

Meet Fr. Al Kaster

Alfred Donald Kaster was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 25, 1931 to Fredrick and Martha Kaster. He was the third of seven children, six boys and one girl. (His sister, Gertrude, is a Benedictine Religious).

His first years of schooling were at St. Bridgit School in Minneapolis. In the fifth grade the Kaster Family moved to a small farm, and he attended a public school. However, in his final high school and junior college years he attended St. John's Preparatory School in Collegeville, Minnesota. His theological studies were at Illinois Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois.

Fr. Kaster was ordained on June 11, 1960 at St. George Church at Long Lake, Minnesota, by bishop Francis J. Schenk, who was Bishop of Duluth.

Father Kaster's first parish was St. Anthony in Ely, Minnesota. He was next assigned to the Cathedral in Duluth, where he taught for five years at the Cathedral High School. He next served at St. James, also in Duluth. His first Pastoral assignment was at St. Casimir's in Cloquet, Minnesota; his second was at St. Raphael, again in Duluth.

After twenty five years in Northeastern Minnesota, Fr. Al, as he had become affectionately known, transferred to the Sacramento Diocese, where he has served five years at St. Patrick Church in Placerville, and twelve years at St. Patrick in Grass Valley.

At the age of 70, and looking forward to retirement, he accepted the appointment as administrator pro tem at St. Thomas More in Paradise for one year. Currently Fr. Al is retired, however very active in ministry not only in the Paradise community but also as a frequent substitute priest in the churches in Chico and wherever he is needed.

In June Fr. Al will be back at his roots in Minnesota for his annual clergy retreat and the clergy ordinations in his Diocese of Duluth. Then on to St. Anthony's in Ely to substitute during the pastor's vacation and enjoy his favorite sport, fishing in the lakes nearby. After visiting family in the Minneapolis area it was back to California and back to work again.