

BY ALDS. BORKOWSKI, BOHL, COGGS, PÉREZ

*Resolution recognizing and congratulating Rev. Thomas P. Demse on his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.*

**WHEREAS,**

## **REVEREND THOMAS P. DEMSE**

*celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at St. Gregory the Great Church, 3160 S. 63<sup>rd</sup> St., on June 5, 2016; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Rev. Thomas P. Demse graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from St. Francis de Sales University in Milwaukee, and earned a Master of Divinity degree from St. Francis Seminary, and later was ordained on June 5, 1976 at St. Gregory the Great Church; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Rev. Thomas P. Demse was initially assigned to St. Alphonsus in June 1976, in July 1981 he was reassigned to Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic, in February 1982 he was reassigned to St. Rose, in June 1993 he was reassigned to St. Barbara, in January 1997 he was reassigned to St. John Neumann, in June 2009 he was reassigned to St. Charles, in 2009 he returned to the site of his ordination, St. Gregory the Great, and in 2013 he took a sabbatical to gain fluency in Spanish so he could be of greater assistance to St. Gregory the Great's sister parish, Our Lady of the Highest Grace in the Dominican Republic, which he visited in 2015; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Rev. Thomas P. Demse also has a passion for ministering to those that are often forgotten, the elderly helping them feel connected and remembered by their parish home, or the poor who often feel that no one cares for them, and he strengthened the ministries of Pastoral Care and Justice and Outreach at St. Greg's, and he has served as a vocal partner for the large community surrounding his parish by working with civic leaders and those in law enforcement to ensure a safe environment for the annual parish festival; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith congratulates Rev. Thomas P. Demse on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and wishes for his continued success; and, be it*

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Rev. Thomas P. Demse.*

**Introduced by Common Council members Mark A. Borkowski, Jim Bohl, Milele A. Coggs and José G. Pérez and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on May 24, 2016.**

July 1981 – February 1982 – Diocese of San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic  
February 1982 – September 1987 – St. Rose, Milwaukee September 1987 – June 1993 –  
St. Barbara, Milwaukee June 1993 January 1997 – St. John Neumann, Waukesha  
January 1997 – June 2009 – St. Charles, Hartland June 2009 – current – St. Gregory the  
Great, Milwaukee

A few years later, in 1996, the Archbishop appointed Fr. Tom Demse pastor of St. Charles.

In June 1993, Fr. Neuberger, received a new assignment. Fr. Thomas Demse was assigned as our 2nd pastor, and served through January 1997. Joining Fr. Tom, Fr. Dennis Budka served as our first Associate Pastor from 1994 through June of 2000, when he was reassigned to a in solidum team ministry in Fond du Lac.

Hi Matthew

Here is some more information for Fr. Tom:

In 2013, He took a sabbatical to travel to San Antonio Texas where he immersed himself in becoming fluent in Spanish. This was to assist him with our Sister Parish-- Our Lady of the Highest Grace in the Dominican Republic. He visited our sister parish in 2015 for the first time.

One of his passions in ministry is serving people in need--whether it be the elderly and their need to feel connected and remembered by their parish home, or the poor--who often feel like no one cares. He has strengthened the ministries of Pastoral Care and Justice and Outreach at St. Greg's.

His staff would say that he is a wise leader who's fiscally responsible while still being pastoral in nature. He is a compassionate shepherd who prayerfully leads his flock to know, love, and serve the Lord.

I hope this will help to fill out some of the gaps that might be present.

Info regarding Fr. Tom: (between this and the newsletter I think you might have a good handle on his ministry and interests, I don't know how many parishes he has been at and he is gone until Thursday...in case you need that information)

Hello, I am Fr. Tom Demse and I have been the pastor of St. Gregory the Great Parish for 6 years. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from St. Francis de Sales College in Milwaukee and went on to earn a Master of Divinity from St. Francis Seminary, where I was then ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

When I am not busy at St. Greg's,

The parishioners of St. Greg's are very welcoming and live out the parish motto "Greatness through Service" in a variety of ministries, programs and activities. It is an honor for me to preside and preach at Masses, Weddings and Funerals and to pray with the community forth gathered. The parish staff is wonderful to work with and they are a very talented group of people.