Additions to

A Priest Forever

Diocese of Lincoln

2021 and 2022

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Giacomo della Chiesa was born in Genoa, Italy, on November 21, 1854. He was the son of Marchese Giuseppe della Chiesa, a noble. Giacomo attended a school of law in Genoa and later studied theology at the Gregorian University in Rome. Father della Chiesa was ordained in 1878. In 1879, he graduated with a doctorate in sacred theology.

Father della Chiesa was trained in the Vatican diplomatic service and later assisted Cardinal Rampolla, the Secretary of State for the Holy See. In 1907, Pope Pius X named Father della Chiesa the Archbishop of Bologna. Archbishop della Chiesa was then made a Cardinal in 1914.

Three months later, following the death of Saint Pius X, Cardinal della Chiesa became the Roman Pontiff with the name Benedict XV. His papacy was marked by his efforts to bring peace in the midst of the turmoil of World War I. His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, recognized the valuable witness of his predecessor and chose his name as “a link to the venerated Pontiff, Benedict XV, who guided the Church through the turbulent time of the First World War. He was a most courageous prophet of peace who struggled strenuously and bravely, first to avoid the drama of war and then to limit its terrible consequences. In his footsteps I place my ministry, in the service of reconciliation and harmony between peoples, profoundly convinced that the great good of peace is above all a gift of God, a fragile and precious gift to be invoked, safeguarded and constructed, day after day with everyone’s contribution.” Pope Benedict XV also promulgated the new Code of Canon Law, fought the lies of modernism, and encouraged devotion to Our Lady. This “Pontiff of Peace” passed away on January 22, 1922.
Calvin Goodwin was born in Norwalk, Connecticut on October 24, 1948. Upon graduating from Fairfield University in Connecticut, he went on to earn an advanced degree in philosophy from the University of Toronto and a theology degree from Weston School of Theology in Boston, Massachusetts.

In 1974, Father Goodwin entered the Society of Jesus. During his time in formation, he spent four years teaching Latin and Greek at Cheverus High School in Portland, Maine. Father Goodwin was ordained a priest on June 9, 1979 and returned to Cheverus to teach the classics for 20 years.

Due to his great love for the Traditional Latin Mass, he became a member of the religious order of the Fraternity of Saint Peter in 1999. Father Goodwin was the assistant chaplain in Pequannock, New Jersey (1999-2000), then he taught at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton, Nebraska (2000-2013). In addition to his teaching duties, Father Goodwin was the spiritual director to many seminarians at the seminary in Denton. He later became the Director of Priest Training for those priests wishing to learn the Traditional Latin Mass.

In 2013, he retired in order to assist his mother in Lewiston, Maine, while continuing to collaborate with Latin Mass Magazine and serve as a retreat preacher. Father Goodwin suffered a serious stroke in 2016, and after a long illness, died peacefully on January 22, 2021.

The funeral Mass and burial took place on January 29, 2021 at Saint Mary Church in Norwalk, Connecticut.
John H. Howe was born on October 31, 1912 in Superior, Wisconsin. He attended Cathedral High School in Superior, Crosier College in Onamia, Minnesota, and Saint Francis Seminary in Wisconsin. On June 3, 1939, he was ordained in the Church of Saint Anne in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Father Howe spent the first four years of his priestly apostolate in Falls City and at the Cathedral of Saint Mary in Lincoln. Later he served as administrator of Holy Family Church in Lincoln, as associate director of CYO, chaplain of the Newman Club, and as an instructor at Saint Elizabeth Hospital. From 1945 to 1946, he studied Canon Law at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. From 1946 to 1958 he served the Catholics in and around Osceola.

For 26 years, from 1958 to 1984, Father Howe was pastor of Holdrege and Smithfield mission. This was followed by two years as pastor of Mother of Sorrows Church in Grant, and two years as pastor of Minden and Heartwell. On June 15, 1988, Father Howe retired to Bonacum House in Lincoln.

During the Octave of Easter, on Friday, April 4, 1997, God called Father Howe to his eternal home. Bishop Bruskewitz celebrated the Holy Mass of Christian Burial on April 8, 1997, in the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. Burial was in the Catholic section of the Osceola Cemetery in Osceola, Nebraska.

In his homily, Father James Divis referred to Father Howe as a mentor who used every opportunity to teach. He was a taskmaster and a perfectionist, but with a deeply compassionate heart.

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"After death, true life; after desolation, true consolation; a life which delivers our souls from death, and a consolation which restrains our eyes from tears."

(St. Augustine)

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John Copenhaver was born on June 14, 1960 in Kansas City, Kansas. He attended college in Nebraska and Kansas before entering Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where he received his degree in Theology.

Father Copenhaver was ordained on May 28, 1988 at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln by Bishop Glennon P. Flavin.

Father Copenhaver served in various parishes and institutions in the diocese during his years of active ministry. He retired in 2012 and took up residence at Marianna, a retirement community for priests near Fremont, Nebraska.

Father Copenhaver died on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021 at the Methodist Hospital in Fremont, Nebraska. A private Rosary and funeral Mass and burial were held on April 9, 2021 at Holy Angels Church in Basekor, Kansas.

“Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.”
~ Thomas Moore ~

Robert Roh was born on September 16, 1939 in Bruno. He attended St. Benedict College in Atchison, Kansas and Catholic American College and Gregorian University, both in Rome, Italy. Father Roh was ordained on July 11, 1965 at Church of the Apostles in Rome by Bishop Francis Reh for the Diocese of Lincoln.

His first assignment was as Assistant Pastor at St. Joseph Parish, Beatrice (1966 -1968). From June 1968 until June 1969, he held the position of Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. In 1969, Father Roh was made Head of the Religion Department in the Hastings Catholic Schools, serving in this capacity until September of 1971. Taking time off to attend Notre Dame University for a few months, he returned as Assistant Pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Lincoln (January-July, 1972).

Father Roh continued his active ministry as Director of Religion and full-time teacher of Religion at Aquinas High School in David City (1972-1988); Administrator then Pastor of St. Peter Parish, Bellwood (1975-1988); Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Falls City, as well as Superintendent of Falls City Catholic Schools, and Dean of the Falls City Deanery (1988-2015). In 2007, he was named Prelate of Honor and received the title of Monsignor from Pope Benedict XVI.

Monsignor Roh retired in 2015 and took up residence in Falls City. He later moved to St. Joseph Villa in David City. He was called to his eternal home on March 14, 2022. The Rosary for Msgr. Roh was March 17, 2022 at the Roh Activity Center at Sacred Heart School in Falls City. The Mass of Christian Burial was on March 18, 2022 at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. Also on the evening of March 18, a Rosary was prayed at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Abie. On March 19, 2022, there was a Memorial Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish followed by burial in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Abie.
Rudy Oborny was born in Columbus, Nebraska on February 5, 1945. He attended Conception Seminary in Conception, Missouri and Saint Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On May 29, 1971, he was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln by Bishop Glennon P. Flavin.

During Father Rudy’s active ministry, he served as assistant pastor at Saint Wenceslaus Church in Wahoo (1971-1973), Saint John Church in Lincoln (1973-1976), and Saint Mary Church in David City (1976-1979). His next assignment took him to the foreign mission at Barquisimeto, Venezuela, where he selflessly served until 1985. Upon returning to the Lincoln Diocese, Father Rudy was appointed pastor at Saint Mary Church in Davey, and teacher of Religion at Bishop Neumann High School in Wahoo (1985-1988). In 1988, he was made pastor of Saint Patrick Church in Lincoln, and put in charge of the Hispanic Catholic Community (1988-1990). He returned to Saint John Church in Lincoln as pastor (1990-1999). During this time at Saint John, Father Rudy also served as Faithful Friar to the Knights of Columbus, Chaplain and Spiritual Director of “Natural Family Planning of Nebraska”, and Confessor/Spiritual Director at Saint Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Nebraska.

In 1999, he returned to Saint Wenceslaus Church in Wahoo as pastor, remaining there until 2004. During this time he was also made Dean of the Wahoo Deanery. His next appointment took him to Sacred Heart Church in Hebron, where he served as Dean of the Fairbury Deanery (2004-2020). Throughout this time, Father Rudy also was made temporary administrator of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Grant, administrator of Saint Michael Church in Fairbury and Saint Mary Church in Alexandria. He was relieved of all administrator duties in 2009.

After a long and fruitful ministry, Father Rudy retired on June 15, 2020, only to enjoy a brief stay at Bonacum House for Retired Priests in Lincoln. He was soon admitted to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln where he died on May 14, 2021.

The Rosary was prayed for Father Oborny on May 17, 2021 at Saint John Church in Lincoln. The funeral Mass was also held at St. John Church in Lincoln on May 18, 2021, followed by the burial at Saint Peter Church in Bellwood, Nebraska.
William Kalin was born on April 28, 1933 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Upon completing his Philosophy and Theology studies at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado, he was ordained to the priesthood on May 23, 1959 at St. Mary Cathedral in Lincoln by Bishop James V. Casey.

Father Kalin began his active ministry as Assistant Pastor at Holy Trinity Parish in Brainard (1959-1961). He was next assigned Assistant Pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Falls City, as well as CYO Director of the Falls City Deanery (1961-1965). This was followed by the appointment as Assistant Pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Lincoln, and teacher at Pius X High School in Lincoln (1965-1968). Between June and August of 1968, he was put in temporary charge of Assumption Parish in Dwight.


Father Kalin returned to the place close to his heart, the Mission in Barquisimeto, Venezuela in 1984, remaining there until 2000. Next came the appointment to serve in the Diocese of Baker, Oregon where he ministered at several parishes (2000-2008). Father Kalin retired from active ministry and served as senior priest in residence at St. Peter Parish, The Dalles, Oregon (2008-2009). During the summer of 2009, he moved to Bonacum House in Lincoln and continued to help with the Spanish-speaking apostolate at St. Mary Parish in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Father Kalin passed away peacefully at Bonacum House on February 23, 2022. The Rosary and Mass of Christian Burial was at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln on March 3, 2022. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln.
John Zastrow was born on May 2, 1924, in Dakota County, Nebraska. He attended Hubbard Public and Emerson High School. After graduating from college at the Crosier Seminary in Onamia, MN, he received his degrees in Philosophy and Theology from St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

Father Zastrow was ordained on May 31, 1956 at St. Cecilia Church, in Hastings by Bishop John L. Paschang. During his active ministry, Father Zastrow served as Assistant Pastor at St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln (1956-1960). He then completed his graduate studies at Creighton University in Omaha. In 1961, he was made the Principal of Aquinas High School in David City, with residence at Holy Trinity Parish, Brainard (1961-1964). In January of 1964, Father Zastrow was assigned Pastor of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Andrew in Osceola, while continuing as Principal of Aquinas High School until June of 1964. In the summer of 1964, he became Superintendent of Neumann High School, with residence in St. Wenceslaus rectory in Wahoo. The next year he was stationed as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Colon, remaining Superintendent of Neumann High School (1965-1976).

The following year, Father Zastrow was Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Rulo; St. Mary Parish, Arago; and teacher of Religion at Sacred Heart High School, Falls City. From 1977 until 1981, he was Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Shelby. He was then appointed Pastor of St. John Parish, Cambridge and St. Germanus Parish, Arapahoe (1981-1985). His next position was that of Administrator of All Saints Parish, Holdrege, and St. John Parish, Smithfield (1985-1987). In 1987, he was made Pastor of All Saints Parish and St. John Parish, where he remained until his retirement at Bonacum House in Lincoln in 2000.

After serving his country during WWII as a B-29 navigator, surviving having his plane being hit by anti-aircraft weaponry and catching fire, and receiving the “Distinguished Flying Cross”, he answered the higher call to serve God and His people for over 65 years as a priest.

This humble, faithful servant was called to his eternal home on February 2, 2022. The Rosary was prayed at Butherus-Masur and Love Mortuary on February 6, 2022 and the Mass of Christian Burial was at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln on February 7, 2022. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln.

Ramon Decaen was born in Oxnard, California on Dec. 9, 1972. He attended Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California and Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. On May 27, 2000, he was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln by Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz.

Father Decaen began his active ministry as parochial vicar at Saint Mary Church in Nebraska City and teacher at Lourdes Central Catholic High School (2000-2003). He was next assigned to be the parochial vicar at Saint Cecilia Church in Hastings and teacher at Hastings Catholic Schools, also assisting with the Spanish-speaking ministry (2003-2005). In 2005, he was appointed parochial vicar at Saint John Church in Lincoln, as well as teacher at Pius X High School in Lincoln. Throughout this year, he was also assisting with the Spanish-speaking apostolate.

During the summer of 2006, Father Decaen studied Spanish in Mexico. Upon his return in September of 2006, he was appointed pastor of Saint Ann Church in Doniphan, Sacred Heart Church in Kenesaw, and teacher at Hastings Catholic Schools. Again during this time, he was assigned to assist in the Spanish-speaking apostolate (2006-2009).

Next, Father Decaen was made pastor of Saint Mary Church in Dawson and Saint Ann Church in Shubert, while also teaching at Sacred Heart School in Falls City (2009-2011). His final pastoral assignment was given to him in June of 2011 as he was appointed to Cristo Rey Church in Lincoln and made Diocesan Coordinator of the Hispanic Program. Along with these assignments, he became the Chaplain of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in September of 2016.

After a short illness, Father Decaen died on August 10, 2021 at the rectory of Cristo Rey Church in Lincoln. The Rosary was prayed for him on August 20, 2021 at Cristo Rey Church in Lincoln, and the funeral Mass was held on August 21, 2021 at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. The burial was in California.
Our Lady of Guadalupe,
Mystical Rose,
make intercession for Holy Church,
protect the sovereign Pontiff,
help all those who invoke you in their necessities,
and since you are the ever Virgin Mary
and Mother of the true God,
obtain for us from your most holy Son
the grace of keeping our faith,
of sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life
of burning charity, and the precious gift
of final perseverance.

February 1, 1919
Rev. Joseph Bartik

Joseph Bartik was born on January 13, 1857 in Bohemia. He was ordained there on July 20, 1882. Father Bartik came to Lincoln on February 15, 1891, and was assigned to Milligan and Odell.

In 1902, he was appointed as the first resident pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Plattsmouth. Since there was no rectory, Father Bartik directed the construction of a small residence that cost about $800. The following year he supervised the renovation of the church with an expenditure of $250.

On March 1, 1905, Father Bartik transferred to the Omaha Diocese. He died at Holy Trinity Parish in Heun, Nebraska, on February 1, 1919.

February 1, 1978
Rev. Henry Gozanski

Henry Gozanski was born on June 22, 1912, at Superior, Wisconsin. He studied at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio. Students at the Josephinum were under the immediate jurisdiction of the Apostolic See. The Apostolic Delegate assigned them to the various dioceses.

At the time of his ordination on May 29, 1938, Father Gozanski was assigned to the Diocese of Lincoln. He served at Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, and St. Joseph Church in York, before he was named administrator of Superior and Nelson on September 14, 1942.

In 1942, Father Gozanski asked permission to affiliate with his home Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin. He left Nebraska on September 14, 1942. He died on February 1, 1978.