



Our Men in Black



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Favorite prayer

“The Mass” is the safe and true answer. But this is like asking me about a favorite food. I enjoy different prayers depending on God’s purposes and my needs.

Favorite saint

Francis of Assisi responded to Christ during a time of conflict and moral license, much like our time. With God’s help he found a way to be holy. He must have been physically and mentally durable. He walked all over mountainous Italy. He sailed to Egypt meet with Muslim leadership. A patron for our times.

What has been a holy moment for you in your

priesthood?

Often enough during conversations I realize that the other person has no idea how good they are, that they let God’s grace be enough for them.

What have you learned from your brother priests?

Iowa’s Msgr. Luigi Ligutti was 81 when he told me, “Give the people what they need, not what you want.” Sorting needs and wants is basic to priestly service.

I sought Msgr. Bill Clausen’s counsel during a very difficult spell. He said, “Tim, you’ve been a priest for a long time, and you have flown a lot of missions. You have to expect to get shot-up now and then.” I laughed for the first time in weeks.

Father Leo Ambre: “If you are not building, you are go-

ing backwards.”

Advice for young people considering a vocation

The best advice is “keep moving” into learning activities, whether employments or academics. Your options are liable to get more numerous before you find a focus. Pray to do what God wants for you — if you want to be happy.

Favorite hobby or pastime

I enjoy dinner conversations with friends and reading.

Favorite temporal things

My bible; “The Habit of Being: Letters of Flannery O’Connor;” my calligraphy gear.