

# SENIOR PRIEST CONNECTION

FALL 2013

## FINDING PEACE AND PURPOSE AS A SENIOR PRIEST

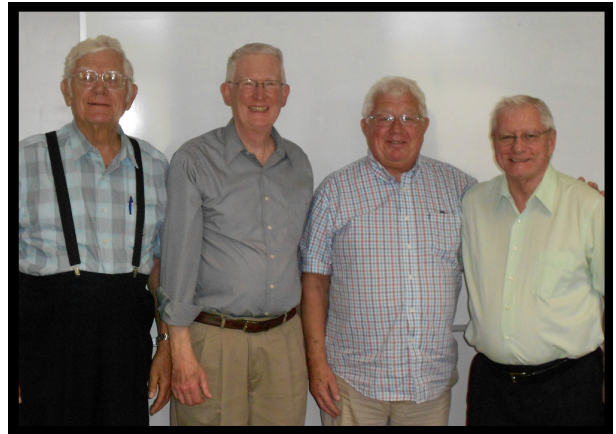
### FINDING PEACE & PURPOSE SEMINAR

Four senior priests have participated in a national program out of The Johnson Institute that facilitates conversation around retirement as a spiritual journey. The program, which was established about 10 years ago, is designed to facilitate the enrichment of the lives of retired priests.

Prior to their session at St. Francis de Sales Seminary these four priests filled out a questionnaire with 120 items that are divided into 15 categories. The questionnaire has been in use for about 10 years and filled out by thousands of diocesan priests. This makes it possible to do some statistical comparisons between the individual participants and all priests who have used the questionnaire.

The session was facilitated by Fr. Jim Lobacz who is a certified facilitator of The Johnson Institute. Some evaluative comments made by the participants include: "This program really helps you to clarify for yourself the many and varied issues that revolve around a priest's retirement." and "I enjoyed this time with other priests and Jim's facilitating; it quickly built a natural appreciation for the subject and for all the members of the group. I strongly recommend that this be offered as a four-day retreat." and "Thank you for the great program you provided for us. It was a spark, a needed stimulus for me. I also enjoyed the open discussion among the brothers. I know this took many hours of patient preparation." and "This program gave me the opportunity to evaluate my planning for retirement and affirmed that I made a number of correct decisions."

The program will be offered again next fall. Watch [The Senior Priest Connection](#) and [The Chancery Newsletter](#) for the opportunity to register.



The first graduates of the "Finding Peace & Purpose Seminar" are pictured above. Left to Right: Frs. Ed Wawrzyniakowski, Michael Newman, John Schreiter & Bill Kohler

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Senior Priest Advisory Committee meets quarterly to discuss the issues that are important to Senior Priests. The members of the committee are:

Fr. Glen Powers

Fr. John Hemsing

Fr. Leonard Barbian

Fr. Jim Lobacz

Fr. Pat Heppe

Fr. Russ Tikalski

Fr. Nathan Reesman

Fr. Tom Venne

Mr. Rick Tank

Fr. Michael Dineen

Feel free to contact any of these priests to add things to the agenda of the meeting.

The 2014 meetings are: January 14, April 8, July 8 and October 14.

FATHER JIM LOBACZ: (414) 769-3496

### CONNECTIONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO MAKE

#### ADVENT PRAYER FOR PRIESTS DECEMBER 20, 5:00PM

FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW

#### ST. FRANCIS SEMINARY

RSVP to Sr. Kathleen by December 13th

[Register via the internet](#) or

Call Sr. Kathleen at 414-769-3484

Email her at [schweihs@archmil.org](mailto:schweihs@archmil.org)



#### COMING THIS SPRING... THE "WHAT IF SEMINAR"

A program that will offer answers to these questions...

- What if I can't keep up my home anymore?
- What if I can't find the available home care services?
- What if I need help at home after a surgery?
- What if I need therapy in my home?
- What if I need meals prepared? Errands run?

The goal is to keep you in your home  
*as long as you are safe!*

#### CHANCERY NEWS

Do you want to have  
The Chancery  
Newsletter mailed to  
you monthly?  
Sign up with Fr. Jim  
Lobacz: 414-769-3496

#### SPRING ASSEMBLY OF PRIESTS THE ABBEY RESORT IN FONTANA MAY 5 TO MAY 7

The Vicar for Senior Priests has funds  
available to cover some or all  
of the cost for Senior Priests who  
want to participate.



### MAKE A CONNECTION ~ VISIT RETIRED PRIESTS & NUNS

#### Pope, at Mass, encourages people to visit retired priests, nuns

*By Cindy Wooden—[Catholic News Service](#)*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Calling homes for retired priests and nuns "sanctuaries of holiness," Pope Francis asked Catholics to visit those who spent their lives sharing the Gospel and caring for others.

In his morning Mass homily Oct. 18, the pope described retired clergy and religious as "good priests and good sisters, aged and bearing the weight of solitude, waiting for the Lord to knock on the doors of their hearts."

"Let's not forget them," he said during the Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, according to Vatican Radio.

Pope Francis spoke about how Moses, John the Baptist and St. Paul all endured suffering, but the Lord never abandoned them.

They were filled with energy when they began their service, he said; then challenges came and eventually the end of life. Pope Francis said when he thinks of the closing days of St. Paul's life, "My heart remembers those sanctuaries of apostolicity and sanctity, rest homes for priests and sisters."

He said Christians can make a pilgrimage by visiting the elderly priests and nuns, who "wait for the Lord a bit like Paul: perhaps a bit sad, but also with a sense of peace and a happy face."

The 76-year-old pope told those at the Mass, "It would do us all good to think about that final stage of life ... and pray to the Lord: Watch over those who are facing that moment of the final letting go so that they could say once again, 'Yes, Lord, I want to follow you.'"

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### MAKE A CONNECTION ~ WHERE TO VISIT RETIRED PRIESTS

#### HERE IS A LIST OF OUR SENIOR PRIESTS AND WHERE THEY ARE LIVING. WHY NOT DROP BY FOR A VISIT?

IL – Independent Living		AL – Assisted Living		SC – Skilled Care	
Acker, Carl (IL) Wilson Commons Milwaukee	Cera, James (AL) Alexian Village, Milwaukee	Fleischmann, George (IL) Maria Linden, Milwaukee		Hmircik, Don (AL) All About Life, Fond du Lac	
Berghammer, Robert (AL) Hope Home, Lomira	Daniels, Paul (SC) Timber Oakes, Union Grove	Gaberle, Jiri (IL) Juniper Court, St. Francis		Janette, Paul (IL) San Camillo, Wauwatosa	
Brady, James (SC) Clement Manor, Greenfield	Derfus, Ken (SC) St. Camillus, Wauwatosa	Gajdos, T. George, (IL) Sacred Heart at Monastery Lk Hales Corners		Kasten, Ed (IL) Alexian Village, Milwaukee	
Brahm, Harvey (IL) San Camillo, Wauwatosa	Endejan, John (AL) Clement Manor, Greenfield	Hauser, Gerald (IL) Brookfield Highlands, Waukesha		Klauck, Stan (AL) Alexian Village, Milwaukee	
Carroll, Ed (IL) St. Joseph Villa, Kenosha	Eschweiler, Ed (IL) Clement Manor, Greenfield	Hentzner, John (IL) San Camillo, Wauwatosa		Klink, Tony (SC) Autumn Oaks, Slinger	
Loehr, Charles (AL) St. Francis Home, Fond du Lac	Maney, Robert (SC) Linden Grove, New Berlin	Matt, Irwin (IL) Juniper Court, St. Francis		McCarthy, Tony (IL) Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake Hales Corners	
Mueller, Robert (AL) St. Camillus, Wauwatosa	Murphy, Dan (IL) Clement Manor Greenfield	Murray, William (SC) Elizabeth Residence, Bayside		Orzechlowski, Walter (AL) St. Francis Home, Fond du Lac	
Safiejko, Edward (SC) Luther Home, Wauwatosa	Schlenker, Richard (IL) Wilson Commons Milwaukee	Schmidt, Don (IL) Marquette Manor, South Milwaukee		Sommer, Al (SC) Lighthouse, West Bend	
Verhalen, Charles ((AL) St. Camillus, Wauwatosa	Weakland, Rembert (IL) Wilson Commons, Milwaukee	Weishar, Paul (AL) St Camillus, Wauwatosa		Winkler, Eugene (AL) Clement Manor, Greenfield	



#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The Affordable Care Act makes absolutely no impact on the insurance coverage enjoyed by Senior Priests in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

## GET OUT THE OLD SILVER

When I was a little girl, we moved from Madison to Milwaukee. Moving day was a turbulent affair — for my parents. For us children, it was a thrilling adventure. Looking back, I sympathize with my mother as she tried to make dinner on that first night in a new house, with boxes lying unopened in every room and tired children in dirty clothes around the table. The macaroni and hot dogs we had brought from Madison were boiled and ready to be served. But there were no forks or knives to eat it with. “Didn’t you put those in the box marked ‘Kitchen’?” “I thought so...”

We had to eat. So instead of the plain utensils I had used since I learned to hold a spoon, Mom brought out the reserves. Out of a box marked “Attic” she produced a velvet case that I had never seen before. She lifted the dark purple cover and began to set the table with old silver. These were curvy forks and elegant knives she had inherited from my grandmother. There were even demitasse spoons, which we begged my mother to put out and then used to apply ketchup to our franks. Macaroni tastes better on a silver fork. Sometimes, when the usual instruments are missing, you can rely on older, more precious ones.

I thought of moving day and grandma’s silver at Mass the other day. Now, I am a 34-year-old Catholic mom. I educate my children at home, so we have the luxury of going to Mass together every morning before launching into our schoolwork. Over the years, we have shifted Mass times and parishes pretty often, and I have become a sort of unofficial Mass monitor, with firsthand knowledge of what goes on in parishes in the weekday morning hours when most of the regular parishioners are in bed or driving to work. I have noticed a delightful phenomenon that few others see.

The good news is: Christ is among us. One of the guises He takes is that of an old priest. Perhaps it is a side-effect of the infamous “priest shortage,” but many parishes in our city have asked elderly priests fill in at daily Mass. Priests long into retirement who, in a different time, would have said Mass alone in their rooms, come each morning on shaky legs to the altar and pulpit. We don’t see these men at the big Sunday Masses, but among them are some sterling souls.

Take, for example, Father A. This priest is someone I don’t hesitate to call old. His voice is high and squeaky, but his words are encouraging and full of sweetness. Frail and slow of step, he still moves through the sanctuary with dignity. He never fails to pray for his old seminary classmates, many of whom, I would imagine, are long deceased.

One day, Father A.’s quaking hand placed the host upon my tongue only to have it fall to the ground. This had never happened to me before. I was stunned for a second. I would have picked the host up if given the chance — but I was not! Fr. A. fairly swooped into action. Before I could take in what had happened he crouched down, picked up the host, and consumed the sacred species himself.

*(continued next page)*



**GET OUT THE OLD SILVER— *CONTINUED***

Then he placed a new host in my mouth. Father A. didn't make a fuss. He did what he saw to be his duty, preserving the dignity of the Body and Blood of Our Lord. His love and devotion, mixed with fearless pragmatism, was an example to me.

Another priest, let's call him Father T., is a regular celebrant at a parish in Wauwatosa. He is robust and cheerful in a little white beard. After saying Mass, he often walks down the center aisle and greets us with good wishes for the day ahead. Fr. T. is also the most tone-deaf man I have ever encountered — and I'm not sure he knows it. At daily Mass, there is no organ, so Fr. T. sings twice as loudly to pick up the slack. The people in the pews have learned that they had better sing out as loud as they can or the hymns are unrecognizable. An old nun once told me, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord — even if you're a little off-key." Fr. T. follows that advice with enthusiasm.

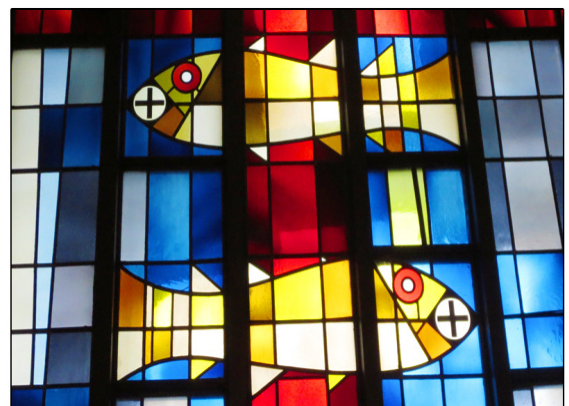
The beautiful thing about this priest is his paternal rapport with the people in the congregation. He notices and cares that each one of us is there. One day, we were too late to Mass to go to communion. With seven children, that happens. We were praying in a corner of the church after Mass when Fr. T. approached me. He asked me, personally, "Would you like to receive communion?" I answered gratefully in the affirmative and there, in his hand, was a consecrated host that he had brought just for me. Christ came to me that day in a tangible way — a way I would never have experienced if not for the special attention of this good minister.

The Church in Milwaukee is not perfect, but we have old silver in the attic. When you go to quiet Masses, you meet some hidden priests. And sometimes, o precious sometimes, you find a true *alter Christus*, another Christ, right here in our imperfect city.

*Meg  
Reprinted from Cream City Catholic Blog*

**COLLECT FOR THANKSGIVING DAY**

Father all powerful,  
 your gifts of love are countless  
 and your goodness is infinite;  
 As we come before you on Thanksgiving Day  
 with gratitude for your kindness,  
 open our hearts to have concern  
 for every man, woman and child,  
 so that we may share your gifts in loving service.



### Are You Getting What You Hoped For From Your Retirement???

*Richard P. Johnson, Ph.D.*

How much worth do you give retirement in general? How much value are you giving, or do you expect to give, to your own retirement?

Attitude Toward Retirement: The degree to which you give worth and significance to retirement as a personally meaningful time in life and stage for personal growth.

Just as the process of aging requires deep personal change (and perhaps more change than in any previous stage of life), so does retirement. The change that aging requests of us is internal growth: deepening of spirit, expansion of gratitude and transcendence, indeed a new attitude toward all the intangibles of life. All of this requires a shift in perspective; a new attitude of personal sensitivity and compassion toward others certainly... but perhaps even more so toward self.

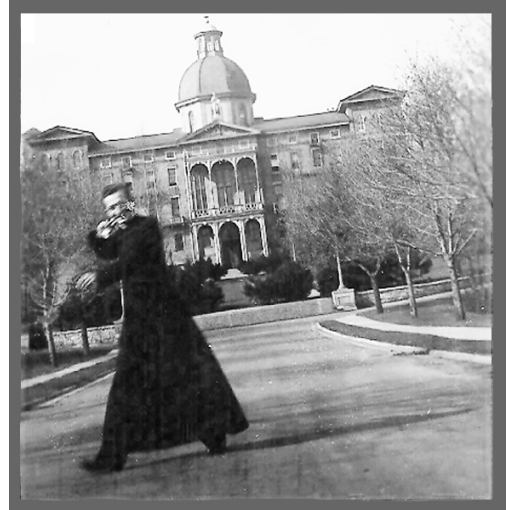
The real value of retirement is seeing ourselves engaged in a vital adventure of soul enrichment; a deepening search for the aspects of our true, Holy Self, as we gradually see retirement as a new forum pregnant with options for personal expansion, and a new frontier of inner development. On a spiritual level, retirement calls us to turn-up our efforts to "lay-up treasures in heaven."

The Well, Wise & Whole Monthly is the FREE monthly e-newsletter of the JOHNSON Institute. The JOHNSON Institute is devoted to sharing information and enhancing excellence in ongoing faith and spiritual formation for maturing adults in: 1) Midlife (Boomers), 2) Retirement Life (Builders), and 3) Senior Adult Life (Elders).

The Well, Wise & Whole Monthly:  
Strives to provide an ongoing flow of practical information that can be used directly with maturing adults.  
Anyone interested in lifelong adult faith formation and development is invited to receive this FREE e-publication. You are encouraged to forward this issue to any and all persons who may find this information of interest.

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### WIN SENIOR PRIEST MYSTERY



#### WIN A \$25. GAS GIFT CARD!

Can you identify the Where? When? Who? ...of this picture? Call Fr. Jim Lobacz at 414-769-3496 ... and you could WIN BIG!

### CONNECT WITH THE SENIOR PRIESTS OFFICE

**Reverend James Lobacz**  
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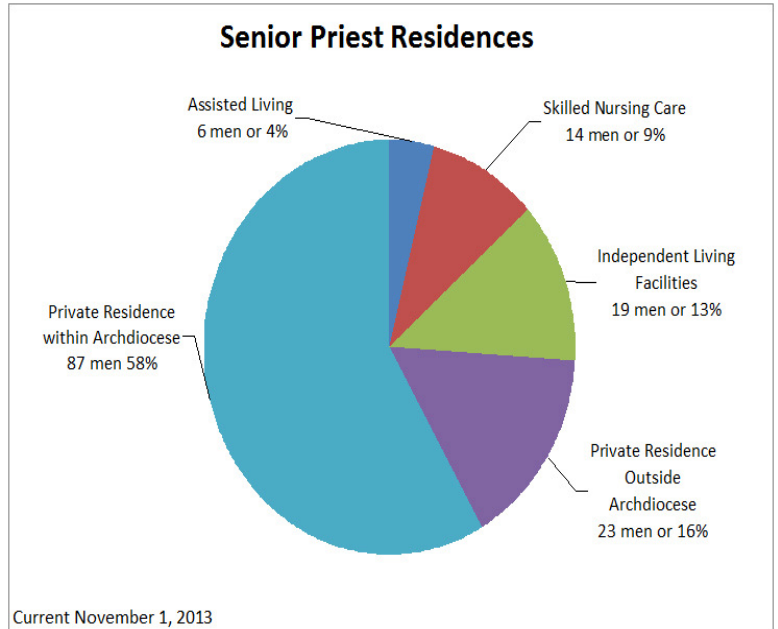
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## SURVEY ABOUT SENIOR PRIEST HOUSING

An informal sounding out about Senior Priest housing was conducted at the Fall Mass and luncheon with Archbishop ListECKI on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Participants were instructed to check all of the boxes that would be of interest to them over the next three years. There were 29 respondents and things shook out this way:

- 21 Independent, private residence
- 4 Independent, rectory
- 1 Independent, private residence, with assistance
- 2 Independent, apartment within a nursing home
- 0 Live in facility just for priests
- 6 Live in assisted living apartment
- 3 Moving from assisted living to skilled nursing care



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