

Father Hubert Jurjewicz's Biography

PART 1 – CALL TO PRIESTHOOD

I was born and raised in Poland by my parents, Stanislaw, a retired policeman, and Elzbieta, a dietician for children in a Special Educational and Pedagogical Center in Poland. I have a wonderful brother, Bartosz who is currently a doctor with a specialization in surgery.

No doubt about it, the most common question I am asked as a priest is, "Why did you decide to become a priest?" For me this is not a difficult question, quite simply, I became a priest because of Jesus' love for me. With great certainty, I can say that I have met Jesus in my life, or better, Jesus met me. The idea of priesthood came to me at a very early age. Faith was always at the core of our family and guided everything we did. It was my parent's example of belief that so greatly influenced my life

My parents' faith is the bedrock of their life. We share lots of good times, but most important, lots of honest heart to heart talks. I guess, I can say, my parents taught me from an early age how important it is to listen with your heart. It was during these childhood conversations that I told my parents I would one day become a priest. I don't know if they believed me, but I know they listened with their hearts and have always been supportive.

Since a very early age, I have felt in my heart a gentle calling from God. It was a desire, stronger than any other desire I ever had throughout my whole life. As they say, the call from God is a mystery, but it is also a tremendous gift. Since a young boy I was attracted to the "things" a priest did. I wanted to serve God the same way they did and do the same work they did for the people of God's church. I was blessed to know a number of priests who showed me that following Christ is worth the sacrifice. Priests were very much respected in my family home and people I looked up to. It was always a joy when our priest friends came to visit our house, or when we would visit them.

With the guidance of my Spiritual Director I was able to name my heart's inner voice as a true vocation to the Priesthood during my high school years. My spiritual director greatly influenced my life through his faithfulness to God and his commitment to serving others. He became a caring mentor who challenged me to question and deepen my faith. He believed in my vocation and gave me the chance to prove myself. It was through his example that I became ready to answer the call.

I am especially passionate about prayer. Prayer makes us realize how close God is to us. Everything that I have done in my life, and presently do, comes from seeing my life as both a gift from God and an adventure to be lived in dialogue and prayer with God. My spiritual director always encouraged me to pray and helped me to find ways to increase my love for prayer, as well as guided me with the direction of my prayers.

I view the relationship of my Priesthood to the people as a circle. The Church and her people are the circle, and in the center is us, the priests, to guide them closer to God, always working together. I do not support the pyramid model where the priest is on the very top level and the people are below him, rather we are all one, united in the Body of Christ.

For me, people are the best teachers of life and God's love. I believe that everyone's vocation is worthy, God loves equally those who are called to the married life, the priesthood, and/or religious life. God has tasks for every person. It is a joy to see how many people are willing to give their time and talents and help the Church on her mission. It is a joy to work all together!

When it comes to ministry work, I feel comfortable serving in all types of ministries. I have had experience working as a teacher for the youth, working with troubled Youth, as well working with the imprisoned, the sick, the elderly, and with the police and their families. Because of my trust in God I welcome any challenges He might give me.

I enjoyed helping young people seek meaning in their lives. It is always a joy to see how God works in helping young people to come to a better understanding of themselves as well as of God. They discover that there is something very real about God and life-giving about being a Catholic. During my assignments, I have learned patience and the importance of team work with the laity. Like the saying says, "a drop of water pierces a rock not by the force of it but by the persistence." Patience, love, and understanding are the foundation of any team work. When one is patient and truly love his people, then one can do a lot with and for them.