

St. Casimir our patron saint was a great man of significant earthly character, to begin this note I thought a quote from him you be appropriate. "With what joy ought not all Christians, both rich and poor, to be filled when they hear: **The kingdom of God** is with you! With what ardor ought they not to devote themselves to make God reign perfectly in their hearts! How justly did **St. Casimir** prefer this pursuit to all earthly kingdoms!"

For me, these words speak well of the parish and family I grew up in and with. To go back to the beginning of the parish, my grandparents were a part of the founding members, by grandfather volunteered to help dig the basement of the first building, basement church, and two stories of classrooms above. I attended church in that building and classes, both in the school and later attending catechism classes.

My memories of the facilities, the clergy and religious women helps form my life and my future ministries. I cannot express my feeling of appreciation as strongly as I felt it for it would take too long and too many words. The men and women in the pre-Vatican council church were strong dedicated and faith filled people who help lead the faith community and the people followed. It was the most vibrant community, the center of our lives, our family and the route of our friendships. The clergy and religious were the driving force of this. The liturgies and the events, the annual festival which eventually became the corn roast was one of the highlights of the year and the community. The holy days and weekend celebrations brought our Lord alive in our lives we shared that with each other and the world around us.

I was baptized, confirmed, married and then baptized my church, buried my grandparents, by mother in later years assisted in the celebration of life with the funeral for incredibly significant people clergy and laity.

When I began the process for formation the support and encouragement of my parish (my extended family) was overwhelming, only surpassed with their joy and support once I was ordained.

It was one of the hardest things my wife and I ever did when we moved to Arizona and had to leave our family. Our thought and prayers remained with the community and will continue.

We all must grow in our faith and sometimes that means move on, that is what is happened now. In closing I will again use a quote this one from St. Lawrence, deacon, "The life and death of Deacon Lawrence speaks the timeless message of the Gospel to all who will listen. "Whether we are ever called to shed our blood in what has traditionally been called red martyrdom or simply called to offer our sacrifices daily in a continuous life of poured-out love, traditionally called white martyrdom, we continue the redemptive work of the Lord through our daily Christian lives and participation in the life of the Church." Live our Christian lives showing the world the joy of the family of St. Casimir, let the world know where we came from and how with love our Lord. God Bless. Deacon Ron Henderson

Attention

