



Our Men in Black



Father Paul White Pastor, St. Joseph Church, Harvard



Favorite prayer

The Serenity Prayer helps me keep perspective each day. The Prayer of St. Francis helps me see the opportunities of grace in daily trials.

Favorite saint

St. Francis is very dear to me, since he took care of the poor and those in need in many ways. I have had the privilege of being in Assisi and to allow the spirit of Francis soak in. I have experienced and seen some very spiritual moments that have impacted peoples' lives on these trips with Msgr. Clausen.

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

There have been many moments dealing with people who have cancer that have inspired me. One was with the mom of an 8-year-old boy who stood by him through many treatments

and was with him when he went to the next life. Another moment was celebrating Mass for a 12-year-old dying of cancer, who never missed Mass. It made me think of each word said at Mass through his eyes as he was going to see God face to face.

Advice for young people considering a vocation

Be yourself and be honest. Let God guide you through the people who come your way. Discerning a vocation is like driving in the fog at night. You see as far as your headlights take you, then once you get there, you see the next distance and you keep going in faith that God will get you to where you are supposed to be.

What have you learned from your brother priests?

Msgr. Clausen has taught me so many things I will never be able to express in words, but it can be summed up when he told me 22 years ago to, "Love the people and let them love you." Msgr. Hoffman taught me to be comfortable with my imperfections and let God help me. Msgr. Linster taught me not

to take myself too seriously. Father McKittrick taught me it is OK to be human, when he was my pastor in middle school. I have been blessed to be touched by many of our great priests over the years. Now that I am pastor of St. Joseph, in Harvard, I find Father McGinn to be a continual inspiration to invite people into ministry.

Favorite hobby or pastime

I love going to Wrigley Field to see the Cubs. It helps me deal with suffering, since they have not won the World Series in over 100 years.

Favorite temporal things

My car gets me where I need to be. My Field of Dreams shirt, because it reminds me of the day my dad and I had a catch out there. I was given an autographed copy of Cardinal Bernardin's book, "The Gift of Peace" which I will always treasure.