



**Our
Men
in
Black**



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Ordained 1966



years later, the best way I know to do this is through the very sacrament of the holy Eucharist, which is Christ's gift to us.

What have you learned from your brother priests?

I don't think my mother and family and I would have been able to have learned to accept my father's death had it not been for Father Larry London, the associate pastor at St. Andrew Parish in Rock Falls. My father was killed as a result of an electrical accident on the farm. It was completely unexpected. To have this young father of 11 taken from my mother just did not seem fair. Father London helped us work through this and has become a good friend of the family because of this. We are just sorry that his stroke has made it impossible for him to communicate with us.

Advice for young people considering a vocation

Go for it! I have never once regretted my decision to be a priest. And I have wonderful religious friends to this day. One of them, Sister Jeanne Landry just celebrated the 50th anniversary of her religious profession, and I was able to be there for it.

Many a young man or a young woman might think

of fatherhood and motherhood as a gift too good to pass. But the gift of spiritual fatherhood of so many throughout my years as a priest, I would not want to change for the joys of physical parenthood. So many people need good spiritual mentoring and spiritual fatherhood and spiritual motherhood, more than ever before with the breakup of the family.

Favorite hobby or pastime

I really enjoy golf. I am not very good, but I sure enjoy the company of friends, especially of other priests when we are able to get out for a round of golf.

Favorite temporal things

a) I have a pocket watch that belonged to my dad that I cherish. He died when I was only 16, so I treasure that as a sign of his presence.

b) I love to read John Grisham books because they take my mind off everything but "who did what?"

c) I enjoy listening to Country Western music. It allows me to step away from the many "head" trips that make up my day.

Favorite prayer

I like the prayer that is one of the options for midday prayer entitled, "Breathe on Me." It captures everything I hope God will do with us and for us as priests — breathe His life-giving Spirit upon us.

Something about you few people would know

I grew up on a farm, which probably is well known, but I also like to ride horses. There was one horse that only I could ride. He would throw everyone else off.

Favorite saint

I like St. John Vianney because of his care for people as a confessor, but I especially admire St. Paul. His conversion story is unbelievable (and) his courage and humility are impressive. He is a man of strength and conviction while being very humble before the Lord.

What has been a holy moment for you in your priesthood?

The consecration of the Holy Mass is a holy moment for me. This is the reason why I wanted to become a priest — to bring Christ to his people — and still, 42