

Meet Father Robert Weighner

Manoj Babu, chairperson of the Transition Team, had the opportunity recently to speak with Fr. Robert. His responses below will give you a glimpse of our new pastor as we wait to welcome him in person next weekend.

What are you looking forward to as pastor of St. Anne?

"Getting to know the people and being involved with and knowing the families of St. Anne. I am also looking forward to educational guidance opportunities in the Catholic School System especially St. Joe's Academy."

What are some issues you are passionate about?

"Faith Formation; coming to know Christ and spreading this good news to all; being an example when people come to know our Lord."

From what you know about St. Anne, what has impressed you?

"Meeting with Fr. Don has given a look into St. Anne. He is a real man of prayer. Fr. Don has been my main point of contact and I know that he has been good for St. Anne."

What would you like the parishioners of St. Anne to know about you?

"I grew up in N.E. Iowa in a farming community with a very large family. I have 6 brothers and 6 sisters - one of the brothers is also an ordained pastor. I value the importance of a solid family life. I am fluent in German and Spanish with moderate fluency in Italian. I really enjoy ministering to married couples. I also enjoy traveling quite a bit. I have spent some time in Europe. I have also taught High School, subjects such as German and Religion. I love to meet new people and believe that my faith is what defines me."

What is your most memorable experience as a priest?

"When I was very young, a newly ordained priest in Vienna, Austria, I was introduced to a woman who was baptized Catholic but did not follow through with the sacraments. She was dying, very sick, and I accompanied her throughout her faith journey through counsel and prayer. I was able to arrange it so that she was able to accept all the sacraments. She passed away shortly afterwards, actually on the Immaculate Conception Feast of Mary. This was a very moving time in my life and taught me a lot of our faith. I hope to see her again when our times meet."

What are some of your hobbies?

"I love hunting and fishing. Coming from a large family and a farm life, this hunting and fishing is a lot of fun. So if there are any fly fishermen out there, I am always looking for some tips."

What challenges do you foresee in our future?

"This might be too early to answer right now. But one constant challenge has been getting people interested in Faith and getting them to see the good in this choice."

How can the parishioners of St. Anne help you with the transition?

"Through Prayer. This will be my second Parish. Please be patient with me and allow me to have a learning period."