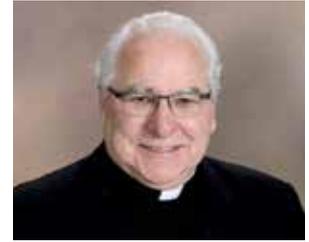


LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



Reflections from Father Bob:

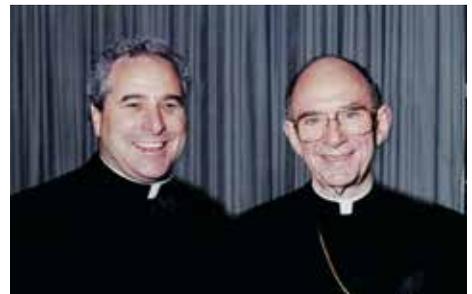
I have thought about how or what to say or pass on to you about who I am and where ministry in the Church has lead me. I guess I would first need to say how humbled I am to receive the Cardinal Bernardin Catholic Humanitarian Award. To receive this in Honor of a man who served the local, national and international church is truly humbling. He served the church in life and in death. To be compared in anyway with someone so honorable is humbling and mysterious to me.



I am the product of the Catholic education system. I attended St. Mary of the Annunciation and Carmel High School in Mundelein. I went on to Xavier University and after some time out in the world in a sales position, was called to attend Mundelein Seminary. My family and formation gave me a strong foundation but one that could never teach me all I needed to know. I needed to enter that process that we know as “lifelong learning.”

When I was ordained in 1980 by Cardinal Cody, the focus of what I believe I was called to was, “As One who serves.” That was the quote on my first Mass invitations. A couple of years after my ordination, Cardinal Bernardin arrived in Chicago and was a great example of what service meant in flesh and blood. A short time after his arrival he came out with a Pastoral letter, “*In Service of One another: Pastoral Letter on Ministry.*” At that time, I was entered in a new school called “Parish” where I was called to listen, learn and lead. Over these many years, I believe that this is a pattern that I was taught to absorb and one that Cardinal Bernardin modeled for all of us.

My first parish assignment was to St. Ailbe (1980-1990) on the south side of Chicago. In 1984, In those early years, I was bombarded with lessons of racism, sexism, life, love, service and faith. I realized then how little I knew and yet was called to lead. I was assigned as St. Ailbe’s co-pastor with Joe Kane and Kathryn Hartnett, OP. Cardinal Bernardin met with us to tell us of this assignment and told us, “I don’t believe in Team Ministry, but I do believe in you”. We were encouraged by his words and confidence. Looking back, I am amazed at how patient and kind the folks at St. Ailbe were to me. They trained me to be priest and pastor. They have a special place in my heart.



RECIPIENT OF THE 2018 *IN SERVICE OF ONE ANOTHER* AWARD



PASTOR BOB HEINZ, Pastor - St. Alphonsus Ugarte Parish

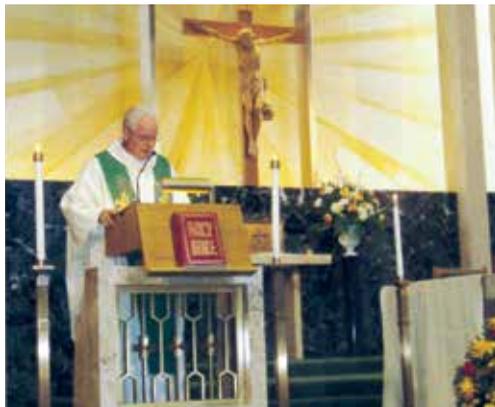
GOOD GUYS SHOW UP

QUIGLEY SEMINARY, CHICAGO

Next, I encountered more great parishioners during my brief time at St. Mary Star of the Sea and St. James in Arlington Heights (1991-1994). I then arrived at St. Alphonsus (1994-2007) not having any idea where it would lead. It led to a lot of building, both figuratively and literally! Construction included a dedicated church, parish center, new classrooms, computer lab, remodeled rectory and parish offices. Of course, the greatest building at St. Alphonsus was the building of community. That is what I reminisce about and am most grateful for. With Christ we accomplished a lot and were bound together in His love. That building is eternal.

After 13 years at St. Alphonsus, I was unexpectedly assigned to a gem in Northbrook, St. Norbert (2007-today). This is one of the most generous and talented parishes in the Archdiocese. I wasn't confident about what I could bring, but bonds of genuine respect and friendship were formed. Then in 2014, I also became pastor at Our Lady of the Brook as we became the Catholic Community of Northbrook. Surprises and change shape us, both pastors and parishioners. The change can be uncomfortable, but we learn and grow and are continuing down that path.

A few years ago, I was diagnosed with a Metastatic Melanoma tumor in my brain. It is a bit of a miracle that I am alive today. I have had four surgeries, three in my brain and one for the cancer in my mouth. Today, they tell me, there is "no evidence of cancer in your body." Now that I am healthier, I look back and am filled with gratitude to God for, my sisters (they were incredible), parishioners, staff, and friends. I guess it is safe to simply say, I am grateful and open to whatever God wants for me. I pray for the grace to discern His will.



Our faithful journeys evolve as we do. One of the greatest gifts in my life was going on a 30-day directed retreat. I always thought that I loved the Lord, but it was during that retreat when I fell in love with the Lord. It was a life changing experience that gave me time to deepen my relationship and it still has an impact in my ministry. I strongly encourage this option for anyone as a means to strengthen your connection to our Lord.

In these past 38 years since my ordination, I have served in many roles including Deacon, Associate Pastor, Parish Administrator, Priests' Placement Board, Professional Review Board, and Presbyteral Council member and officer. These involvements stretched my vision and understanding of Church and what I have been called to do. Again and again, I was called to **listen, learn and lead** as best as I was able.



INSPIRATION – Father Bob's Favorite Song

How Can I Keep From Singing – By Chris Tomlin

*There is an endless song
Echoes in my soul
I hear the music ring
And though the storms may come
I am holding on
To the rock I cling*

*How can I keep from singing Your praise
How can I ever say enough
How amazing is Your love
How can I keep from shouting Your name
I know I am loved by the King
And it makes my heart want to sing*

*I will lift my eyes
In the darkest night
For I know my Savior lives
And I will walk with You
Knowing You'll see me through
And sing the songs You give*

*I can sing in the troubled times
Sing when I win
I can sing when I lose my step
And fall down again
I can sing 'cause You pick me up
Sing 'cause You're there
I can sing 'cause You hear me, Lord
When I call to You in prayer
I can sing with my last breath
Sing for I know
That I'll sing with the angels
And the saints around the throne*