

A Little Bio for Each Priest

Fr Bob Krantz

How little we had and yet so blessed when I grew up. We got electricity when I was 5, running water when I was 16, one old car for our family; and yet if there was school, we made it. We lived 7 miles from town. My parents put Faith first. Sister Laurita wanted we 3 oldest to join choir when I was a Freshman in high school and she asked my folks if we could (not we kids if we wanted to). The folks told us that they had to talk it over and pray about it. They came back to we 3 kids and said WE have decided you will be in choir and we will make the extra trip to town for that...it is for the church. They went on to say: if we can't make everything work because we don't have enough money, then you will have to give up 4-H. WAS THAT A SCHOCK! A Few Powerful Impacts in My Life. I am the oldest and a sophomore in college when my sister Carol, a Senior in high school died during brain surgery. She had suffered only a week before surgery. I was with my folks and grandparents the day of surgery. I had reassured everyone that all would go well (with all the wonders of medicine). While Carol was in surgery, a doctor came out and said that it would be longer than expected before surgery would be over. It was a little past noon, so I encouraged my folks and grandparents to walk across the street to the McKennan Café and to eat. While they were gone, one from surgery came out and looked and ask where the rest were, I answered her and she said maybe you should go get them. That set me back big Time. I got out on the sidewalk and saw them just about ready to cross the street. They saw me and just stopped in their tracks. I went over and said they asked me to come and get them. They were stunned and I encouraged them to come with me. We got back to the room and I went right to the phone and called St. Agatha School and asked for kids in study hall to go to the chapel and prayer for us. Went right back to the room, and I heard the cries and walked in and they told me Carol had died. I admit my Faith was shaken at that time. Were my prayers and those I had asked for not heard. In time, I realized our prayers were answered in others ways especially as we grieved the loss of Carol. My Mom's health was not the best. When we got back home, it was not long before school would be out. My folks stayed home and I went in and told Sister Justin, and then got by siblings and share the sad news with them. Prayers had to be at work!!! My Timeline: Early years 1-5 spent on our farm. **1949-1961** *St. Agatha Catholic Grade & High School.* General Beadle Teacher's College (Dakota State) **1961-65** Bachelor's degree **1968** Master's degree from SDSU. Taught at O'Gorman before being a priest ---- **1965-1974.** Taught Business Ed; In **1971** directed the Guidance program. **1974:** entered the seminary at Sacred Heart School of theology at Hales Corners, Wisconsin. **1977** ordained a deacon. January 20, 1978 ordained a priest by Bishop Hoch. Ministries during my Priesthood: Jan.-June associate pastor at Little Flower and teacher of High School Religion at O'Gorman. **July 1 1978 to 1981** associate pastor at St. Mary, Dell Rapids and St. Joseph the Workman, Huntimer. **3 years** as pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Leola & Sacred Heart, Westport. **11+** years at Holy Rosary, Kranzburg, Sacred Heart, Waverly, and St. John, Castlewood was added the last 3 years. **10** years at Sacred Heart, Parkston and Holy Rosary, Tripp. **15 years** at St. Patrick, Montrose and St. Anne, Humboldt. **2 years** at St. Mary of Mercy, Alexandria, St. Martin of Tour, Emery and St. Stephen, Bridgewater.

Fr Bill Hamak

I was born in Aberdeen on February 21, 1962. I spent most of my growing up years on a small farm near Aberdeen. I have four brothers and a sister. I am the third oldest. My mother is deceased and my dad is living in Aberdeen. My siblings are scattered throughout the country.

In my younger years I did seasonal farm work, construction, along with a few other odd jobs before considering college. After a few years at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, I decided to begin discerning a call to the priesthood. So, in the fall of 1988 I entered Mound St Mary seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Bishop Dudley ordained me to the priesthood of Jesus Christ on May 29, 1992. I have served in several parishes throughout the diocese. My most recent assignments where in Chamberlain/Kimball and Mobridge. When I find time I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, kayaking, and gardening. I have been assigned as one of the Parochial Vicars for pastorate 16 and will be living in Emery. I will be learning how not to be the pastor and how to minister as a Parochial Vicar. Please keep me in your prayers.

Fr Melvin Kuhn

I am actually from a small dairy farm in Midwest Illinois – about 2 hours north of St Louis, except on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River. I am the second oldest of 8, the oldest of 6 sons. I have an older and a younger sister. Our mom & dad sacrificed much to send us all to Catholic school. My parents have both passed away, my mom most recently about 1.5 years ago. Two of my brothers still milk on our home place. My youngest brother, and the youngest of the family, is also a priest. *But*, I am the original Fr Kuhn and no, he is most definitely not the new and improved! All of my background, prior to seminary, was in agriculture – both college and work. I knew I had a vocation to the priesthood when I was boy – at least by 3rd or 4th grade. But, I say to my shame, I put it aside and chased after other things for too many years. I never stopped going to Mass but at one point I started to get more and more interested in the faith, started buying more and more Catholic books, engaging in traditional devotions, and so on. Then the priesthood starting weighing on my mind and I kept thinking about going and standing before the judgment seat of our Lord and finally I said – I have to go try. Thank God for His mercy. I applied to Holy Apostles seminary, which would take candidates unsponsored for up to two years so that's how I got started. I met the seminarians there from the Sioux Falls diocese and that's how I got connected to this diocese. I just happened to apply on the diocese's one time only: we'll take anybody day, which is how I got received into this diocese! After completing 2 years of pre-theology (philosophy) at Holy Apostles, the diocese transferred me to St Paul seminary in St Paul, MN for 4 years of theology and I was ordained in June of 2014 by Bishop Paul Swain. My dad died during my second year of theology but the rest of my family came up for ordination – probably just to see firsthand if it was really true! I was serving as pastor for Colman-Flandreau-Elkton before coming here. I would like to say just a word about the priesthood, especially for any men out there who might have a vocation to the priesthood. Many people in my area of work (genetics) prior to seminary seemed to think I was good at my previous work. But I never believed it. I thought: they just don't know me, I'm an imposter. That went away when I became a priest. The priesthood, like marriage, is meant to be a life of sacrifice but if your vocation is to the priesthood, you will not find any interior peace until you relent to the Lord's will. I am very thankful for the second chance that He gave me, I would be lost without it. My hope and prayer, now, is that I become a good priest before I die. May the Lord grant me this mercy as well. Thank you and God bless you, Fr Kuhn.