

## St. Lawrence and St. Anthony of Padua Parishes

My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I hope that each of you had a wonderful and safe Fourth of July celebration last weekend. What a gift it is to rejoice in our blessings from God, to live in such a great country, and to have the freedoms we possess from our Loving God, through the sacrifices of so many incredible people, especially our current and past military service men and women.

It is my joy and honor to have been asked by our Bishop to serve you all here at St. Lawrence and St. Anthony Parishes as your spiritual father. I deeply appreciate the kind welcome that you have extended to me and I greatly look forward to getting to know and serve each of you in the years ahead.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time, to talk to me and share your lives with me; I love being a Priest of Jesus Christ and I desire to walk with each of you on your spiritual journey as your spiritual father and guide. I hope that you will find in me a pastor who cares for your well-being, especially your Eternal Salvation and that of your families, and one whom you can talk to, laugh with and most especially one whom you experience the love of God through.

I greatly look forward to sharing my life and priesthood with each of you. I desire to earn your trust and to be truly trustworthy, as I strive to serve you with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I am here for you, so please do not be afraid to talk to me whenever you need, as it is my privilege to bring Jesus to you in His Sacraments, through His Church, as you are truly His beloved sons and daughters.

You will hear more about my life, priesthood and my family in the various homilies I will give during our time together, but just to give you a little insight into my background, here are some key details.

I was born on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Hermann, MO to Darlene and Roger Aubuchon. I grew up on a farm twelve miles south of Hermann in the little town, Swiss, MO; maybe you have visited our Swiss Meat market there, it is well-known in Missouri, particularly for their delicious bratwurst. My parents and two of my siblings still live in the Hermann-Swiss area; my parents on the farm and my siblings nearby. I also have an older sister who lives in the Cuba, MO area. I have an older sister, Angie and older brother, Andy, as well as a younger sister, Amber. My older sister and her husband live on a cattle farm and have one son, who just turned 12, and my younger sister and her husband have three girls; Amber has a daycare for children and Kyle works as a biomedical technician at Mercy Hospital. My brother has a cattle farm and works for Heritage Tractor In Westphalia; he may even have worked on some of your equipment for you.

I have been a Priest of Jesus for Eight years now, since June 7th, 2014 and have been blessed to have ministered in the Diocese in several capacities during that time. I most recently have come

from serving the parishes in Marshall, Slater and Sweet Springs, MO. I have been an Associate Pastor, High School Chaplain, Newman Center Chaplain, Vocations Director, and Pastor, all offering me great opportunities to serve our Lord and His beloved sons and daughters in priestly ministry over these past eight years.

You will hear me speak often about our Blessed Mother, as she is such a gift from God to each of us and to our Catholic Faith. I was greatly blessed to have been born on her Feast of Guadalupe and Ordained a Priest on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

You will also hear me preach and share about redemptive suffering in my life, as I was put on the National Heart Transplant List for several months in 2020-2021 and was hospitalized for nearly two months during that time. It has been an incredibly graced journey and one that has really put my faith to the test, as well as strengthened my faith the most. You may have read some of my story in the Catholic Missourian in recent history; I greatly look forward to sharing with you how our Blessed Lord and Blessed Mother walked with me through that very challenging time in my life. This includes what my doctors are calling a miraculous healing of my heart, so that I was removed from the heart transplant list without actually having to receive a new heart; God be praised! All for His glory, not mine. My heart transplant doctors tell me that the kind of healing my heart is experiencing is rare, so imagine how humbled I am to receive such an incredible gift from God, as unworthy as I am. I am still getting stronger, not quite in the “normal range,” of heart function yet, but much better than I was for many months.

Apparently, our Blessed Lord is not done with me yet in this life and I look forward to serving you all here at St. Lawrence and St. Anthony Parishes. I am excited to get to know each of you as I hopefully help to reveal the Sacred Heart of Jesus to you through my priestly service, as we work together.

I will end my introduction by sharing with you a few of fun-facts about my life. I was blessed to travel to the Holy Land, I am still very close to my parents and try to see them once a week or so and two of my favorite hobbies include talking to people over a good meal, working on chainsaws and cutting wood on the farm.

I hope that I have given each of you a little insight into my life, including where I came from, the journey of my priesthood and my deep relationship with God, which I hope to share with all of you during my time here serving you as your spiritual father.

May God bless each of you and your families. I kindly ask you to please keep me and my health in your prayers and please be assured of my prayers for each of you as well. Thank you for the honor and opportunity to serve all of you at St. Lawrence and St. Anthony Parishes.

To Jesus through Mary,  
~Fr. Aubuchon