

Greetings to St. Joseph Parish,

I am moved in and spent my first night at the rectory on Monday, November 22. I look forward to the opportunity to meet many of you in the coming weeks and months and to continue my work as your spiritual leader.

I am originally from Poland but over the years I have visited the United States many times as I have two sisters and their families living in Chicago and my parents also lived in Chicago for over 10 years before moving back to Poland. Actually, the majority of my family already lives in the US. On a more permanent basis, I came to the United States to learn the language and the culture of America and have most recently served at St. Therese Parish in Schofield and St. Florian's in Hatley.

Since I am originally from Poland, when you will hear my homilies, you may think it will be torture times 2 not only because of the length of the homily but also my accent....I may be kidding about the length, but not my accent.

After my ordination, I served as an associate pastor then my Bishop sent me to study law at the Catholic University in Lublin, Poland where I studied and worked for 8 years. I have a master degree in Theology from the Pontifical Academy in Krakow, I have a masters degree in cannon law and doctor's degree in both cannon and civil law.

I was a teacher at many Universities and have also written several books on Theology, Philosophy and law. I still enjoy teaching, university life and these subjects.

I cherish the opportunity that stands before me to serve as your pastor per the request of the Bishop. As I leave St. Florian's, I stand back and look at the great accomplishments that we achieved there as a parish family including a complete renovation of the church. As I prepare myself for my arrival at St. Joseph Parish, my hope is that we can work as a team and do wonderful things at your parish. I look forward to establishing an open line of cooperation and communication with parish staff, all parish committees especially parish finance and parish council. As for parishioners, I like to have an "open door" policy and welcome ideas and suggestions from all of you. I will try not to make too many changes in the coming months but I also recognize that some changes will need to be made. I hope that you will understand it. Just like managers of any business, everyone has their own leadership style. I can't stress enough that I want to work with you in the coming months and years.

I take my devotion to God and the Catholic Church very seriously, just as all of you do where your faith is concerned, but on a lighter note there are a few things that I would like you to know about me. I enjoy hunting, especially, deer hunting, both bow and rifle season and mostly anything that involves hunting! I enjoy watching TV, good comedies, National Geographic, history channel and good movies, I love to cook...my mother taught me, I like to entertain and I really enjoy good coffee. One of my favorite things to do next to breathing is laughing. Oh, by the way did I mention that I like hunting!

Cheerfully in Christ,

Father Jerzy Rebacz