



Karoline’s Easter eggs

» **Father Ron Hutchinson,**
director of priestly vocations

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hile I was a seminarian, I became acquainted with a kind, artistic woman named Karoline. Originally from Germany, she painted religious designs/symbols on eggs from which the contents had been removed. The eggs were covered

with intricate patterns and detailed designs that were meant to remind the viewer of the significance of Easter and the Savior who came to redeem us. Each egg was a thing of beauty. Throughout the first few years after I became acquainted with Karoline, I purchased dozens of these painted eggs to display in my home and give as presents. In fact, I introduced others to this woman, and they became fans of her talent as well. Each year as I pull out the box filled with tissue paper and other packing materials used to protect these precious little beauties, I wonder what has happened to the woman who created them. I have lost track of her over the years, but a piece of her continues to be a part of my life.

As priests, we are privileged to meet, as well as serve, many different people throughout our lifetimes. Each person is a piece of our history and our lives. Although they may not be blood relations, they are our brothers and sisters in Christ whom God has called us to serve as priests and they are the faith family we are called to shepherd.

So often I am asked by young people if we would have more priests if celibacy were not a requirement for priestly ministry. In their minds the rigors of living without a spouse and family lead to loneliness. I can honestly say that my life is not lonely! Over the years, I have wholeheartedly embraced each of the parish families that I was called to serve as “Father.” Although I may not have had someone to come home to each night, I have never lacked companionship, heartfelt concern for my well-being, or a “shoulder to cry on” when I needed one. I have a rich and full life without a spouse.

Yes, I live alone and there may be times that I wish I could sit down to dinner with someone (or several someones) without having to plan it weeks in advance. There are even times I wish that I could have experienced the joy, and even the pain, of watching children of my own mature from birth to adulthood. However, God has called me to something else – not better or worse, but just different than my brothers and sisters in Christ who are called to the vocation of marriage. I have come to see during years of working with married couples that, in reality, my life is no lonelier than theirs. Loneliness is not a matter of living with someone or not, or being married or not. Loneliness is the result of not being emotionally connected to others and them to us.

This year, as I prepare to unwrap the beautiful eggs that remind me of a woman with a thick German accent and the gift of making a hollowed-out egg a thing of beauty with just a little paint, I will remember all those like Karoline who are, and will always be, a precious piece of my history and my life as a priest.

BIENVENIDO

A LA
CATEDRAL DE SAN ANDRÉS

El Triduo: Los Tres Grandes Días

Jueves Santo, Misa vespertina de la Cena del Señor - Abril 9

7 p.m. - Muy Rev. Walter A. Hurley

Viernes Santo, Celebración de la Pasión del Señor - Abril 10

Liturgia de la Palabra, Veneración de la Cruz, Santa Comunión

1 p.m. - Misa, Muy Rev. Walter A. Hurley

3 p.m. - Misa (en Español)

7 p.m. - Tenebrae (Una tradición antigua que concluye el Viernes

Santo con un servicio de “sombras”.)

Sábado Santo, Vigilia Pascual - Abril 11

8 p.m. - Misa, Muy Rev. Walter A. Hurley

Temporada Pascual

Domingo de Pascua - Abril 12

10 a.m. - Misa (televisada), Muy Rev. Walter A. Hurley

12 p.m. - Misa (en Español)

6 p.m. - Misa

7:30 p.m. - Misa Contemplativa

Catedral de San Andrés
265 Sheldon Blvd.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-456-1454

Horarios de la Catedral: 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (L-V)

Misas:

Días de Semana: L-V, 7 a.m., 12:05 p.m. (Capilla), Sábado, 12:05 p.m.

Fines de Semana:

Sábado, 4:30 p.m., Domingo 10 a.m. (televisada),
12 p.m. (en español), 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Reconciliación:

Días de Semana: L-V, 7:30 – 8 a.m., 12:30 – 1 p.m.
Sábado: 11 – 11:45 a.m., 12:30 – 1 p.m.


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OF SAINT ANDREW

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