

Father Barnabas Eichor ofm.Cap.

First, I would like to thank all the parishioners of Saint Theresa Parish for the warm welcome you have all given me over the last few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to write a short biography and tell you a little about myself.

I was born in Denver Colorado 5th of June 1962. During this time my father was an engineer working for Martin aircraft corporation at the time and my mother was raising my four sisters. When I was three years old my family moved to Los Alamos New Mexico and worked for Los Alamos National Laboratory. I was raised an evangelical by mother who was very involved in the Nazarene church and taught Sunday school. I graduated from Los Alamos High school in 1981 and went to the University of New Mexico to study history and economics.

During my college years I pretty much fell away from my Christian faith during my college days and never attended church. At the time, I was pretty much concerned with my studies and all the other things students do in college. After completing my undergraduate studies I continued my studies towards a master degree and completed that degree in 1987. After finishing my studies at the University of New Mexico I applied to and was accepted for graduate school at Texas A&M University and received a Masters degree in economics in 1990.

After my college studies I was pretty far in debt and the Army agreed to pay off my school loans in exchange for three years of service. I signed up just months before desert storm and desert shield and served in that war as a tank gunner and completed my enlistment in 1993.

At this point I was out of a job and the job market was really bad and so I moved back to Denver to think about what I was going to do next. I had also thought it would be fun to spend some time as a long-haul truck driver while I thought about what I was going to do. I enjoyed truck driving so much I did it for the next six years and had a great deal of fun. During my truck

driving years, I found my life pretty empty and with lots of time to think I began to think about the Christian faith in which my mother had raised me. I had a lot of questions why protestant and not Catholic? Was all the atheism they taught me in college really true? I decided to do a lot of reading and listening to talks on tape as I drove down the road. I learned a lot about the history of Christianity and the Church over those years. I came to the conclusion that the Catholic church was the Church founded by Christ two thousand years ago. I worked one on one with Father Anderson, who was the vicar of the Cathedral in Denver, and was received into the Church at the Easter Vigil in April 2000 by Archbishop Chaput.

A few months after being received into the Church I discovered I was not interested in being a truck driver anymore and felt a call to some ministry within the church. I began looking at all the different options. I first looked at the Diocesan priesthood and decided that was not the answer. Later, I met Capuchin father John Lager who introduced me to the Capuchins. I loved the order and decided I would go through their discernment process to see if this was where the Lord was leading me. In the end I joined the order and have loved it ever since. I also decided to study for the priesthood and did my studies at Saint John Vianney seminary in Denver. I was ordained to the priesthood June 11th 2011.

After my ordination I spent two years as the associate pastor at St Joseph parish in Hays Kansas, a ministry that I really enjoyed. After two years in Hays Kansas I spent several years doing Prison ministry in Denver Colorado and then in June of 2013 I was appointed as the associate pastor at St John the Evangelist parish in Lawrence Kansas.

I very much look forward to serving all of you here at St Theresa Parish as your new Pastor.
