

Dear Parish Family of St. Michael's.

May Christ reign in our hearts!

As I come to this great Parish, even though I will probably only be here a short time, I look forward to getting to know all of you and sharing in your lives. I am excited to be here and look forward to our time together.

I wanted to thank you for your very warm welcome last weekend. Your kindness and your prayers I appreciate so greatly. It was great to celebrate Mass here last weekend and also having the chance to meet so many of you.

Since I am new here, I thought I would share a little bit about myself in case you were wondering who is this new priest.

I was born and raised just outside Saginaw and lived all of my childhood there. My parents still live there and you will see my stepfather and mother attending Mass here from time to time. I have a few brothers that live outside the area, so you probably will not see them very often. I attended St. Thomas Aquinas for grade school (this was my Parish growing up) and Swan Valley High School both in the Saginaw area.

I graduated from Northwood University in Midland. After college I played basketball in the NBA for the Portland Trailblazers until a knee injury required me to retire earlier than expected. Hopefully you realize that I am joking. I did play basketball up to the high school level, but my talents were not sought after by any colleges and by no means did the NBA draft me.

I worked in the Automotive Industry after college for a number of years. I worked for a couple of companies based in Texas and California that you probably never heard of before. I lived and worked in the Detroit area, but also out on the west coast in Portland Oregon for a few years.

As you can tell by me being with you last weekend, God had other plans for my life, though I did not follow them right away.

I was fighting the will of God. So in the meantime, I thought I would return to school and study Philosophy and Theology as a way to discern what God wanted for my life and thought maybe I would find a good Catholic wife there too. I pretty much knew He was calling me to the Priesthood for many years, in fact the first

time I could sense it was when I was 8 or 9 years old, but I fought Him all along the way.

I graduated from Franciscan University in Steubenville Ohio and during my time there finally surrendered to the will of God to discern a call to the Priesthood. I entered the Seminary for the Diocese of Saginaw and I attended Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

I was ordained a Transitional Deacon in 2007 and was ordained a Priest of Jesus Christ in 2008. I cannot believe I just celebrated my 6th Anniversary to the Priesthood. Where does the time go? Being a Priest is such a great joy and I love it so dearly.

As a Deacon I was at St. Joseph the Worker in Beal City, I was a Priest at St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Bay City, St. Denis Church in Lexington/St. Patrick's in Croswell, Resurrection of the Lord in Standish, and for the past year at St. Anne Linwood, Sacred Heart Kawkawlin, and St. Valentine's Beaver, now Prince of Peace Parish.

Some people have asked how do I like to be addressed. I forgot to mention that last weekend. I go by Fr. Christopher or Fr. Coman. Also I am residing at the rectory at St. Michael's.

I enjoy running and so you will probably see me out on the back roads. I try to stay active, though that does not always happen like I wish. I like to kayak as well. In the winter I like to cross-country ski among many other things.

I am happy to be with you here at St. Michael's and Mary of the Immaculate Conception and I look forward to our time together. Please pray for me as I get settled here at the Parishes and know of my prayers for you.

May God Bless you and Mary keep you,

Fr. Christopher Coman