now Bishop of Crookston) in Omaha where he learned about the Companions of Christ, a Twin Cities group of diocesan priests living in a community focusing on friendship and mutual support.

“The following year when Archbishop Harry Flynn gave a retreat at Mount St. Mary I told him I was praying about this and did not know what to do,” says Marc. “He invited me to come to Minnesota during spring break and meet with the group. I asked Fr. Cozzens if I could spend a year of discernment in Minnesota to learn more about the Companions of Christ. I moved here in August, 2010, and never left.”

During his time at St. Paul Seminary Marc served at Our Lady of Peace (Minneapolis), St. Lawrence and Newman Center (Minneapolis), Holy Name of Jesus (Medina) and North Memorial Hospital.

After his graduation and ordination in 2014, 29-year-old Fr. Paveglio’s first two assignments as a priest: Parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace in Edina and Pax Christi, Eden Prairie (also spiritual director at St. John Vianny Seminary).

“When I got the call to come to Roseville I was excited to take on the amazing work of being a pastor,” he says. “I was delighted by the number of people who supported and encouraged me as a new, young pastor.”

One of his most pleasant surprises was the parish’s very strong Perpetual Adoration ministry. “That’s a big part of my story; I did a lot of praying in Adoration growing up.”

As the shepherd who deftly guided the parish and school through the worst health crisis in our lifetime, Fr. Paveglio is very pleased by the number of parishioners who are serving others and serving the poor; the growth of the school; the remodeled Adoration Chapel and the building back up of regular Adorers; people re-connecting with each other; a staff that works so well together and many other ministerial initiatives.

“One of the ways I have grown as a priest and pastor is coming to acknowledge the mystery of how God will reveal himself to a community of believers,” says Fr. Paveglio. “Getting to know more of the flock here I can sometimes sense how God is moving in their lives. I love connecting parishioners with others who are going through something similar in their lives. Bringing people together to talk and pray is something I am most grateful for.”



Other things to know about Fr. Paveglio:

- He was born and raised in Palmyra, PA, a town of 7,500 about 90 miles west of Philadelphia. His parents—Mario and Sandra—have two older children, son Chris and daughter Adriana. With no parochial schools in the area, Marc’s entire education was in public schools. His initial major at Pennsylvania State University was engineering; he graduated in 2007 with a degree in human development and family studies. “I changed majors because I wanted to serve people face to face.”