

Fr. Roger's Message

It is my duty and pleasure to introduce the new pastor of St. Therese Parish beginning July 1st. 2011. Let us welcome Fr. Stephen Geer to our parish.

Fr. Stephen Michael Geer, born in 1955 and baptized in the Presbyterian Church, was raised in California, but graduated high school in Hopkins, Minnesota. He went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Minnesota. He took additional courses in business administration at Portland State University, passing his CPA exam in 1982 and earning a master's degree in accounting in 1986. He practiced as a CPA until 1999.

Fr. Geer converted to Catholicism in 1997 through the Rites of Christian Initiation (RCIA). He perceived his vocation quickly and entered Mount Angel Seminary in 1999. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2006. He served as associate pastor at St. Cecilia's in Beaverton from 2006 – 2008 and then became pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Stayton, where he also serves as pastor to Our Lady of Lourdes in Jordan and St. Catherine's in Mill City.

Fr. Geer has experience with parish schools from his work both in Beaverton and Stayton, including work with Regis High School.

As a layman, Fr. Geer adopted his cousin's son, Shawn, in 1983, when he was 2 years old and raised him as an adoptive father. Shawn married and gave Fr. Geer a grandson, Bradley. Shawn died in an auto accident in 2006. Bradley, now aged 10, is currently being raised by his mother and step-father in Gresham. Fr. Geer is happy about being closer to his family, including his father, who lives in Sherwood, and his two sisters, who live in Lake Oswego.

Father Geer will be joined in the rectory by his a black Labrador puppy (6 months old), named Martin.

I was out in Idaho at Priest Lake last week with some of my priest friends and had a wonderful time. I will celebrate the graduation mass on May 6th and from there will join the priest's retreat at Mount Angel.

Next week I will meet the new pastor of St. Therese Parish to do my best to make a smooth transition.

Prayers always keep us together; let us continue to pray for one another.

*Fr. Roger
May 29, 2011*