

LEARN FROM ME MY YOKE IS EASY MY BURDEN IS LIGHT

St. Augustine teaches us that we must believe the articles of the Creed so that, by **believing**, we may **obey** God, by obeying, may **live** well, by living well, we may **purify** our hearts and with pure hearts, we may grow to better **understand** what we believe. By deepening our understanding of what we believe, we deepen our relationship with God.

The Season of Lent is a time to examine ourselves and our relationship with God. Who are we? Why do we choose, act and react as we do? Who or what guides us, and to what end?

As we approach the mysteries of Easter, we prepare to renew our baptismal promises. Our Catechumens will make these promises when they are baptized at the Easter Vigil Mass. Many of us who were baptized as infants don't remember and perhaps don't fully understand our baptism.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI explains to us that our baptism is a Sacrament through which, we are adopted into kinship with Christ. Once baptized, we must continue to be receptive to God. Our Holy Father tells us that Jesus, as Son "is always one who *receives*. The Son does not simply design his own existence; he *receives* it in a most profound dialogue with God. ... The fact that he is Son means, above all, that he prays."

We must also learn to receive our existence from God, to *cooperate* with our baptism. We are created for this purpose. We must allow *God* to design our existence, through the dialogue of prayer, to enable us to **believe, obey, live, purify** and **understand**. Is it difficult for you to make yourself subject to an authority other than your own? Are you hesitant to relinquish control? Independence from God is a heavy burden that we place upon ourselves.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:30).

Turn to God. Pray. Make an examination of your relationship with Him. Lent is not a season of temporary promises, but a season of conversion and a lifting of burdens. Choose to truly cooperate with your baptism. Allow God to answer your questions. *Accept* His answers and allow *Him* to design your existence.

OUR SEMINARIAN BILL ROUSH

William "Bill" Dale Roush was born in Iowa City on June 28, 1953, the son of Alma Grace (Smith) and William Edward Roush. Bill grew up in Conesville and graduated from Columbus Community High School in Columbus Junction in 1971. He graduated from Muscatine Community College in 1975.

Bill was employed by Monsanto Corporation in Muscatine for 25 years and served as a member of the OSHA process safety management team there until he lost his wife, Cynthia, to breast cancer in 1997. He then decided to be a stay at home father and pursued a business partnership in laser engraving and woodworking. He currently partners in two businesses: "Touched by the Light" and Correll Cider Presses of Iowa, based in Solon.

Bill has two daughters, Elsabeth, 21, and Jeanette, 19, both of Iowa City.

At St. Mary's, Bill has served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, lector, and greeter. He has helped with the coffee hour after the 9:30 AM Sunday Mass and still visits our homebound parishioners when he comes home to Iowa City for weekends. He has been a member of the Evangelization & Stewardship Commission and has assisted for many years with parish hall set-up for funerals and other events.

Bill served a term as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 842 in Iowa City.

Among the most rewarding volunteer experiences, Bill says, was the 12 years he served as a religious education teacher at Regina Catholic Education Center.

He is currently a seminarian studying at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. He will complete his seminary training at the Sacred Heart School of Theology at Hales Corner, WI, with the hope of being ordained a Catholic priest for the Diocese of Davenport in 2013 or 2014.

Let's keep Bill in our prayers!

If you would like to send him a message, you can send a note to:

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