

Greetings Holy Angels Parish Family,

I am looking forward to shepherding the parish family of Holy Angels. I was ordained to the priesthood June 2, 2012. I served as Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help for four years and as Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle and St. Regina for two years. Some of you may remember me as a Transitional Deacon in my last year of seminary studies as I served here at Holy Angels during the Christmas celebrations.

Some of the interesting facts of my life:

I was born December 1, 1968 to George and Patricia Hirtz at the Navy Hospital in Millington. When asked where are you from? Being a Navy brat, my early years found me at several bases around the country. The anchor landed when my father retired in Memphis. My parents raised 5 children and I am the youngest. My parents were raised in Missouri not too far from Holy Angels in Glennonville, MO.

After high school, I entered the hospitality industry working all areas of restaurant jobs. I ended my career as a chef working for a beloved Catholic family, Ronnie Grisanti and Sons. I find cooking now as a relaxing time, free from the stress.

God first called me to the priesthood during my Confirmation. However, I listened to my will and not God's will until later in life. I am the seventh priest in my family history. My cousin Father Dan Hirtz served as pastor at Sacred Heart in Caruthersville, MO several years ago. I have three cousins in active ministry, two cousins who are sisters and one who is a deacon. Two great-uncles served and founded churches in the early 1900's, my uncle was the first ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape. My first week of seminary studies was greeted by hurricane Katrina at St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary. I studied Theological Studies at St. Meinrad Archabbey.

Some of the joy's in ministry: For six years I have been apart of a Pro-Life Mission, Biking for Babies. Biking for Babies help raise awareness of Pregnancy resource Centers and funds. This year I will depart after the 10:45 Mass for this year's National Ride on July 8th. I will be offering support to the rider team of the south. On Thursday July 12th, the team will be here in Dyersburg at Holy Angels. I have also attended the past 12 years with SBA, CBHS, and MC the National March for Life in Washington D.C. Pro-Life is very important in my life and the care of our parents and grandparents are shown the dignity of life.

I look forward to serving Holy Angels Parish family, in August I will begin meeting with the groups and committees of the parish. I first want to get settled after the Biking for Babies Ride before the meetings begin.

May God protect us and watch over us with His Angels,

Fr. Patrick Hirtz