



The Alaskan Shepherd



Volume 47 Number 6

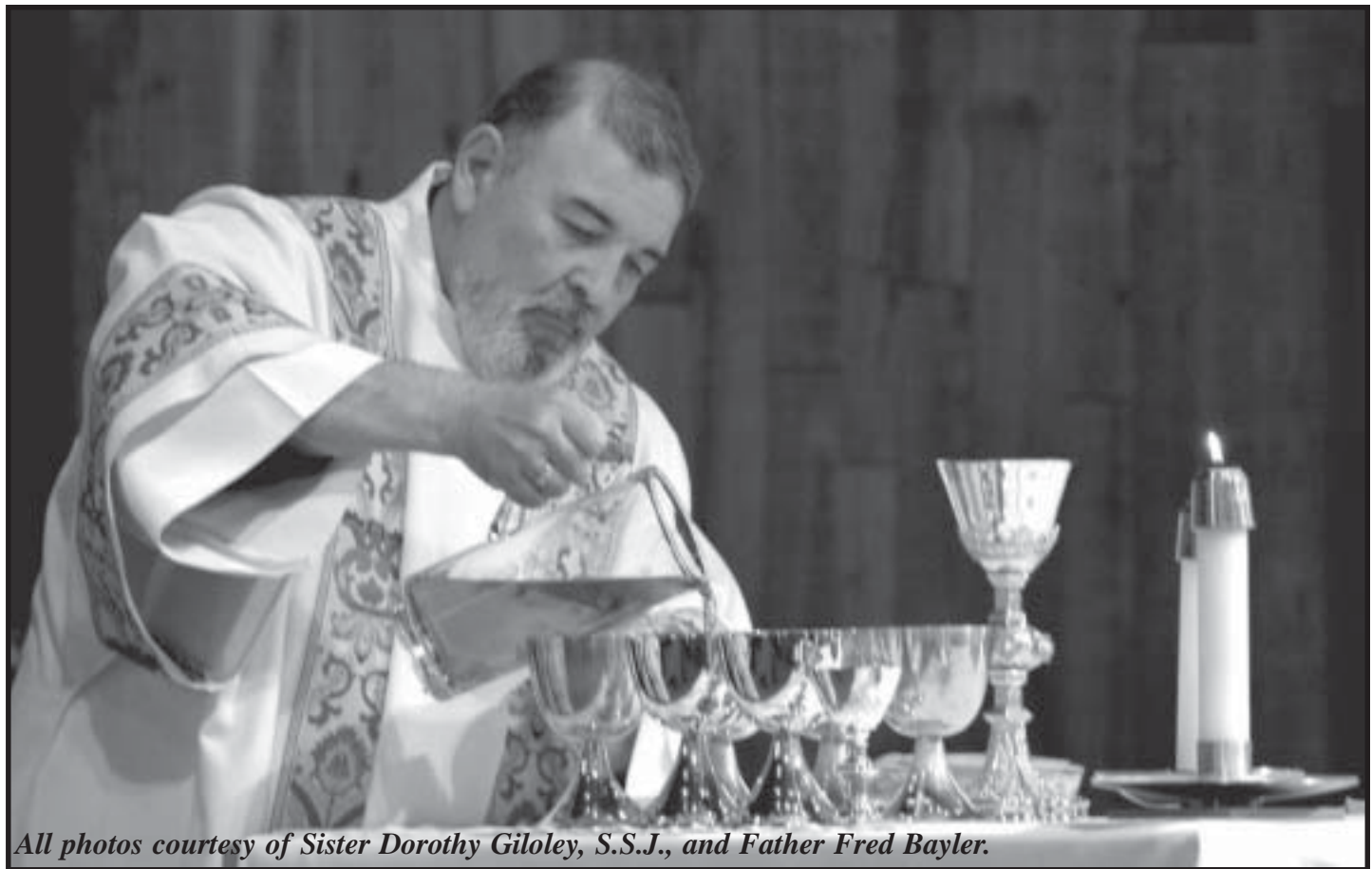
August 2009

Some give by going to the Missions

Some go by giving to the Missions

Without both there are no Missions

FREDERICK C. BAYLER PRIEST FOR ALASKA



All photos courtesy of Sister Dorothy Giloley, S.S.J., and Father Fred Bayler.

Frederick C. Bayler, ordained a priest on June 12, 2009, by Bishop Donald J. Kettler in Sacred Heart Cathedral, brings to the Diocese of Fairbanks, among his many gifts, something a bit unusual. Father Fred brings an extensive resume, touting decades of experience and education. A catalog of his many achievements would supply a complete and satisfying list of accomplishments for many, but...Father Fred is not finished yet.

At age 55, Father Fred's life paints an impressive portrait of his previous life. Fred served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he gained international experience as a diplomatic bodyguard and Marine Security Guard in Africa, the Far East, and in Latin America. He also served in combat helicopter and attack aircraft avionics and operations until 1977.

CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA
1312 PEGER ROAD FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709
Phone: 907-374-9532 <http://www.cbna.info>

Special Masses are offered throughout the year for you and your intentions by our Missionary Priests. Please pray that God may bless us and our work.



Bishop Donald J. Kettler visits Fred Bayler at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts. The seminary is committed to pastoral candidates between 30 and 60 years of age.

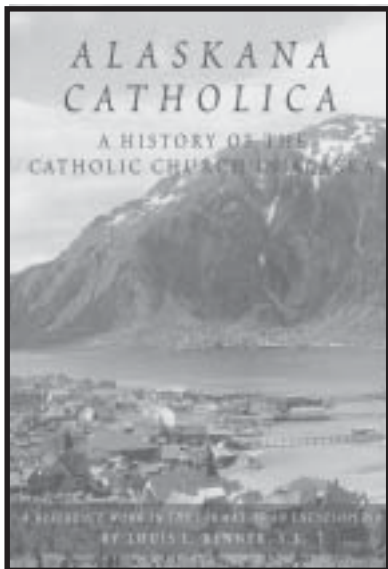
Beginning in 1971, at age 17, and continuing through 1978, Fred earned an Intermediate Parachutist Class B Certificate, and Skydiver Jumpmaster rating, with more than 100 freefalls. In 1979, he graduated from Texas A & M University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. In 1980, he earned his Master's in Public Administration. In 1981, he served as a Diplomatic Foreign Service Officer at the American Embassy, Managua, Nicaragua, during the Contra-war and he wrote numerous analytical pieces on the political and economic situation in Nicaragua and its military capabilities and made strategic assessments. Fred worked as a coordinating liaison between members of the U.S. Congress, other federal government agencies with foreign counterparts, political parties, and local business leaders. Additionally, he worked as a Consular Officer issuing immigrant and non-immigrant visas, and as a U.S. citizen services liaison. In 1982, while stationed at the American Embassy, Managua, Nicaragua, he received flight instruction from Lt. Colonel William Walker, USAF, Ret. He received his Private Pilot Certificate and has accumulated nearly 400 hours as a private pilot. From 1986 to 2004, Fred worked as a Commercial Real Estate Appraiser and as a fee appraiser. As Chief Appraiser, from 1989 to 1991, Fred organized and managed the First Heights Bank Appraisal Department, in Houston, Texas. Additionally in 1991, he completed, at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, two teaching certification classes for Bilingual Education and Spanish Language Skills. From 1991 to 1994, he owned and operated his own fee appraisal company as a

state licensed Commercial Appraiser, Consultant—serving primarily banking, and government clients. In 1991, he taught at Memorial Elementary School in Houston, Texas, as a fifth grade Bilingual Education Teacher through the Houston ISD Alternative Certification Program. From 1992-1995, Fred served as an Adjunct Instructor of Political Science. He taught university level American government courses at North Harris College, Montgomery College, and Houston Community College. As a Catechist, Fred taught the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at Blessed John XXIII University Center in Fort Collins, Colorado, and in several parishes in Houston, Texas. He also served on the Parish Council and as an aide to Bishop Sydney Metzger of El Paso. From 1998-2001, he served as U.S. Customs Inspector (federal law enforcement officer) at Eagle Pass, Texas, in Cargo and Passenger Processing operations, where he enforced Custom and Immigration laws. Fred affected numerous seizures and arrests for the smuggling of narcotics and other contraband. Before his enrollment at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, Fred served in a variety of operational positions within the National Park Service: Park Dispatcher at Denali National Park, Alaska, Supervisory Backcountry Ranger in Denali, Interpretive Ranger in Big Bend National Park, Texas. Additionally, as a NRA Certified Instructor, he taught defensive and tactical firearms skills to civilians and police.

During the course of his many careers, Fred Bayler often questioned whether he was on his “true” path. He felt particularly called to serve the people of God on a more personal level. When Fred began considering the priesthood, he received some less than enthusiastic responses from many dioceses, concerned primarily with his age. When he spoke with Bishop Kettler, he was encouraged to spend a winter in Alaska. After that period, Bishop Kettler sponsored and supported Fred’s path to the priesthood. On December 7, 2006, in a letter written during his second year of enrollment at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary to the Diocese of Fairbanks, Fred reflected on his life course. He began the letter with this quote from St. Matthew’s gospel: “*Then He said to His Disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*”

At age 52, I am in the middle of my second year of a four-year theology program at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts. It is a seminary for older men, delayed vocations, second

INSPIRATIONAL AND HISTORICAL



ALASKANA CATHOLICA:

A History of the Catholic Church in Alaska

By Fr. Louis L. Renner, S.J.

(Hardcover 702 pages) \$85.00 includes shipping.

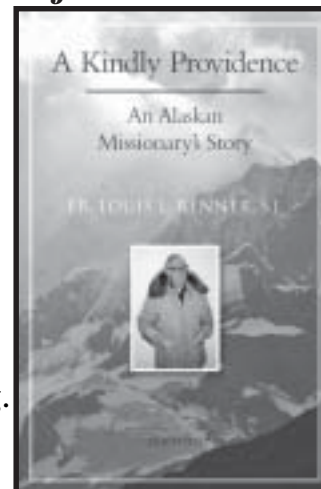
A KINDLY PROVIDENCE:

An Alaskan Missionary's Story

By Fr. Louis L. Renner, S.J.

(Paperback 507 pages) \$35.00, includes shipping.

Just Published:



In *Alaskana Catholica*, Fr. Renner offers a thorough picture of the Catholic Church's ministerial activity in Alaska from its beginning in the nineteenth century to the present. In his autobiography, *A Kindly Providence*, he tells the story of a dedicated missionary priest. A scholar, a teacher, and always a Jesuit priest, he taught German and Latin at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, edited the Catholic newsletter *The Alaskan Shepherd*, and served as pastor of two different Indian villages on the Yukon River during his 40 years in Alaska. He was a recipient of the "Governor's Award for Friend of the Humanities," in 2002. The two books, both richly illustrated, are now available from the *Alaskan Shepherd*. The books are perfect gifts, whether to give or to receive!

Proceeds benefit the Catholic Missions of Northern Alaska. www.cbna.info

**Yes, please send _____ copy(ies) of *Alaskana Catholica*,
written by *Father Louis L. Renner, S.J.***

I am enclosing \$85.00 for each book, which includes shipping.

Please make checks payable to CBNA (Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska)

Credit Card purchases can be made by calling the Alaskan Shepherd Business Office at 907-374-9532 or mail to

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All donors are truly co-missionaries, since they alone make possible our work for the Lord and His Kingdom.

TO: CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA (our legal title):

1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5199

Date _____ 2009

Dear Bishop Kettler:

As a member of the Alaskan Shepherd **"Buck-A-Month Club"** I enclose my contribution of \$ _____ *OR* I have already contributed but please accept this additional donation of \$ _____ to be used where most needed.

Name _____

Street No. /P.O.Box _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If donating by **check** please make payable to: **CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA** or **CBNA**

If donating by credit card: **NAME AS LISTED ON CREDIT CARD:** _____

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SIGNATURE: _____

Bishop Donald J. Kettler
Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska
1312 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

June 9, 2009

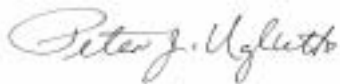
Dear Bishop Kettler,

I am writing today regarding Frederick C. Bayler, who is scheduled to be ordained to priesthood on June 12th for the Diocese of Fairbanks. Fred has spent the last four years in our discernment program here at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, where I am the Rector. He is one of seventeen men in this year's graduating class.

The entire Blessed John XXIII Seminary community is extremely proud of Fred. At Blessed John XXIII, we offer a high-quality formation experience to men over thirty years of age responding to a call to priestly ministry. Fred is a fine example of the candidates who enter our Seminary. Our program is specifically suited to these mature adults and respects and utilizes their life experiences and accomplishments as we prepare them for ordained ministry.

We have almost 600 alumni who serve in over 120 dioceses and religious orders throughout the United States and beyond. In a time when good pastors are needed more than ever, our Seminary administration, faculty and staff work hard to help prepare effective pastoral leaders. We will keep Fred Bayler and all the members of the Class of 2009 in our prayers as they embark on their new lives serving the Faithful of our Church.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Peter J. Uglietto
Rector
Blessed John XXIII National Seminary
558 South Avenue



In 1964, with the encouragement and the explicit blessing of Pope Paul VI, Blessed John XXIII National Seminary became the first seminary in North America established for the formation of men answering the call to priesthood at a later time in their lives.



*Your first class stamp donations are greatly appreciated.
(First class stamps have increased to 44¢)*



Thanks too for your Box Tops donations for the Catholic Schools of Fairbanks!

TO: CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA/CBNA
1312 Peger Road * Fairbanks, AK * 99709-5199

Please remember the following petitions during the Novena to St. Therese:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____



***To the friends and benefactors of the
Missionary Diocese of Fairbanks:***

In September we begin our annual novena to the patroness of the missions of Alaska, St. Therese, “The Little Flower.” The Novena will begin on September 23 and will end on the Feast of St. Therese, October 1. On each of these days a Mass will be offered for our friends and for their needs and petitions.

You are invited to submit petitions to be remembered during the novena. No offering is necessary. Any received will be used to support our ministries here in Northern Alaska.

You are also invited to join us on the novena days
(***September 23-October 1***), by praying the following prayer:

“O Lord, Who said, ‘Unless you become as little children you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven,’ GRANT US, WE BESEECH YOU, to so follow in the way of Blessed Therese in humility and simplicity that through her intercession these petitions and those of all our members may be granted as part of the shower of roses she promised to send upon this earth.”

Please detach and send intention portion.
Use prayer above for the Novena.

A./B.



Packets of 6 cards—cards bearing the full-color DENAAHUTO' (Our Father) image by renowned Alaskan artist Jon Van Zyle and a description of it on back—are now available from the Alaskan Shepherd office for \$20.00 a packet. This includes envelopes, handling and shipping. Prints of the DENAAHUTO' image, measuring 8 x 5 1/2 inches, are also available, at \$3.00 each. The original painting, measuring 4' x 8', adorns the wall behind the altar in St. Peter in Chains Church in Ruby, Alaska. The painting is a gift from the artist to the people of Ruby and the Diocese of Fairbanks.

A packet of 10 Our Lady of the Arctic Snows full-color note-cards is now also available from the Alaskan Shepherd office for \$5.00, which includes handling and shipping. The cards are printed on a heavy paper stock measuring 3 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches and blank on the inside. All proceeds from the sales of cards benefit the Missionary Diocese of Fairbanks.



D.

Full-color prints of both of Our Lady of the Arctic Snows and of Christ of the Arctic, measuring 8 1/2 x 5 1/2, are available free with donation.

OUR LADY OF THE ARCTIC SNOWS

CHRIST OF THE ARCTIC

E.



A. PLEASE SEND ME ___ PACKET(S) OF DENAAHUTO' CARDS (6 CARDS PER PACKET--BLANK ON INSIDE) AT \$20.00 PER PACKET.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

B. PLEASE SEND ME ___ DENAAHUTO' PRINT(S) AT \$3.00 PER PRINT.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

C. PLEASE SEND ME ___ PACKET(S) OF OUR LADY CARDS (10 CARDS PER PACKET) AT \$5.00 PER PACKET.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

D. PLEASE SEND ME OUR LADY OF THE ARCTIC SNOWS PRINT

E. PLEASE SEND ME CHRIST OF THE ARCTIC PRINT

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

career men... in my case a 22nd career man, as I have followed many career paths. While still attending college at Texas A&M University in 1980, my Alaska experience began when I made my first trip to the north to explore gold mining claims near Circle, Alaska. Later from 1995 to 2005, I worked on and off, seasonally and as a permanent Park Ranger at Denali National Park and Preserve. Over the years, I served in many other areas as a U.S. Marine, Oil Drilling Mud Engineer, U.S. Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Customs Inspector, Real Estate Appraiser, Bilingual Elementary Teacher, and College Instructor to name a few. I have a 21 year-old son, David, in college (my marriage was annulled), and since being accepted for sponsorship by Most Reverend Bishop Donald J. Kettler, I have found tremendous fulfillment in my path to serve our diocese and the Catholic Church.

After serving the Church for many years as a lector, RCIA-catechist, and annulment counselor, I came to perceive the call in the depths of my heart to pursue the path to priesthood as a seminary candidate. Before my son graduated from high school in Colorado, I told him I was going to walk the path of the Almighty, wherever He might lead. After considering my plans for a time, David came to me and announced, "Dad, I think it is a good idea for you to go become a priest." I asked him why he thought so and he replied, "You love God and the Church, you are not afraid to go out and do the things others only talk about, and you will make sure no other kids get hurt." I took those as my marching orders, for after all, if my own son did not think I would be a good priest, who else would?

I came back to Alaska in part to discern my future direction and my pastor at Holy Mary of Guadalupe in Healy; Father Jack de Verteuil encouraged and guided my search. He showed me the great need in Alaska as the largest missionary diocese in the U.S. with few candidates who could withstand the rigors of Alaskan life. Other priests in the diocese further encouraged my vocation, especially Fathers Pat Bergquist, John Hinsvark, Ross Tozzi, and Bishop Kettler. What a challenge they presented, and what an opportunity to serve!

Whether or not I become a priest is up to God,

but I strongly believe that some of us, men and women of goodwill, should step forward and weather the storm to serve and rebuild the Church. Although perhaps not the "perfect candidate," in 2004, at age 50, I offered myself to the service of Jesus Christ with all my heart. I pray fervently that I will be faithful to the teachings of our Catholic faith and to the vows I will take, and I am learning and growing in the life of holiness toward the day of my ordination (projected for 2009). Before my beloved Mother died in 1996 she told me, "I am not worried about you, for you have God."

If God has other plans for me, I trust that through the Holy Spirit, He will let me know. Discernment is a process. I continue in my journey to priesthood with a desire to bridge the chasms that divide us and with compassion for all in Jesus Christ who will be the center of my future ministry. I will do my best to help to strengthen our Church and our faith, and to bring all of my life experience to assist everywhere and everyone that I can. When asked in what role I see myself in God's flock, as shepherd or sheep, I replied, "I am the sheepdog, I protect the flock."

When asked what if her work in India failed, Mother Theresa replied, "It does not matter if I am successful, only that I am faithful." That the all-powerful God, creator of heaven and earth, chose not to reveal himself on earth as a temporal king, but rather, as a humble man still amazes us. Then, that Jesus chose disciples, considered some of the least likely to carry on his ministry, gives me great encouragement in my journey to study for the priesthood for the missionary diocese of northern Alaska. I ask all who read this to please pray for me in my vocation. This laborer has reported for duty!—
Your seminarian, Frederick Bayler

And so, the 12th of June arrived, and the laborer, Fred Bayler, reported for Ordination. Sacred Heart Cathedral parishioners, family, friends, and visitors filled the pews and sang a joyful welcome to their newest candidate for the priesthood. A most joyful event for the Diocese of Fairbanks, the Ordination Mass was celebrated by Bishop Donald J. Kettler and

We want to thank in a special way those of you who have included the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska (our legal title) in your bequests and wills, and those of you who, at the time of the deaths of dear ones, have suggested that in their memory contributions be made to the Missions of Northern Alaska or to the Alaskan Shepherd Endowment Fund. A suggested wording: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, 1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska..."

concelebrated by Father William Palardy, Academic Dean and Faculty Advisor, Blessed John XXIII National Seminary. Eleven of our nineteen priests, as well as four visiting priests, concelebrated. Six Sisters, one Brother, and five Deacons from the Diocese of Fairbanks attended, as well as eight acolytes. Of special note was Fred's own son, now 23, David McKinley Bayler, preparing to enlist in the U.S. Army, and his cousin David Giddings, a United Parcel Service Aircraft Commander, who assisted him throughout the Mass whenever the order called for kneeling, as Fred was recovering from recent knee replacement surgery.

Following the Gospel, Deacon George Bowder called Fred forth and Father Ross Tozzi presented him to Bishop Kettler. Bishop Kettler proclaimed, *"Relying on the help of our Lord God and our Savior Jesus Christ, we choose this man, our brother, for the Order of the priesthood."* A joyful congregation responded, *"Thanks be to God."* The solemnity of the moment was ever more marked, as the Athabaskan Indian group, *Soaring Eagle Drum*, led by Bob Maguire, beat out a rhythmic tribute to Fred, and chanted the *"Eyak Honor Song."*

During his homily, Bishop Kettler addressed Fred directly, imploring him to embrace the gifts and responsibilities of his priesthood and particularly to employ his role of healer. He spoke of the many challenges within the diocese and the need to be especially available to the Native people of Alaska within his congregation and to all spread throughout the Eskimo and Indian parishes contained within the vast Diocese of Fairbanks.

During the *Promise of the Elect* Bishop Kettler questioned Fred about his resolve to serve as a priest and his promise of respect and obedience. Bishop then invited all to stand and pray during the *Litany of Supplication*, after which Fred lay prostrate for the singing of the *Litany of Saints* and all kneeled. After the Litany, Bishop Kettler and all priests imposed their hands on Fred, one-by-one, and prayed silently. Bishop Kettler prayed the Prayer of Ordination which ended with: *Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.* Bishop Kettler invited all to be seated as Fr. Jack de Verteuil vested Fred with his Stole and Chasuble. Anointing Fred's hands, Bishop Kettler prayed, *The Lord Jesus Christ, whom the Father anointed with the Holy Spirit and*

power, guard and protect you, that you may sanctify the Christian people and offer sacrifice to God. The Cathedral assembly responded with deafening applause for their new priest. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, all concelebrating priests joined Bishop Kettler in the sanctuary. At the altar, Deacon George Bowder, Father William Palardy, and Father Fred Bayler joined Bishop Kettler.

After Holy Communion, Bishop Kettler announced that Father Fred would return to the Sanctuary following Mass for "first blessings." He also invited all to a reception immediately following. After Bishop Kettler's solemn blessing, the congregation recessed to the song, "Go To The World."

Of his call to the priesthood, Father Fred reflects, *"It was my service as an Altar Boy at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (El Paso, Texas) in my youth, and the strong and steadfast devotion of my now deceased Mother, Shirley, a Third Order Franciscan, and many others that sowed the seeds of my priestly vocation. In large measure, the shortage of priests coupled with the damage from the sexual abuse scandal within the Church were instrumental events calling me forward to protect the people of God in the Church, with a desire to be a bridge-builder among the many disparate elements both within and from outside the Church. When I first entered Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, I viewed it primarily as a "spiritual warfare training center." As a testament to the excellent academic, spiritual, human, and pastoral formation, I have come to understand it more in terms of a "school of God's love." May I always reflect the love of our Lord Jesus Christ in my priesthood and the gratitude I have for my seminary*



formation program throughout all my life."

—Patty Walter

Representatives from the Native community, Winnie Reeves, Marie Yaska, and Bob Maguire present Father Fred Bayler with handmade gifts.

"We are blessed to have so many supporters who make our work possible. I want to especially thank those of you who remember us in your prayers. Donations provide tangible benefits, but the power of prayer and the Lord's grace is our bedrock. Thank you with all our hearts." --Bishop Donald J. Kettler