

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Dec. 2, 2018

I am the oldest of Donald and Bernadette's three children. I was born in Bellevue, PA, and grew up in Hampton Township. My sisters, Jennifer (Bill) Campbell, and Nadine (Kelley) Christy each have three children, and everyone still lives in the North Hills area. I am very blessed to have such a loving and supportive family, and that we all live in close proximity to each other.

Faith, family, and sports were (and remain) a big part of our lives. Growing up cradle Catholics, my sisters and I attended Hampton Township public schools and attended CCD classes at St. Mary Church in Glenshaw. Back in those days, you went to CCD through 12th grade!

Upon graduation from high school I attended John Carroll University in Cleveland, OH, graduating with a B.A. in English in 1994.

I worked for almost five years as a technical (job training) writer for Weirton Steel Corp. in Weirton, WV, and then for almost six years in marketing & sales for my dad's family business, Diamond Wire Spring Co., a manufacturer of steel springs and wire forms. In short, I thought that my 'life path' was to follow in my dad's footsteps (and his dad's), as I was being groomed to take over for my dad as the company president.

I cannot explain it any better than this: I enjoyed my career in the family business, working with and learning from my dad, yet I had a constant tugging at my heart for about three years (beginning at around the age of 30), wondering what my life would be like as a priest, and I finally responded by looking into what seminary and priesthood was all about. I finally applied for and was accepted into St. Paul Seminary in Crafton in the fall of 2006; I spent two years there, and four more years at St. Vincent Seminary, which culminated in priesthood ordination on June 30, 2012.

My first assignment, as many of you know, was here in Butler at St. Michael the Archangel, St. Peter, and St. Paul parishes from July 2012 until February 2015, when I was assigned by Bishop Zubik to lead the community of St. Alphonsus Parish in Wexford as pastor.

Now back in Butler to lead the merger of the three aforementioned parishes, and St. Andrew and St. Fidelis parishes, I will do my best to continue to learn how to serve you and lead you closer in love with the heart of Jesus Christ.

When I was ordained, people commented to me that I finally accomplished 'my dream' of being a priest. The truth is, I never dreamed of being a priest...never! I dreamed of being a professional basketball player!

I am a priest today because I think it is God's will for me...and that I have some God-given gifts that can be used to help save souls.

I still like (and need) to remain physically active, mostly jogging, biking, and occasionally swimming. I rarely play basketball anymore, other than hoisting up some three-pointers at the 'Y' when I'm finished riding the stationary bike!

Something new for me since I served here last: My dad has owned a horse for 25 years now (his name is Top...the horse's name, not my dad's), and he and I bought another one about two years ago (his name is Spice). Both are Quarter Horse geldings. Top is 28 years old; we think that Spice is 20 years old. I enjoy trail riding, and hopefully will learn how to calf rope someday. We board both horses at a farm in West Deer Twp.

Lastly, please read my latest update on parish life (after five weeks on the job), which is inserted into this weekend's bulletin.

I am glad to be with all of you in Butler!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Kevin Fazio