



Archbishop Harry J. Flynn has assigned Rev. John M. Bauer to serve as co-pastor of the Basilica of Saint Mary with Rev. Michael J. O'Connell for the next year. They will co-pastor through the summer of 2008, then Fr. O'Connell will leave the Basilica, but continue to serve as pastor of Church of the Ascension.

Fr. O'Connell says, "I'm very grateful to Archbishop Flynn for his leadership in making this appointment of Fr. Bauer. He is capable leader, a good man, a holy man, and one whom I like and respect deeply. I'm eager to introduce you to Fr. Bauer. He will take a sabbatical this summer, and join us actively in the fall. You'll find him to be a strong preacher, a hard worker, and very accessible with a wonderful sense of humor."

Fr. Bauer comes to the Basilica after a challenging task of planning and combining three wonderfully unique St. Paul parishes: Saint Therese, Saint Gregory and Saint Leo, and successfully completing a major expansion of Saint Leo's to become the new Lumen Christi parish. He has served the Highland Catholic community since 1999. Prior to then, Fr. Bauer was pastor of Saint Therese in Deephaven for 12 years, and worked in three different parishes between 1979 and 1987 as associate pastor.

Fr. Bauer is active in diocesan governance, and has been a member of the Priest's Continuing Education Commission, Priests' Life and Ministry Committee and the Priest Personnel Board, and served for two years as the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Council. He is a past chair of the East Lake Minnetonka Ministerial Association.

The second of five children, Fr. Bauer grew up in Anoka, attended Saint Stephen's grade school, went on to Nazareth Hall (the former minor seminary for this archdiocese) and graduated in 1969. He received a Degree of Social Work and Sociology from the College of Saint Thomas in 1974, and went on to work in a Fairbault parish before entering the Saint Paul Seminary in 1975. He was ordained in 1979.