

REVEREND ROBERT M. BURNS
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
97 South Street
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130
Telephone: (617) 524-0240

EDUCATION: Th.D. Social Ethics and Pastoral Psychology
(in process) Boston University School of Theology, 1983-present;
Course requirements expected to be completed, June 1986

M.A. Biblical Studies
Mt. St. Mary Seminary of the West, 1971-75

B.A. Philosophy
St. Gregory Seminary, 1969-71

M.A. and B.A. in affiliation with The Athenaeum of Ohio, Cincinnati,
Ohio.
Attended John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio from 1967-69,
completing two years prior to entering the seminary.

EXPERIENCE
SUMMARY:

I was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in the Diocese of Youngs-
town, Ohio in June, 1975. Since then my assignments have included
parish work in Ohio and currently in Boston, teaching at the high
school level, and campus ministry.

I have been very involved in social service activities at different
levels, as well as in the religious education of adults and children, and
the continuing education of priests. My administrative background,
including Vice President of the Diocesan Priest Senate in Ohio, has
been an important part of my experience.

My areas of special interest include the Pastoral Letters of U.S.
Bishops, issues of church/state and religion/politics, and the
psychology of adult religious learning.

ASSIGNMENTS AND
POSITIONS HELD:

1974-75 Deacon Internship, St. Pius X, Warren, Ohio
1975-77 Associate Pastor, St. Paul Parish, North Canton, Ohio
1976-80 Member, Senate of Priests, Youngstown, Ohio
1976-78 Coordinator and Speaker, Marriage Preparation Program, Stark
County, Ohio
1977-79 Faculty, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Louisville, Ohio
1977-79 Member, Commission for the Continuing Education of the Clergy,
Youngstown, Ohio
1977-78 Campus Ministry (part-time), Mt. Union College, Alliance, Ohio
1978-79 Campus Ministry (part-time), Kent State University, Kent, Ohio
1979-81 Associate Pastor, St. Rose Parish, Girard, Ohio
1980-81 Member, Ministry to Priests Team
1980-81 Member, Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue
1981 Member, Accreditation Committee, St. Edward School, Youngstown,
Ohio
1981 Member, Regional Catholic School Board, Trumbull and Ashtabula
Counties, Ohio
1982 Resident, House of Affirmation, Hopedale, MA
1983-present Associate Pastor (part-time), St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Jamaica
Plain, MA

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**AREAS OF
EXPERIENCE:****Teaching**

Recently I have presented a number of workshops to various denominational groups on the topics of Challenge of Peace, Catholic Social Teaching and the American Economy, and Church State issues. I have also lectured at Boston University.

At St. Thomas Aquinas High School, I developed and taught theology courses in Scripture, Sacraments, Morality and Doctrine. I also wrote the Theology Department curriculum guide, department course descriptions, and the plan for pastoral ministry at the school. I assumed leadership in supervising the implementation of these documents and reviewed and selected theology texts.

I taught adult education courses at St. Paul's and in other parishes in the Youngstown diocese. I also taught catechists through the Diocesan Office of Religious Education.

At the college level I developed and taught a course on the Gospels as part of a degree program sponsored jointly by the Diocese and Ursuline College of Cleveland.

As a member of the Commission for the Continuing Education of the Clergy, appointed by the Bishop, I established policy and planned retreats and continuing education opportunities for priests of the Diocese. I served as a presenter in workshops, introducing the Lucan material as a preparation for a more detailed presentation by Father Eugene La Verdere, a noted Biblical scholar.

Pastoral

As an Associate Pastor my responsibilities have included liturgical and pastoral functions, as well as being involved with the parish educational program, athletics, administration, and fund raising. St. Paul's is an 1800-family parish with just two priests assigned, while St. Rose is a very large urban parish with 2500 families. Both parishes were very demanding assignments.

I served as a Campus Minister, first at Mt. Union College and then at Kent State University, a university with a large Catholic population. The Catholic community of Kent State University is served by a parish with canonical status in the Diocese of Youngstown. I was very active in assisting the Pastor of that parish, especially in the areas of liturgy and religious education.

Administration

I was elected to the Priests' Senate in 1974 as the seminary representative. In 1976 I was elected to a 4-year term and subsequently elected in 1978 as Vice President. This is a very active representative body with which the Bishop works closely. As a member of the Executive Committee, I gained considerable administrative experience.

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**AREAS OF
EXPERIENCE:
(continued)****Social Service**

I served on the Board of Directors for a community action group in Canton, Ohio entitled PAX (Project for Academic Excellence), whose goal was to improve educational opportunity for numerous students. We successfully obtained federal funding and established a remedial program.

As a member of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC), a group formed to have an impact on social and political issues in the greater Cincinnati area, my work involved efforts on behalf of a school levy and research on the county manager form of government. This was a Field Education Internship while in the Seminary.

While at St. Paul's I coordinated the resettlement of a Vietnamese family in the parish. This was a sometimes difficult 'public relations' job, which turned out very successfully for all. Other programs with which I was involved included Director of Meals-On-Wheels.

Ecumenical

Member and participant in the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue, the North Canton Ministerial Association, and the Girard-McDonald Clergy Association.

Industry

I consider my work at Hynes Steel Products Company (1972-73) and with the City of Youngstown (1965-72) as an important part of my preparation for the ministry. It provides me with additional insights into the current employment problem in the Mahoning Valley.

**PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS:**

Pastoral Affiliate, American Association of Pastoral Counselors
Member, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

PERSONAL:

Excellent health ... 5'11", 175 lbs. ... born 3/25/49. Interests include sports, especially racquetball, and reading.