

Cloos

Continued from 1A

Education: Bachelor's in finance and accounting, studied five years of pre-theology and four years of theology at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Milwaukee.

Employment: Worked for his father in welding fabrication shop, was in the air force and the Navy reserves after high school, currently parochial vicar at Sts. Mary and Mathias Catholic Church in Muscatine.

Q&A

How was your time in the air force valuable to you?

The thing about the military is it helps you mature. It really helps you become more responsible and more disciplined. And I really enjoyed working with a lot of the people. I met people from all over the world. It was very enriching. A lot of people from Australia. They went to Operation Red Flag where we would practice war over the Nevada Desert and we'd invite the air force, the navy and the marines, not only from the United States but from Australia, from Europe.

How did you come to be involved in the clergy?

Well I was cradle Catholic; I was brought up Catholic. It's kind of hard to explain, but it's a calling. Everybody has a calling in life. For some it's priesthood, for some women it's sisters, and for others it's married and for some it's just the single life.

After I got out of the service, I lived a lot of my life on the West Coast. From 1986-2000, I was in Oregon and I worked for a national video rental chain, Hollywood Video, which is no longer in existence. But as I was working, one day I just had this feeling that I was not doing what I was supposed to be doing.

So I began praying over it and it took a couple years before finally the word 'priesthood' came to me and at my age — I was



The Rev. Bob Cloos was given the same welcome as Rev. Richmond Tuesday afternoon on the playground at Sts. Mary and Mathias Catholic School in Muscatine.

MUSCATINE JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

probably 45 at the time — I just kind of disregarded it because I didn't think that applying to a seminary was even an option, I didn't even know where [the idea] came from actually. But it kept on coming back to me and I knew it was a message from God, that I needed to investigate the priesthood.

So I first approach the archdiocese of Dubuque and because of my age they told me that they don't sponsor anyone over 45 and I was 47/48 when I approached them but they told me go down to see Father Marty Goetz inavenport, so that's how I got hooked up.

What is the most important aspect of your faith to you?

The source and summit of our faith is the Eucharist, is Jesus Christ. For a priest, you really need to be connected with Jesus because we are acting in persona Christi — in the person of Christ. Of course the Blessed Virgin Mary is also our spiritual mother and we have connection with her through the rosary, through prayer.

What is your role as parochial vicar?

It's probably closest to say I'm associate pastor, Father Troy's associate. I'm still learning to be a priest and the rites and everything. It's a learning process: all the workings of a parish, the finances and

the different committees, what they do.

I'm learning Spanish, so I'm starting to do quinceaneras and Spanish baptisms.

It can be [overwhelming]. Especially when you're first walking in the door and you haven't been in this kind of environment, a business environment.

I worked maintenance the last number of years so I was outside of the major decision-making; they just told me what needed to be done. So now I gotta be part of the process. And I'll probably make mistakes and I hope to learn from them. I know the parishioners are very supportive.

How are you finding Muscatine so far?

Oh I like Muscatine. People are great, extremely friendly, very welcoming. I've invitations to go out fishing and I'm looking forward to that because I like to fish but sometimes, especially when you're new and trying to get settled, it's hard to find time to break away and relax.

Do you have other hobbies?

I'm still learning to play the guitar. I try to play golf, but I've never had lessons so that's a work in progress. I like to read. One of my favorite spiritual writers is Henri Nouwen. But there are so many different writers out there. I'm still collecting books

This road race just keeps growing, lending a hand

■ **Get Your Rear in Gear** has 'own identity,' continues to help those in need

GET YOUR REAR IN GEAR

To sign up for the Get Your Rear in Gear 5K run/walk, visit the event's Web page at: www.getyourrearingear.com

Fessler said the event was his way of giving back to the community after its support of his family during Ellen's illness, but the event has grown significantly in the years since it's started.

"It's developed its own identity at this point," he said.

One of the examples of that is the fact that other organizations now check to see when the run will occur, noting that they want to avoid scheduling their events at the same time. The event also has returned to Discovery Park, 3300 Cedar St., where both the timed 5K run and the 5K walk will take place along

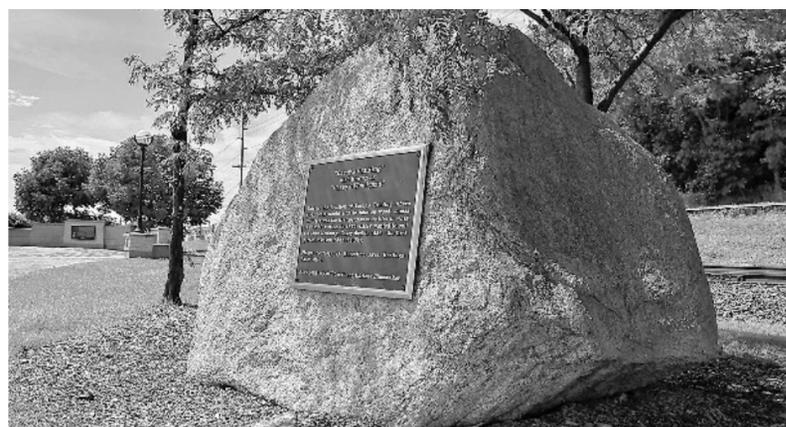
the winding trails there.

"What a great facility that is," Fessler said.

One of the biggest benefits of the event is that the funds raised with the event are used locally. Fessler estimated that during the past three years, the event has raised \$38,500, and that its organizers are hoping to hit the \$50,000 mark after this year's edition.

Those funds have gone directly to Trinity Muscatine. The hospital has set aside those funds to help those without insurance receive colonoscopies, which are used to detect early signs of colon cancer. Fessler said the funds helped 50 to 55 people needing examination so far.

"A lot of people don't have resources for that," said Holly Thomas-Koehler, marketing and communications specialist for Trinity Muscatine. "It's a direct impact and that's what's unique about it."



BETH VAN ZANDT/MUSCATINE JOURNAL

Casey's Landing is located along the Muscatine riverfront on the Running River Trail System.

Name

Continued from 1A

How the name became, however, is a bit unclear. James Casey settled in the area in 1835, establishing a steamboat landing and wood yard that he called Casey's Landing or Casey's Woodpile. The woodpile helped supply steamboats chugging up and down the river of the nation's new frontier.

The landing name, which he later renamed Newburg, was the unofficial town name before Casey died in 1836 and the town of Bloomington was laid out. However, residents were complaining that mail was being sent to other towns called Bloomington in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky — sometimes even to Burlington, Iowa.

Musquitine County had been established the same year as Bloomington, though the spelling was changed to Muscatine in 1838. In 1849, Bloomington residents petitioned to change the city name from Bloomington to Muscatine, which was done on June 7, 1849.

The name "Musquitine" can still be found in today's Muscatine. A plaque on the Indian statue on Muscatine's

riverfront reads: "Presented to the City of Muscatine by Musquitine Tribe No. 95. Improved Order of Red Men and Dedicated to the Mascoutin Indians 1926."

Although it's clear why the townspeople wanted a different name, it's unclear exactly how the word "Muscatine" came about. Some

historians have said it was derived from the name of the Mascoutin Indian tribe that lived in the area in the 1700-1800s. Others have said it is from the Indian word meaning "island of fire," a phrase used to describe the piece of land now known as Muscatine Island.

50 Ways

Continued from 1A

We can count among our "old friends" one of the most powerful players on the world stage. In short, Muscatine is more — much more — than just clam shells and cantaloupes.

So how do you tell the tale of a city that's older than the state it calls home in only 50 stories? You don't — not the whole tale, anyway. There's more to Muscatine than we'll be able to tell in this series. But our hope is that we can bring the past, present and future together for something that you'll enjoy spending a little time with each day.

Our series will run five days a week for 10 weeks, and by the end of it you'll probably have a love-hate relationship with our list. But that's OK. Of course we hope you love it, but we know some inclusions on the list, and omissions from it, will have you slapping

your forehead or rolling your eyes. But talking about and debating lists is half the fun of reading them.

We ask only one thing: Agree or disagree, don't take it personally. If someone or something was left off our list, it wasn't personal; it was simply practical. Some things just couldn't make the cut. We can't presume to tell all there is to tell about the Pearl City in a few dozen stories. We know we're gonna miss some things. Just in the few months we spent preparing for this series, we had to winnow down the list from 100 to 50, and that in itself was no easy task.

The list is meant to be a combination of both the obvious and the not-so-obvious. Though important to the story of Muscatine, we didn't want to just limit ourselves to Mark Twain, the Mississippi and melons. We wanted to peek around the corners and look behind the scenes to include some people and places in Muscatine you may not have

known about.

If there's something you don't see on the list, tell us. E-mail us at news@muscatinejournal.com or call us at 563-262-0529. If we get enough ideas, we'll publish a list of readers' picks once the series is over — a list of "what should have been." After all, this is your city too. Tell us how you'd say "Muscatine."

There's an iconic line in the 1948 movie "Naked City" that was later used as the closing for the TV show of the same name: "There are eight million stories in the naked city. This has been one of them."

We can't tell you eight million stories about the Pearl City. But we can certainly tell you more than one. We've got 50 lined up, and today we begin telling them. We hope you'll enjoy them.

Perhaps you'll even add reading them to your daily to-do list.

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