

May the peace of Jesus fill out hearts as we begin this major transition in parish life.

My name is Fr. Douglas Loecke. I grew up on a farm about two miles west of Ryan, a predominately Catholic area in southwest Delaware County.

My parents, David and Deanne are both still living and enjoy great health. They live in Manchester moving about 10 years ago from the farm they moved to in 1963, the year I was born.

I have three brothers who are happily married. I am the oldest, then my brother Scott and his wife Lisa who live in West Des Moines; my brother Todd and his wife Melanie who live in Urbandale; my youngest brother Chad and his wife Charity live on the farm where we grew up. I have nine nieces and nephews whom I love deeply. They range in age from 27 to 13 years old.

I was ordained in 1989, June 24, the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist. John's statement "I must decrease so that He may increase" has been my mindset as a priest.

I graduated from West Delaware in 1981. I graduated from Loras in 1985 and from St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, MD in 1989. My first assignment was All Saints, Cedar Rapids from 1989 to 1993. I was transferred to the Nativity in Dubuque for one year before being assigned to St. Patrick's, Cedar Falls to help a priest who had colon cancer. In 1997, I was assigned to two small parishes in Grundy County, Sacred Heart, Grundy Center and Queen of Heaven in Reinbeck. Both of those parishes were closed several years ago. In 2000, I went to Rome, Italy to earn a license in canon law. After I returned from Rome, I was assigned to the Metropolitan Tribunal part time and to the parishes of St. Francis Xavier Basilica in Dyersville and to St. Paul's in Worthington. In 2007, I was transferred to the parishes in the Cascade area along with my work in the tribunal. I was there for 13 years before moving in 2020 to St. Matthew in Cedar Rapids.

I enjoy doing many things in life. I have seven years before I reach retirement age. My 37 years as a priest have been wonderful. I feel very blessed to be a priest of Jesus Christ.

I was asked by someone what I am looking forward to in this assignment. My answer is quite simple, doing everything I can to help you get to heaven. Nothing more nothing less. There is nothing that matters more to me as a priest. It is part of what I will be judged on by God at the end of my earthly journey.

I will be living in Gilbertville.

Reverend Douglas J. Loecke