

# Welcome Fr. Robert

*Bienvenido*



Willkommen

*Benvenuto*

***Following are excerpts from an article on Fr. Robert that appeared in the Diocese of La Crosse Catholic Times on February 4, 2010.***

## ***“It Took a While for God to Track Me Down.”***

Father Robert Weighner says he knew he was being called toward his vocation at an early age, but admits “It took a while for God to track me down...I didn’t get serious until a couple of years after college. I was 27 when I entered the seminary.

Father Weighner grew up near Waukon, Iowa. He went to elementary school at St. Patrick in Waukon then attended junior and senior high school in Waukon. He then studied at Creighton University, a Jesuit school located in Omaha, Nebraska, where he earned degrees in German, Theology and Education. After graduating from Creighton, Father Weighner taught for one year at Carroll Kemper High School and two years at Dubuque Wahlert High School, Catholic schools in his home state of Iowa.

Father then spent a year teaching in Germany as part of the Fulbright Program, an international education exchange program. “I wanted to improve my German (language skills), so I couldn’t think of a better way to do it,” Father Weighner said.

Father Weighner joined the seminary in 1989, and was ordained into the order of the Legion of Christ in Jerusalem in 1999. After his ordination, Father Weighner’s ministry took him to Vienna, Austria, for five years and to Washington for another five years. “I mostly was preaching spiritual exercises and serving as chaplain for different small houses at that time,” he said.

This past summer he came to the Diocese of La Crosse where he assisted then Bishop Jerome ListECKI in a variety of tasks. “I had thought about coming into the diocesan life for a while,” Father Weighner said. “I traveled with the bishop...(He) wanted me to get to know the diocese and know what diocesan life was like before putting me into a parish.”

In December, Father Weighner replaced Father Roy Witucki as parochial administrator at St. Charles Borromeo, Genoa. Not only did it bring Father Weighner closer to his roots, but also to his brother, Father Jim Weighner in Prairie du Chien.

***Join us next weekend, July 17 and 18 as we welcome Fr. Robert as pastor of St. Anne!***