

OUR PASTORS

by John Bange

(Editor's Note: the majority of the following is based on information from the St. Anthony 140th Anniversary book, with a few updates)

- 1. Rev. Michael Sullivan – October 1859 – March 1860**
- 2. Right Rev. Caspar Henry Borgess – March 1860 – June 1861**
- 3. Rev. George Brunner – June 1861 – September 1861**
- 4. Rev. Herman J. C. Ferneding – September 1861 – October 1861**
- 5. Rev. William Wilkens – October 1861 – June 1863**
- 6. Rev. Raymond A. Gangloff – June 1863 – July 1864**
- 7. Rev. William T. Higgins – July 1864 – September 1864**
- 8. Rev. Anthony H. Walburg – September 1864 – December 1874**
- 9. Rev. Francis H. Kessing – July 1875 – December 1878**
- 10. Rev. Joseph Stoeppelmann – June 1879 – February 1881**
- 11. Rev. Jerome H. Kuhlmann – March 1881 – June 1889**
- 12. Rev. Charles Henry Hahne – June 1889 – October 1899**
- 13. Rev. John George Franz – November 1899 – April 1907**
- 14. Rev. Joseph A. Meyer – April 1907 – October 1921**
- 15. Rev. Msgr. Martin T. Molloy – November 1921 – December 1939**

(Editor's Note: for more information on the lives of our first 15 pastors, see the St. Anthony 140th Anniversary book)

16. Rev. Henry A. Westerman – December 1939 – July 1960

Rev. Henry Westerman was the 16th pastor at St. Anthony's. He served as the pastor of our parish for 20 years and 7 months, longer than any other pastor in our history.

A native Cincinnati, Henry Westerman was born May 9, 1885. He studied Philosophy and Theology at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary and was ordained in the seminary chapel in Mt. Washington on February 6, 1912 by Archbishop Henry Moeller.

For several months after he was ordained, Father Westerman was in charge of St. Jerome's church in California, Ohio. In 1912 he became assistant pastor at St. Augustine's church. Four years later he was made pastor at St. Jerome's. In October 1924 he was appointed pastor of St. Bernard's church in Winton Place. On November 25, 1939 he was transferred to St. Anthony's church as pastor.

Father Westerman served the parish well. Many improvements were made. He and the parishioners worked diligently to pay off the parish debt. In 1946 a ceremonial burning of the mortgage was held. The parish held a celebration in 1952 honoring Father Westerman's 40th anniversary with a reception in the school and a program presented by the school children. On October 4, 1959, a Pontifical High Mass was held commemorating the centennial of the parish. Bishop Paul Liebold was the celebrant, assisted in the sanctuary by sons of the parish, brothers Rev. August and Rev. Donald Kneipp.

Less than a year later, Father Westerman died at Mercy Hospital in Mariemont at on July 13, 1960 after a long illness. He was 75 years old and was a priest for 48 years. Bishop Paul Liebold offered the Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass at St. Anthony's on Monday, July 18 with burial at St. Mary's Cemetery in St. Bernard.

17. Rev. James O. Byrne – September 1960 – June 1962

Rev. James Byrne was the 17th pastor at St. Anthony's. He was born on August 28, 1911 in Glynnwood, Ohio. Many Irish immigrants who fled the potato famine in Ireland in the 1840's settled this small farming community in Auglaize County. He is one of five children. His brother John Byrne was a priest in both the Cincinnati and Columbus diocese. A sister was a Sister of Mercy, Sister Mary Alice, who at one time taught at St. Margaret of Cortona.

The Byrne children grew up in St. Patrick parish in Glynnwood and attended the county grade school. "Our family life was very church-centered," he recalls. "We said the rosary daily as a family." James attended St. Joseph High School in Wapakoneta. Influenced by his older brother John in the seminary and his uncle, Monsignor John F. Cogan, he entered the seminary, attending both St. Gregory and St. Mary in Norwood. He was ordained on May 22, 1937 by Archbishop John T. McNicholas.

Father Byrne has had assignments at St. Patrick's in Northside, Nativity in Pleasant Ridge, Purcell High School where he served as Procurator for 12 years, two years at St. Francis de DeSales in Cincinnati, St. Paul in Yellow Springs (pastor 1954-55), St. Paul on Pendleton Street in downtown Cincinnati (pastor 1955-60), St. Anthony in Madisonville (pastor 1960-62), St. Mary in Urbana (pastor 1962-67) and St. Albert the Great in Kettering (pastor 1967-1980). He retired in 1980.

While at St. Paul, Father Byrne received a letter telling him he was assigned to St. Anthony's. He had two weeks to move. And so he became the pastor in September 1960. His predecessor at St. Anthony, Father Westerman, had been pastor for nearly 21 years. "I remember being warmly received. Many knew me from Purcell. My good friend Father Norbert Brinkman was assistant pastor. The parish was in

great shape. The school had a beautiful gym, but was never used as a gym. I arranged for the baskets to be installed.” Father Byrne began work immediately on a chapel for the sisters in the convent. Bishop Liebold dedicated the chapel on February 26, 1961.

Father Byrne has many memories of St. Anthony. “We didn’t have a festival. We didn’t have a need. “I remember starting ‘The Legion of Mary,’” recalls Father Byrne. He oversaw the formation of the Legion of Mary with Victor Mannino as president. Father Byrne also started a Novena to St. Anthony, which continued for many years on Tuesday nights.

“I remember the Mannino family, Gail and Diane Riehle, the Coastons, the Steuers and so many others. St. Anthony was a very good worshipping community. I remember the organist was Mary Carlton. We had some great music. Madisonville was a very neat and clean community. There were yearly awards for best-kept yards and so forth. Black and white got along perfectly in the parish and in the school. We had a good relationship with the public school and the principal Mary Alice McCartney.”

“St. Anthony was a very good school. We had the Sisters of Charity and they were excellent teachers. I remember we put a chapel in the convent. I believe we had two lay teachers, six Sisters and about 250 students. The building was in excellent shape. We had a longtime janitor, Mr. Ray Osterman who lived next to the school. He was well trained by Father Westerman. St. Anthony was a happy family!”

Many improvements were made to the parish during Father Byrne’s tenure. Before he left in June 1962, the parish celebrated with him his Silver Jubilee. This occasion is still remembered for its dramatic ending. As the procession was forming to leave the church, the entire heavens let loose with a deluge which kept everyone in church for another half-hour! “The parishioners gave me a wonderful 25th Anniversary party. And then I moved to Urbana, Ohio. It was a sad day to leave St. Anthony. They were all my very good friends. But I was happy that Father John Campbell was taking my place.”

Although now it is common for pastors to greet parishioners and visitors outside church after Mass, Father Byrne is remembered as the first pastor to do so at St. Anthony.

Father Byrne reflects on his life: “Being a priest has been a great blessing and has provided many years of happiness. I am thankful I have good health and can still do some work for souls. I have seen many changes in the Church. Vatican II was a necessary change.”

“I am always glad to hear that St. Anthony is doing well. You are blessed with well-trained laity. That is what St. Pius X said and how he judged a parish. He was the beginning of changes in the Church – daily communion, good music, Code of Canon Law, and so forth. Continued success and my best wishes to St. Anthony parish. I will remember you in my prayers.”

St. Anthony parishioner Sallie Coaston remembers Father Byrne as “a very good man and a priest who was so close to God. “I remember when he started the Legion of Mary at St. Anthony. It was a wonderful organization. We knocked on doors all over Madisonville and visited folks. We had the community of Eastwood Village (located where Coca-Cola now is) which had a large Catholic population which attended St. Anthony.” Sallie also remembers, “It was a very sad time when Father Byrne left St. Anthony. Our Legion of Mary had a joint meeting with the Legion of Mary at his new parish, St. Mary’s in Urbana.”

Father Byrne now lives at the old monastery of the Precious Blood order near Celina, not too far from Grand Lake St. Marys. He will be 98 years old in August 2009, the oldest priest in the archdiocese. “He is in good health and a joy to talk with,” according to parishioner John Bange, who visits him now and then. “His slight Irish accent is still noticeable, and he has a full head of wavy white hair. He enjoys telling stories about the old days, about growing up on the farm, about the many priests he has known and the parishes he was assigned to. He likes to discuss the changes in the church, most of which he believes have been good. He is enjoying his retirement. The other retired priests and brothers like “Jimmy” as they call him!”

CURRENT ADDRESS: Rev. James Byrne, St. Charles, 2860 US Rt. 127, Celina, OH 45822

18. Rev. John F. Campbell – June 1962 – September 1977

Rev. John F. Campbell is remembered as a “hands-on” pastor, getting involved, meeting with folks in the community, getting his hands dirty. The hand-laid tile in our cafeteria was proudly hand-laid by Father Campbell himself and remains as a monument to this good man.

Father Campbell was a native of Glamorgan, Virginia, born on July 11, 1916. He attended St. Mary parish school in Dayton, Ohio, and St. Gregory and Mt. St. Mary Seminaries in Cincinnati. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1942 by Archbishop McNicholas. Father Campbell first served as assistant at St. William in Price Hill beginning in June 1942. In August 1945 he was assigned assistant at the old St. Edward-St. Ann church in Cincinnati’s West End, and procurator of Madonna High School, which later became De Porres High School. Father Campbell was appointed Principal of De Porres in 1955, continuing in that post until his appointment as pastor of St. Anthony church. While at De Porres he also served as assistant at the Cathedral, beginning in July 1953, and at three West End parishes – St. Edward (1957), St. Joseph (1961) and St. Augustine (1955) where he also served as administrator in 1961.

Father Campbell came to St. Anthony on June 11, 1962 as the newly appointed pastor. His experience as principal and teacher at De Porres High School enabled him to be the kind of leader that was needed in the parish and the community. Father Campbell helped guide the parish during the turmoil of Vatican II. He arranged for the school cafeteria to be opened to serve hot lunches, under the direction of Mrs. Martha Majoewsky, serving about 200 children daily. The convent was remodeled under his direction. A garage was built for the convent in 1963.

Father Campbell worked well in Madisonville. He helped found the Madison Villa, consisting of 108 units. He made the parish facilities available to various groups for civic meetings and other activities. Father Campbell's 25th Anniversary as a priest in 1967 was a joyous occasion. A dinner was given in his honor and a Papal Blessing presented by Father Shappelle highlighted it.

A St. Anthony parishioner, the late Doretta Hirschauer, remembered Father Campbell for his rigorous dress code for the women posted in the back of church. His rules raised many eyebrows but few violators.

Father Campbell served at St. Anthony until his retirement on September 13, 1977, serving a total of 15 years and three months. In 1977 Father Campbell was named pastor emeritus of St. Anthony church and resided at St. Saviour church in Rossmoyne.

Father Campbell died Sunday evening, February 17, 1980 at the age of 63 after a long illness. He had resided at the Franciscan Terrace in Cincinnati since 1979. The concelebrated Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial was offered at St. Anthony on Thursday, February 21, 1980 at 10:30 a.m. Archbishop Pilarczyk was the celebrant. Burial followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Cincinnati.

19. Rev. Patrick Bascio – October 1977 – October 1978

Rev. Patrick Bascio was the 19th pastor at St. Anthony's. Father Pat is a Holy Ghost Father.

Father Pat grew up in Laurence, Massachusetts with one brother and one sister. Father Pat attended St. Patrick's grade school and Catholic Central High School in Laurence. He went to Santa Clara University in California for his undergraduate work, and St. Joseph's in the Bronx for his Masters in Psychology. He received his Doctorate in Theology, with a focus on justice and economics, from Fordham University in the Bronx.

Traveling around the world, having many assignments in many capacities, and making many friends has been the pleasure for Father Pat in his life. As an example he taught Physics and English Literature at a college in Tanzania, Africa, near Mt. Kilimanjaro. "I am still in touch with my friends there."

His previous two assignments were in Michigan, at the Church of St. Bernard in Alpena, and at St. James parish in Whittemore. "The people in Michigan were wonderful to be with for several years. But I really missed the diversity in people that I love. I enjoyed living and working with the Hispanic and African American communities."

Father Pat has had a variety of assignments. He was a United Nations Delegate for Grenada at the UN and an Economic Advisor. One very interesting assignment for Father Pat was at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. Admiral James Stockdale (vice-presidential running mate for independent presidential candidate

Ross Perot in 1992), then a Commander in the College, wished to start a special graduate program for naval officers. He believed that men and women destined to be the “top brass” in the Navy should go through Masters and Doctorate programs. Father Pat was asked to help set up such a program because of his experience in education and international relations.

As a UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) representative, Father Pat later worked to make sure that deported Haitian refugees received the proper hearing that they are entitled to according to international law. Father Pat has written a number of books.

Father Pat remembers his Superior asking him to “fill in” at St. Anthony’s as pastor during a transition period. He enjoyed his assignment in Madisonville very much. “It was a nice relief from my work at the United Nations. I had a great time and helped get the school opened as a community center. Archbishop Joseph Bernadin (Archbishop of Cincinnati at that time) participated in the ceremony that we had.” He remembers the quiet neighborhood and the joyful music-filled liturgical celebrations at St. Anthony. “I knew I would only be at St. Anthony for a short while, so I didn’t really ‘dig in.’ Yet it was still sad to leave the good people of the parish.” When asked what he took with him from the people of St. Anthony and Madisonville, he responded, “Black is Beautiful!”

Father Pat notes that his life as a priest has been very fulfilling, serving in many capacities around the country and the world. Reflecting on changes in the church in his career, Father Pat notes “In some ways the Church has remained the same; there is so much attention to liturgical detail, a bit like the Old Testament.”

“I remember the good parishioners at St. Anthony’s, people like Joy Middleton and Sallie Coaston. I am pleased to hear they are well and still involved in the parish and that St. Anthony’s is doing well. My blessing to all of you.”

As of 2009, Father Pat is now retired and residing in Indiana.

20. Rev. John R. Civile – October 1978 – July 1984

Father John Civile was born in Athens, Ohio on July 8, 1940, the son of George and Mary Civile. He grew up in Dayton along with his sister Sue and brother Pat. The family lived in Holy Angels Parish where he attended grade school. He attended Chaminade High School before entering the seminary. Father John was ordained May 28, 1966 at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral by Archbishop Karl J. Alter. Father Civile’s first assignment was teaching religion at Regina High School while serving as assistant at St. John’s Deer Park.

“From 1969 to 1972 I did doctoral studies in Rome. Those were wonderful years,” he recalls. “When I returned I taught moral theology at the seminary while residing at St. John Vianney, from August 1972 to June 1974.” It was while at St. John Vianney that Father Civile met Randy Singer. “Randy twisted my arm and got me

to thinking about an evening Mass with a choir. This choir later became the choir at St. Anthony's."

In October 1978, Archbishop Bernadin appointed him pastor of St. Anthony while he continued teaching at the seminary. "I remember no one wanted the parish which was quite small and on the brink of closing. I had spent the summer of my deacon year (1965) filling in for Father Shappelle. I had wonderful memories of kind people. And, looking back, I realize it was a real blessing to begin pastoral ministry under Father John Campbell. He was very dedicated to the parish and could not have been kinder to me.

"Because I would still be teaching fulltime at the seminary and part-time at Xavier University and the University of Dayton, the powers that be decided I should meet with the Parish Council to see if they wanted me. When I heard Sallie Coaston describe her joining St. Anthony's, I knew the people really loved their parish. Anyway, the Parish Council said "Yes!" and I, a little hesitant after realizing the responsibility, said "Yes!" And it was a happy, delightful six years after that."

Father Civile set out to enhance the spirit he knew was at St. Anthony's. He built upon the warmth and friendliness. He promoted social gatherings to bring people together. The annual Pig Roast was started during his time. The spirit was at work and the parish began to grow. People invited family and friends. Young people joined and started their families. Those searching for a parish found a welcoming atmosphere, a new spiritual home.

As the number of parishioners began to grow, especially those with young children at the Sunday morning liturgy, Father John saw a need to expand the Religious Education program. He asked parishioner Nancy Ertel to form such a program. That first year in 1980 she had 12 students. As the parish grew so did our Religious Education program.

Parishioner John Bange remembers a very special talent that Father Civile offered. "He would have an idea of something he wanted to try," recalls John. "So he would talk with you about it and say 'wouldn't it be nice if . . . ' and before you knew it you had volunteered to take care of it for him!"

Things were simple in those early years. A resident pastor who taught at the seminary. A part-time DRE and part-time Music Director. Two sisters resided in the convent, one working for the archdiocese (Sr. Mary D. Schmidt) and one retired and working in the parish (Sr. Mary Louise Falchero). A Parish Council that usually had a short agenda. It was said that for some, St. Anthony's was often the last stop on the way out or the first stop on the way in. St. Anthony's appealed to the broken. And Father Civile had a way of helping with the healing.

"And I still have happy memories of my time at St. Anthony," says Father John. "The liturgies, the preschool and CCD, the painting of the church, the pig roast and all the parties and dinners, but most of all the parishioners. So many people pitched

in to make the parish work. Parish Council meetings were really fun. And an additional bonus: Malachi Lawrence let me win all the handball games!"

Father Civile departed St. Anthony in July 1984 after 5 years and 10 months as pastor. His next assignment was at St. Clare in College Hill. Father Civile is currently pastor at Holy Family parish in Middletown. He is in his twelfth year as pastor.

CURRENT ADDRESS: Rev. John Civile, Holy Family, 201 Clark Street, Middletown, OH 45042

21. Rev. George P. Jacquemin – July 1984 – July 15, 1997

Many remember Father George Jacquemin as a big bear of a man with a salt-and-pepper beard. Many remember his welcoming smile and firm handshake. Many remember him for his leadership and friendship. And many remember him for helping us grow in our community, in our parish family, as individuals, and as Christians.

George Jacquemin was born on August 4, 1946, the oldest child of LeRoy and Rita Jacquemin. Four brothers and one sister followed him. George grew up on the family farm in Fairfield, Ohio. As a youth, he was inspired to the priesthood by the strong faith of his parents. They also encouraged him to consider a religious vocation. His uncle, Rev. John Jacquemin, also inspired him. Father John was his mentor and advisor. He died in December 1996 at the age of 83, having been a priest for 57 years. Father George says, "I remember my uncle as a person deeply devoted to serving the Lord and others."

After completing his grade school years at St. Veronica in Hamilton, he attended St. Gregory and Mount St. Mary seminaries. While completing his studies at the seminary, he was assigned as Deacon at St. Bernard parish in Winton Place and Mother of Christ in Winton Terrace. Father George was ordained on Saturday, May 27, 1972 at St. Peter In Chains Cathedral by Archbishop Paul F. Liebold. Father George had three first masses. His first mass was offered at his home parish of St. Veronica in Hamilton on Saturday evening, May 28. On Sunday, May 29 in the morning he had a first mass at Mother of Christ, and in the afternoon he had a first mass at St. Bernard. These two masses were for the parishioners that he had become close to during his time as Deacon.

After Ordination, Father George's first assignment was as associate pastor at St. Bernard and Mother of Christ with pastor Father Tom Axe. He was assigned there from 1972 to 1984 when he was transferred to St. Anthony. Father George recalls, "I was fresh out of the seminary when I came to St. Bernard and Mother of Christ. The pastor and the people were very patient with me, helping me learn what it is to be a priest. Three years later Father Tom Axe was transferred to St. Clare and I was left in charge until a new pastor was appointed. The parishioners were very patient and helped me learn how to be a priest and a pastor. They encouraged me to apply for the position of pastor, which I did. And I was appointed pastor, at a younger age than normal. My assignment was reviewed every three years and I

was allowed to stay on. Each time the approval became more difficult. The last time the Priest Personnel Board said I would have to meet with Archbishop Bernadin to discuss another extension. I remember meeting with him. He was very understanding of my request saying, "We'll give you another three years, and that's it."

As those years came close to an end, Father George began looking for a new parish among those opening up. "I had become very comfortable with the cross-cultural nature of St. Bernard and Mother of Christ, so I began looking for a parish with diversity. St. Anthony offered many of the things I was interested in: a prayerful congregation with enthusiastic spirit, diversity, and a welcoming atmosphere. Meeting with Father John Civile one afternoon, I was very impressed with what I heard about the parish."

Many St. Anthony parishioners will recall the first weekend when Father George visited St. Anthony. It was July 1984. He concelebrated Mass with Father Civile. This was a wonderful symbol of the transition from pastor to pastor and helped heal the aching hearts as parishioners prepared to say farewell to Father John. Father George says, "I recall that even with the sadness of folks saying farewell to John, how warm and welcoming they were to me."

Many will also recall several weekends later when Father George gave a memorable sermon. The gospel reading was the story about the loaves and fishes. Father George told about the people gathered to hear Jesus speak and how they sometimes carried food under their garments. He told about how the spirit moved people to share the little food they had brought with those who had none. He demonstrated this by pulling from under his garments . . . a long loaf of bread! Father George's sense of humor endeared parishioners from that moment on.

For his Sunday afternoon and Monday off, Father George would return weekly to his roots, to the family farm in Fairfield. Many times during his years at St. Anthony, Father George would include in the parish announcements an update on what was going on at the farm. Father George's hobby of beekeeping was often woven into his homily. As a veteran beekeeper of almost 30 years, Father George says, "It's therapy for me. When I work with bees I can't think of anything else. You have to pay attention to the bees." And parishioners always enjoyed the honey Father George sold at his honey sale!

Working collaboratively with the community is the style of Father George. St. Anthony School, closed in 1977, sat mainly empty for many years and deteriorated badly. Father George saw a need in the community. He led the program through which our school building was rented to the YMCA for \$1 a year. "This was a commitment of St. Anthony to provide that facility. The Y could provide outreach services to the neighborhood that we couldn't." After the YMCA closed with the opening of the new Madisonville Recreation Center, the school building has since become the Community Lighthouse School.

Another example came out of Father George's membership of the Madisonville/Fairfax Pastors' Association. The needy came to pastors in the

community, asking for assistance. The pastors saw a need for a combined effort. They led the founding of MEAC (Madisonville Education and Assistance Center). "This agency was a central point to assist folks. We began taking care of their immediate needs - food, clothing, and assistance for gas and electricity. We also wanted to put them in touch with the appropriate government agencies. And we wanted to teach them how to help themselves, by improving their reading skills, helping them prepare for their GED, and getting a job." By example, Father George taught all of us a valuable lesson: "Not only to hand a person a fish, but to teach them *how* to fish." Founded in 1986, MEAC has a strong presence in the community.

"Being at St. Anthony for 13 years was a continued growthful experience for me," says Father George. "I believe I grew as a person, and I know I grew as a priest and as a pastor. I learned so much from so many at St. Anthony. It was a time when the community grew, not only in size, but also in spirit and in our relationship with God. It was a great opportunity to work in the Madisonville community. It was a great 13 years of continued growth, even when there were difficulties and challenges. I got to know so many people over the 13 years. It was very difficult to leave folks who had taken me into their lives. It was difficult, but made easier because everyone was so affirming, with his or her kind words and acts, cards and gifts. It was very overwhelming."

All would agree that Father George constantly challenged us to think, to evaluate our position and feelings, to search for solutions to problems. He led us through prayer and by example. "Leaving St. Anthony wasn't like leaving a job. It was like leaving a family. Best wishes and congratulations to my St. Anthony family on this 150th Anniversary."

Father George left St. Anthony on July 15, 1997 for a sabbatical. His new assignment as pastor of St. Clare in College Hill began in June 1998 where he is still assigned.

CURRENT ADDRESS: Rev. George Jacquemin, St. Clare Church, 1443 Cedar Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45224

22. Rev. Leonard C. Wenke – July 15, 1997 – Present

What do you think of when you think of our pastor, Father Len Wenke? Do you think of the tall thin man with a beard? His hearty laugh? Or his serious side? Do you think of the great stories he likes to include in his homilies? Do you think of those first weekends he was with us in July 1997 when the temperature was in the high '90's? Remember, he brought in large coolers of ice water? There are many ways to describe him. Spiritual. Serious. Wise. Friendly. Observant. Organized. Dependable. And he loves a challenge.

Father Len was born October 12, 1953, the oldest child of Daniel and Juanita Wenke, one of five sons and two daughters. He grew up in Delhi, both in St. Antoninus parish where he attended grade school, and in Our Lady of Victory parish where the family moved while he was in high school. After graduating from

Elder High School, he entered the seminary. Father Len was ordained on June 16, 1979.

Father Len's first assignment was at Carroll High School in Dayton, Ohio where he taught Religion and worked in Campus Ministry and moderated the ski club. He resided at St. Agnes parish in Dayton. From July 1982 to June 1991 he was Director of the Office of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. During this time he served as assistant at St. Ignatius parish in Montfort Heights and at St. Agnes parish in Bond Hill.

In June 1991 Father Len accepted the position of Executive Director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) in Washington D.C. With his leadership, the NFCYM has established the reputation as a national leader in the field of youth ministry. In addition, his efforts promoted both quality and attendance at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) and the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM). Father Len was actively involved in producing the Pope's welcome event at the 1993 World Youth Day in Denver. Did he meet the Pope? "No, but I was six to eight inches away from him, helping guide the youth up to greet him."

Father Len enjoyed his time in D.C., being surrounded by American History. His assignment was very fulfilling. But he missed Cincinnati-style chili. Fortunately he had a housemate who would fix it now and then. After six years of service in Washington, he returned to Cincinnati.

How did Father Len first find out about St. Anthony? "As I listened to hear of parishes that were coming available, I heard that Father George was going to be leaving St. Anthony." Father Len continues: "I was very impressed by what I heard about the St. Anthony community. I was pleased to hear about the great worship, the diversity, and the commitment to justice."

St. Anthony is Father Len's first pastoral assignment. He brought with him much administrative experience, working with processes on a local and national basis, in addition to his considerable youth ministry background. Upon arriving at St. Anthony, he had several days with Father George to learn about the parish. Father Len then set out to meet everyone - the parishioners, his new neighbors, other pastors in Madisonville, business owners, and others. He has an amazing memory for names and faces. He has developed a good relationship with the neighbors, especially the children. "In my time at St. Anthony I have met many faith-filled people devoted to fulfilling our devotion to justice. There is such strong faith here. I really appreciate this community that embraces quality prayer and oneness with the Madisonville community."

In his free time, Father Len enjoys golf, whitewater rafting, biking and basketball. He enjoys reading, especially Grisham, Clancy and Hillerman. He enjoys the theater, and photography provides him with a creative outlet. He is known at his parent's home as a "Mr. Fixit," particularly when it comes to electrical things. Father Len enjoys working on computers and keeping up with computer technology. He is

also pleased to be back in Cincinnati so he can spend more time with his family. He has 12 nephews and one niece (she is the youngest!). Father Len is also somewhat of an amateur cook, sharing recipes and techniques with his brother, Tom, a professional chef.

In June 2007, Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk appointed Father Len as Director of Pastoral Services and Director of Priest Personnel for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, while he continued as Pastor at St. Anthony's and Dean of the St. Francis de Sales Deanery. As Director of Pastoral Services, he directs a department that includes offices for campus ministries, African American Catholic ministries, ecumenical and interfaith relations, family life, missions, Hispanic ministries, worship, and youth and young adult ministries. As Director of Priest Personnel he oversees the needs and care of our Diocesan priest.

In June (?) 2009 Father Len announced to the congregation that with the completion of his 12th year at St. Anthony in July, he has been extended for one year. His role as pastor will end on June 13, 2010. At that time, Father Dave Lemkuhl, currently pastor of John Margaret/St. John will become pastor of St. Anthony. In light of the priest shortage and knowing that we at some point we would no longer have a resident pastor, we are thankful that Father Len has guided us as we prepare for this change. We have been blessed by Father Len's 13 years at St. Anthony.

"OurPastors" John Bange 8/09