



# The Alaskan Shepherd



Volume 51 Number 6

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*Some give by going to the Missions*

*Some go by giving to the Missions*

*Without both there are no Missions*

## *Farewell, Bishop Donald J. Kettler!*



**Editor's Note:** What will I miss the most? I will miss the jokes and Bishop Don's great sense of humor. I will miss his stories. I will miss his kindness. And, I will miss his singing (always on key) and his handwritten birthday cards. But, most of all, I will miss Masses with Bishop Don. There is the part in the Mass where we offer our intentions, our Prayer of the Faithful. During each staff Mass, on each Thursday, and on the other days that Bishop Don celebrates here in the chancery office, he offers at the closing of our intentions this simple but powerful remark, every time: *Dear Lord,* he prays, *what we have asked in faith, now please grant without fail.* I know that God hears our prayers, but there is something about that prayer and the way that Bishop Don prays it that makes me believe that without a doubt our prayers will be answered and that everything will be okay, if only we have faith. That is the example we have had before us these past eleven years, an example of faith so evident that it is even part of his motto—Faith, Hope, and Love. Through the painful years of the crisis in the Church and our own bankruptcy, Bishop Don always remained steadfast, full of hope and faithful in every circumstance. He is an ideal leader, an inspiring Shepherd, and he was exactly what we asked for in faith and what God answered without fail. In the past weeks, we have celebrated Bishop Donald Kettler's time with us and tried not to dwell on his leaving us, though that has been most difficult. In this issue, I would like to bring

you a timeline of his service to the Diocese of Fairbanks and share some photos that are dear to us, and, finally to wish Bishop Don all best success and peace in his new Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota. We are losing a most wonderful Shepherd but we know that God will not fail to send us another great Bishop... for we have asked in faith.

—Patty Walter

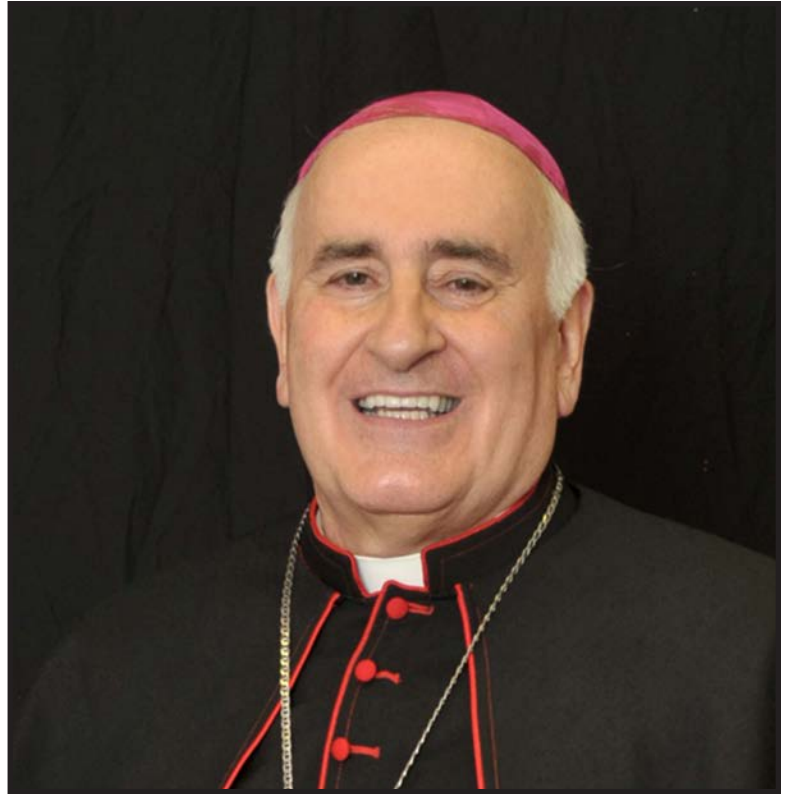
CATHOLIC BISHOP OF NORTHERN ALASKA  
1312 PEGER ROAD FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709  
Phone: 907-374-9532 [www.dioceseoffairbanks.org](http://www.dioceseoffairbanks.org)

*Special Masses are offered throughout the year for you and your intentions by our Missionary Priests. Please pray that God may bless us and our work.*

My Dear Co-Missionaries in Christ,

It is with mixed feelings I write you today. His Holiness Pope Francis has asked me to shepherd the people of the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota, and I have said yes.

On the less-than-positive side, I am sad to say farewell. Serving in this extraordinary land for eleven years has been one of the most treasured periods of my life and ministry. As you know, the missionary life in the north is full of challenges. Meeting those challenges with my fellow missionaries--those with whom I work daily, and those whom I know from letters that cross my desk--as God's people, has forged unbreakable bonds of love and friendship between us. I will never forget you in my heart and prayers. Thanks to my time here in Alaska, I will bring a strengthened and matured appreciation of the Great Commission to spread the Good News to all the peoples.



In more practical terms, I leave the diocese in capable hands. The pope has appointed Anchorage Archbishop Roger L. Schwietz, O.M.I., to serve as Apostolic Administrator. There are also experienced leaders in our regions, parishes and chancery. I am sure our Holy Father Francis will send the Diocese of Fairbanks an able and inspiring servant-leader bishop as we enter a new and exciting chapter of Catholic history in Alaska.

On a positive note, I know St. Cloud well. I attended St. John's University and Seminary at Collegeville, Minnesota, and Crosier Seminary at Onamia, Minnesota. Some of my classmates work in St. Cloud and its retiring bishop, Most Reverend John F. Kinney, is a long-time friend and confrere. In many ways, this new assignment feels like a return home. Further, I will be closer to my family, which will be especially comforting since my Mother, Marguerite, passed away recently having reached 100 years.

May the Gracious Lord watch over and keep you. May the Holy Spirit breathe love and wisdom into the counsels of all who will continue to lead this Missionary Diocese. And, may you find Jesus by your side as you enjoy and nurture each other and the rich bounty of this blessed land. Please know that my eleven years here have been made warmer and more fruitful because of your loyal support to the Missions. Please be assured of my prayers for you and those you hold dear. Please pray for me, as I take up my new duties, following my installation on November 7th. The benefactors of this vast northern land will not be forgotten. You have my endless gratitude.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Donald J. Kettler  
Bishop, Diocese of St. Cloud

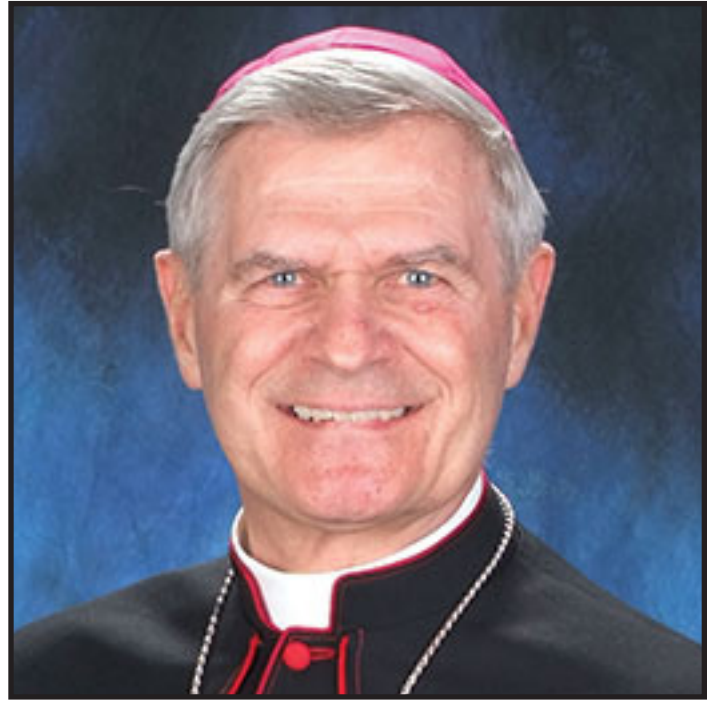
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Donald J. Kettler".

Dear Alaskan Shepherd Benefactors,

Since this is my first article in *The Alaskan Shepherd*, perhaps a short introduction would be in order. I am the Archbishop of the Anchorage Archdiocese. In 2000, I was named Coadjutor and became the Archbishop a year later when Archbishop Francis T. Hurley retired.

Before that, in 1989, Pope John Paul II called me to serve Duluth, Minnesota, as its seventh bishop. Interestingly, the Diocese of Duluth is a neighbor to St. Cloud, where Bishop Don is going.

Indeed, being appointed Apostolic Administrator for Fairbanks has got me thinking about interesting similarities Bishop Don and I share. We both hail from the Midwest. In fact, I was born in St. Paul in 1940 and Bishop Don was born in Minneapolis across the river four years later. As you might expect, we both come from strong Catholic families. I think this shared background has helped cement a wonderful working relationship between us on the Alaska Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as contributed to a firm friendship. I was honored when Pope Francis asked me to act as Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Fairbanks until a new bishop arrives.



This opportunity has also given me a chance to reflect on the history of my order, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Not many people know that the first Catholic missionaries to arrive to Alaska were O.M.I.s. Father Jean Sequin, O.M.I., crossed the Canadian border to land in Ft. Yukon in 1862.

In 1872 Isidore Clut, O.M.I., an Oblate Auxiliary Bishop of Canada's Athabasca-Mackenzie diocese traveled down the Yukon River, eventually ending up at St. Michael on the coast of the Bering Sea. He was the first bishop to travel in Alaska. Who knows, if two years later the Alaskan territory had been placed under the bishop of Athabasca-Mackenzie and not the Vancouver Archdiocese, the missionary history of Alaska might have been quite different.

Also, this is not the first time I have served as an Apostolic Administrator. When Juneau Bishop Michael W. Warfel was selected to lead the diocese of Great Falls-Billings, I served the Diocese of Juneau in this capacity. From that experience, I know the wisest course in the coming months is to exercise patience. It is natural to want things settled right away, but selecting a new bishop for a diocese depends on the workings of the Holy Spirit. It also draws on the prayerful thoughts of priests, bishops and leaders, and as you know now, Pope Francis will make the final decision guided by God's love.

Thank you for supporting the Missions of Northern Alaska with your prayerful and financial support. Please join me in prayer that the Holy Spirit sends a wonderful bishop for the Diocese of Fairbanks, and pray too for patience for those who wait. In the words of St. Paul: *Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance.* (Romans: 8, 24-25)

Sincerely yours in Christ and Mary,

+Roger L. Schwietz, O.M.I.  
Apostolic Administrator, Diocese of Fairbanks  
Archbishop, Archdiocese of Anchorage

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+Roger L. Schwietz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

“Orphans no more!” That was the general greeting that rang throughout the Chancery the morning of June 7, 2002, when we received the news that Pope John Paul II had appointed Msgr. Donald J. Kettler to serve as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese.

On August 6, 2000, Michael J. Kaniecki, S.J., died suddenly of a heart attack in the village of Emmonak. The Diocese was now without a bishop. Accordingly, Rome appointed Michael W. Warfel, Bishop of Juneau, as interim Apostolic Administrator. Concerning Msgr. Donald Kettler’s appointment, Bishop Warfel commented:

*The appointment of Bishop-elect Kettler to the Diocese of Fairbanks is truly good news. He is a welcome addition to the Church in Alaska. He has all the needed talents as well as the right type of character necessary to make him an effective pastor and shepherd as the new Bishop of Fairbanks. He comes from an area of the world that demands much of a bishop. A priest with many skills as well as being known for outstanding character, his appointment demonstrates the confidence that has been placed upon his ability to be of service to the people of the diocese.*

Relative to the Kettler appointment to succeed Bishop Kaniecki, Robert J. Carlson, Bishop of Sioux Falls at the time, said: *The Diocese of Fairbanks is receiving a wonderful shepherd. Bishop elect-Kettler is an excellent pastor and I concur with the confidence the Holy Father obviously has in him in appointing him as bishop of Fairbanks. Bishop-elect Kettler has terrific experience in a variety of diocesan leadership roles—from education to stewardship to canon law to ecumenism. He has been well loved at every parish where he has served. I have greatly appreciated the chance to share priesthood with him in this diocese, and I look forward to continuing to work with him as a brother bishop.*

Archbishop Harry Flynn, of Saint Paul & Minneapolis wrote:



*I have worked with Monsignor Kettler on many common issues of mutual interest for the Diocese of Minnesota and North and South Dakota. Monsignor Kettler is insightful, knowledgeable, pastoral and gracious, and will bring his many gifts to the people of God in the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska.*

Exciting and eventful were the days leading up to Msgr. Kettler’s ordination as Bishop of Fairbanks. Up to this time, the 409,849-square mile Diocese of Fairbanks—established as a Diocese in 1962—had had only members of the Society of Jesus as its bishops. Bishop Kettler would be its first non-Jesuit.

Donald Joseph Kettler, one of four children, two boys and two girls, was born to Norbert and Marguerite Kettler on November 26, 1944, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was baptized on December 10, 1944, in Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Minneapolis. At an early age, he moved with his family to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His father, a federal meat inspector, died in 1998. Donald attended St. Joseph Cathedral Grade School in Sioux Falls; then, for his secondary education, Trinity Prep School in Sioux City, Iowa. He went on to earn college degrees at Crosier Seminary, Onamia, Minnesota, and St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota. He spent the summers of his seminary days working in parishes in Chicago, in impoverished neighborhoods, and at missions in South Dakota working among Native American Indian people. As a deacon, he served at St. Joseph Cathedral. He was ordained a priest in St. Joseph Cathedral, Sioux Falls, on May 29, 1970, by Bishop Lambert A. Hoch.

Father Kettler was associate pastor at Sacred Heart parish, Aberdeen, South Dakota, from 1970-76 and from 1977-79. He spent the year 1976-77 as associate pastor at St. Therese’s parish in Sioux Falls. From 1979-81, he was Director of the Diocesan Catholic Pastoral Center and a member of the

Diocesan Marriage Tribunal. During the years 1981-83, he earned a degree in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. In 1983, he was appointed the Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Sioux Falls. The year 1983-84 saw him serving as pastor of St. Joseph's parish, Huntimer, South Dakota, and offering Mass at the State Penitentiary.

In 1984, Father Kettler became part of the Sioux Falls Diocese's innovative television ministry to shut-ins. Offering Mass every Sunday morning for television viewers estimated to number between 12,000 and 15,000, he soon became known all over South Dakota as "the TV Mass priest." In 1995, Father Kettler became Monsignor Kettler. Much of the TV program's success was attributed in large part to Msgr. Kettler's "really fine" preaching. He offered the TV Mass from 1984 to the year 2002. By the time he headed north to his future in Alaska, in the year 2002, he had served his diocese also as a member of its Finance Council and Stewardship Committee, and had sat on its boards of Catholic Family Services, of Sioux Falls Catholic School System, and of the Association of Christian Churches of South Dakota.

During the years 1987-1995, Msgr. Kettler was rector of St. Joseph Cathedral; and, during the years 1995 to 2000, as pastor of St. Lambert's parish, Sioux Falls. He spent his final two years in the Sioux Falls Diocese serving as pastor of Christ the King parish, Sioux Falls.

When, in late April 2002, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America, Gabriel Montalvo, called Msgr. Kettler to ask if he was willing to be appointed the new bishop of the Diocese of Fairbanks, Msgr. Kettler instantly had two thoughts that enabled him to swallow his fears. He recalled visiting Fairbanks on a camping trip ten years previously and, on that occasion, going to Mass in the historic Immaculate Conception Church. He was so taken with that experience that he signed up to receive *The Alaskan Shepherd*, which he continued to read from that time on. His second thought was that maybe it wasn't just a coincidence that



he'd decided a few years back to begin learning to fly a small airplane. These two thoughts prompted him to see a kindly Providence at work in his personal life and that of the Missionary Diocese of Fairbanks. He was given six hours to think the matter over, to accept or decline the appointment. "It was a shock. I didn't expect it," he said of his conditional appointment. By his own admission, during the six hours allowed him to come to a decision, he "experienced a wide range of emotions, from reluctance to thinking about the challenges of the office—and did a lot of praying." Reassured by the reflections that "when you get called to this type of position, God says He is going to help you," and that the whole turn of events was more than a mere coincidence, Msgr. Kettler consented to being appointed Bishop of Fairbanks.

On June 7, 2002, the news of Msgr. Kettler's appointment became public in Alaska and nationally. On that day, he was introduced to the chancery staff of the Diocese of Fairbanks and held a press conference. All felt immediately at ease with him, in spite of his imposing 6'3", square-jawed presence. He smiled, laughed, joked, and listened. The following day, he held a press conference in Anchorage. The next day, Sunday, June 9th, he offered his first Mass in Fairbanks, in Sacred Heart Cathedral. After waiting for 22 months for a new bishop, the people of the Diocese of Fairbanks greeted the news of his appointment with much joy and gratitude. The people of the Sioux Falls Diocese were proud that one of

their highly esteemed priests was so honored, while at the same time they were somewhat reluctant to "lose" him. Bishop Robert J. Carlson of the Sioux Falls Diocese stated, "The Diocese of Fairbanks is receiving a wonderful shepherd. It is a great appointment. He has a missionary spirit, a missionary heart." He praised Bishop-elect Kettler for "his ability to listen and work with people." Jerry Klein, his Chancellor, praised him for his "good balance of administrative prowess and pastoral sense." Bishop-elect Kettler, for his part, admitted that "leaving family, friends and co-workers will not be easy.



Switching parishes was hard; this is tougher.” He showed special concern for his 89-year-old mother, who, he said, was “not terribly excited” about his pending departure for Alaska. The two, by then, had lived in the same city for 25 years.

Ordination-related activities began on Wednesday, August 21, 2002, in Sacred Heart Cathedral with a service consisting of evening prayer and the blessing of the Pontifical Insignia by Michael W. Warfel, Bishop of Juneau and, at the time, still Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Fairbanks. The following day, in Fairbanks’ large Carlson Center, before a huge crowd of faithful and dignitaries, Donald Joseph Kettler was ordained a bishop by Roger L. Schwietz, O.M.I., Archbishop of Anchorage, and installed as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Fairbanks. Archbishop Schwietz was assisted by Bishops Warfel and Carlson. Apostolic Nuncio Gabriel Montalvo was present and read the mandate from the Holy See appointing Bishop Kettler Bishop of Fairbanks.

For his motto, Bishop Kettler had chosen “Faith, Hope, and Love”—admitting, with a smile, that the wording was not really all that original. In his short talk at the end of the ordination service, he explained why he had chosen that motto: “Faith and trust in the Lord; Hope of doing something new and challenging; and Love—God loves us so much,

we can share it with other people.” He assured the people, “I’ll be there with you. I will pray with you, and I will suffer with you.” On Friday, the day after the ordination, joyous, informal, lighthearted “Meet the Bishop” festivities were held in Fairbanks’ River’s Edge Convention Center.

Even before he was ordained a bishop, Bishop Kettler, described as “a roll-up-your-sleeves-type of man,” made it known that one of the first things he wanted to do as a bishop was to get in a plane and start visiting the villages in his diocese. “I cannot shepherd,” he said, “where I have not been.” Accordingly, only three days after his ordination, he was airborne—in the diocesan Cessna 207, with his Chancellor, Father Richard D. Case, S.J., at the controls, and Patricia Walter, editor of *The Alaskan Shepherd* on board as a passenger--on a trip that was to last eight days and take him to nine villages in western Alaska. Bishop Kettler stated his intentions: “I want first to listen, to see what the people are doing, and then maybe give my own vision as we go on. My primary concern as bishop is to be a pastoral bishop, not just an administrator.”

On the second night of his trip, Bishop Kettler found himself in Bethel. His host there, Father Eugene P. Delmore, S.J., described him as “moving into his ministry with grace, wit, and lots of questions.” By the time Bishop Kettler returned to Fairbanks, he had met many of his flock, had taken part in Eskimo dancing and drumming, had taken an Eskimo steam bath, had eaten Eskimo ice cream, had gassed up the Cessna 207 a number of times, had spent many hours at its controls as co-pilot—and had some answers to some of his many questions.

In village after village, at the Masses he offered, he conveyed the same sincere message to the people: “I am here to do what St. Paul did 2000 years ago. I am here to help you. I am here to support you, and to continue doing with you the work that is already in progress in your parish. Thank you for being here with me today.”

**Continued on page 11**

*We want to thank in a special way those of you who have included the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska (our legal title) in your bequests and wills, and those of you who, at the time of the deaths of dear ones, have suggested that in their memory contributions be made to the Missions of Northern Alaska or to the Alaskan Shepherd Endowment Fund. A suggested wording: “I give, devise and bequeath to the Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska, 1312 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska...”*

# Bishop Donald Kettler of Fairbanks, Alaska, Appointed Bishop John Kinney's Successor

Nov. 7 installation for South Dakota-raised alum of St. John's

Sept. 27, 2013, Vol. 101, No. 20

By Bob Zyskowski

The wait is over.

Bishop John Kinney's retirement will soon be official, and Bishop Donald Kettler will be moving from Fairbanks, Alaska to become the bishop of the Diocese of St. Cloud on Nov. 7.

A live streaming video feed on the website of the Diocese of St. Cloud carried the press conference at which Bishop Donald Kettler, center, was introduced as the next bishop of St. Cloud. At right, Vicar General Robert Rolfes joins the applause. Paul Middlestaedt / For The Visitor

Pope Francis accepted Bishop Kinney's resignation — one he tendered 14 months earlier — on Sept. 20 and at the same time named Bishop Kettler to succeed him.

It's been a long-awaited appointment, acknowledged Bishop Kinney, 76, who was required by church law to submitted his resignation when he turned 75.

That was in June 2012.

As recently as last month at a retirement party for one of the diocesan staff Bishop Kinney had teased, "I have a bit of trouble with this. I thought I was first in line."

In a statement read at the press conference at which Bishop Kettler was introduced to the media and

the diocesan pastoral staff, Bishop Kinney said, "As much as I have been anxiously awaiting this word, I confess I have also been on edge about this day for I truly love this diocese and I have been joyful at being your bishop. But I also know it is time, given my age and health, for a new and fresh successor of the apostles."

The

bishop's statement was read aloud, however, by Father Robert Rolfes, vicar general of the diocese, because Bishop Kinney was hospitalized at the time and remains so.

Visiting Bishop Kinney in the hospital was one of the first things Bishop Kettler did when he arrived in St. Cloud.

## Holy Spirit at Work

Introduced at his first press conference in St. Cloud by Father Rolfes on behalf of Bishop Kinney, the 68-year-old Bishop Kettler spoke without notes about his appointment, about his 11 years as the leader of the last mission diocese in the United States, and about his style of ministry before answering questions from the

media.

"Eleven years ago when I was asked by Pope John Paul II to serve as bishop, I said yes fearfully but also with a lot of gratitude," Bishop Kettler recalled. He said he responded yes to the appointment in St. Cloud "with gratitude and with some intrepidation." Knowing the Holy Spirit is "working behind the scenes" in the appointment of bishops, he said, "Why should we be afraid?"

Bishop Kinney was on the same wavelength.

"What thrills me is the selection of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has made for the next bishop of



St Cloud,” Bishop Kinney noted. “Surely the Holy Spirit has been at work seeking out for us a true pastor and a bishop who loves and serves the poor. Our prayers have truly been answered.”

Bishop Kettler, who was born in Minneapolis but raised in Sioux Falls, S.D., was ordained for the Sioux Falls diocese and served as a priest there. He was rector of the cathedral and a pastor before being appointed Bishop of Fairbanks in 2002.

“They’ve been wonderful years in Fairbanks,” Bishop Kettler said. “The 22 hours of darkness in the winter months time can be a little bit difficult. But the chance to meet and get to know many different cultures was a special blessing for me. People have been living these cultures for up to 10,000 years. That has been a fascinating experience for me.”

### **A Double Johnnie**

While he was a neophyte about Alaska before serving there, that’s not the case with Minnesota or with the Diocese of St. Cloud.

After high school he attended the Crosiers’ minor seminary in Onamia, then went to St. John’s University in Collegeville, graduating in 1966 from the college and four years later from the seminary-school of theology.

Asked about his plans for the St. Cloud Diocese, Bishop Kettler quipped, “I don’t want to mess things up. Things are going well here. I would like to support it and encourage it.”

He said he enjoys the role of pastor, visiting with people and getting to know them and their needs and concerns.

He pointed to rural life issues as an obvious challenge, but more of a priority for him is “trying to bring an enlivened sense of church” to the people of the diocese.

In Fairbanks he had to deal with sexual abuse cases — in fact they forced the diocese into bankruptcy — and he called the abuse “a terrible thing,” adding, “There was no excuse, and all I can say is I hope we have turned the corner and that we will take care of our young people like we ought to.

“The church was failing in an area that was essential: healing. Now I hope the church can be an instrument of healing.”

Again responding to a question, Bishop Kettler said, “I stand for and I endorse what the church has been saying about same-sex marriage. But that’s not where I begin. I want to be a former of relationship, first. Then we can talk about other things.”

Asked his thoughts about Pope Francis, the bishop couldn’t be more pleased with what he hears and reads from the pontiff.

“He supports the things I want to do —form relationships with people. He doesn’t want us to only look out the doors [of the church] at the people. He wants us to get out with them.

“He’s been affirming what I also think is valuable, but on the other hand, I can affirm what he is saying as well.”

### **Brief Stop For Now**

Bishop Kettler was briefly in the St. Cloud area and was on his way to visit his 100-year-old mother (who still lives in her home in Sioux Falls) before heading back to Fairbanks.

He presided at Mass for the diocesan staff at the pastoral center in St. Cloud, and lunched with the staff before walking across 7th Avenue to tour Cathedral High School.

He met with the diocesan leaders, sat for a lengthy interview with Visitor news team members, presided at the regular Saturday evening Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral and greeted parishioners afterward.

He said he has hopes he will be able to make the 4,000-mile trip back again before he is installed as bishop.

That installation, a simple rite that will include Mass, is set for 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, at St. Mary’s Cathedral in St. Cloud. Because of the limited seating capacity of the cathedral, the Installation Mass will be by invitation only, however, the public is welcome to attend a reception to greet the new bishop that will follow the Mass.

*“We are blessed to have so many supporters who make our work possible. I want to especially thank those of you who remember us in your prayers. Donations provide tangible benefits, but the power of prayer and the Lord’s grace is our bedrock. Thank you with all our hearts.”*

*--Bishop Donald J. Kettler*



Dear Archbishop Schwietz, O.M.I.,

I want to help you and the missionaries ministering in Northern Alaska to bring the Mass, the Sacraments, religious education, and training to the widely-scattered Indian and Eskimo people of Christ. Please accept this donation to your **General Fund** and use it where most needed.

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*Bishop Kettler's travels within a year stretch him to the borders of Alaska and outside. Often he visits multiple villages within a designated trip. A visit can mean for him the celebration of many Confirmations in villages, reached only by plane, within a few days time. Village visits often mean, for the Bishop, traveling by foot, home-to-home, to meet with elder Native people and to anoint and offer Reconciliation when requested. In an area that covers nearly 410,000 square miles, it is not uncommon for him to journey several thousand miles in a week. Below represents just a brief summary and some highlights of his ministry and travels throughout his eleven years.*

Before the year 2002 was out, Bishop Kettler had dedicated the new church at Stebbins and ordained three men to the permanent diaconate. Weather and other complications made the ordinations less than routine. However, according to Father Delmore, "Bishop Donald was calm, good humored about the glitches that are part of something new, and spoke directly and simply to the deacon candidates and their wives about their ministry of service to their people."

The year 2003 found Bishop Kettler immersed in constant travel. He ordained George Bowder to the permanent diaconate that June and Sean Thomson was ordained to the diaconate, in October. The diocese also welcomed a new Seminarian, Robert Fath. In August he traveled to Galena to bless the new Kateri Tekakwitha Center. In his first year he visited nearly all of his 46 parishes.

In 2004 Bishop Kettler ordained to the priesthood Fr. Sean Thomson. He celebrated with Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairbanks its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He made his first Ad Limina visit to Rome to meet with Pope John Paul II. Bishop Kettler celebrated Fr. Joseph Hemmer, O.F.M.'s, Golden Jubilee and dedicated the newly built St. Michael's Church, in St. Michael, Alaska.

2005 found Bishop Kettler traveling even more often to his parishes to administer sacraments and meet with his widely scattered flock. He ordained John Andy to the permanent diaconate and he traveled to Ruby, Alaska, to dedicate the newly built St. Peter in Chains Church. He celebrated Sister Marilyn Marx, S.N.J.M.'s Golden Jubilee and also the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the



Ursuline Sisters in Alaska. Frederick Bayler, of Healy, Alaska, was accepted as a diocesan Seminarian.

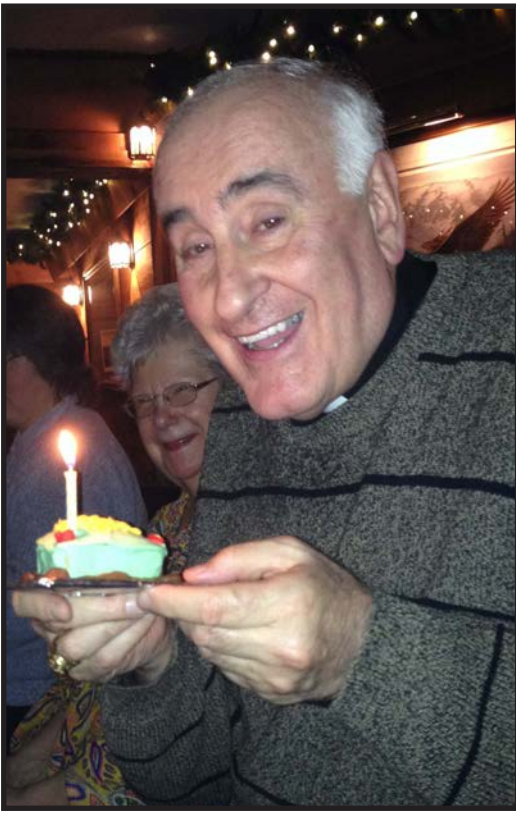
In 2006, Bishop Kettler ordained Robert Fath to the transitional diaconate. He traveled to Aniak to dedicate the new addition to St. Theresa Church. He celebrated with parishioners of Sacred Heart Cathedral their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. For the first time ever a Mass of Chrism was celebrated in two locations within the diocese—in both Fairbanks and Bethel. This allowed parishioners in the remote villages to witness the Mass of Chrism.

In 2007, Father Robert Fath was ordained a priest for Alaska by Bishop Kettler.

In 2008, Bishop Kettler traveled to Washington, DC, to be part of the welcoming activities for Pope Benedict XVI's arrival in the United States. He ordained Seminarian Fred Bayler a transitional deacon. He ordained Peter Boy Scout of Chevak to the permanent diaconate. The diocese entered reorganization.

In 2009, Bishop Kettler ordained Fr. Fred Bayler a priest for Alaska and Chris Tulik of Nightmute to the permanent diaconate. He traveled to Tok to celebrate with Holy Rosary parishioners their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

In 2010, Bishop Kettler traveled to Anchorage to celebrate Archbishop Francis T. Hurley's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a bishop. He celebrated his own 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a priest. He ordained Clint Landry a deacon, and he celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> year of publication of *The Alaskan Shepherd* newsletter. In 2010 also, the diocese emerged from bankruptcy.



In 2011, Bishop Kettler ordained Fr. Clint Landry a priest for Alaska and Robert Froehle of Nome, and Phillip Yupanik, of Emmonak, to the permanent diaconate. He celebrated with Robert Mantei and Paul Perreault, P.E., the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of their ordination to the permanent diaconate.

In 2012, Bishop Kettler celebrated the Golden Jubilees of Sr. Ellen Callaghan, O.S.F., and Fr. Gerald Ornowski, M.I.C. He celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Fairbanks, the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society of Jesus in Alaska, and his own 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Bishop of Fairbanks. He traveled to Rome for his Ad Limina visit to meet with Pope Benedict XVI. He ordained to the diaconate, Phillip Yupanik and appointed Fr. Kasparaj Mallavarapu Vicar General.

In 2013, Bishop Kettler celebrated Sr. Dorothy Giloley, S.S.J.'s, Golden Jubilee and ordained Carl Morgan to the diaconate.

Finally, in 2013, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Kettler Ordinary of the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota. He was installed as such on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

*As you fly off to new adventures, may the spirit and the prayers of the people of Alaska follow you!  
God bless you Bishop Kettler.*

## Your Chancery Staff ~ Fairbanks, Alaska

