

## GETTING TO KNOW ME: The Rev. Stephen Charles Secaur (in his own words)

Born October 14, 1944, in Lincoln, NE. My Dad was stationed there with the Army Air Force. Mom and I moved back to Akron when I was less than one year old, and I was raised in Akron – attending public schools there through 10th grade. The family moved to Kent in 1960 and I graduated from Theo. Roosevelt High in '62. We are having our 50th reunion in July.

I attended Kent State for one year, then transferred to Ohio State-graduated in 1966 with a B.A. in Political Science. Enlisted in the Air Force after graduation, served as an enlisted man for four years, working as an autopilot technician on mostly F-4 fighter jets, including one year in Thailand (1969-1970).

Nancy, my wife, and I met in Kent when I was home on leave in 1968, and we got married in March of 1969. After my discharge, we moved to Minnesota for a fresh start in a new place. Worked as an agent and sales manager for Prudential from 1970 to 1977, then one year as an independent agent before we sold our house and moved to Seminary-Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL.

Great experience of intense community. Graduated in 1981 and went back to Minnesota for first parish experience, then accepted a call to St. Mark's, Wadsworth in 1984-a miserable learning experience for all concerned. Worked in life insurance again for six months, then served as associate priest at Church of Our Savior in Akron for a year and a half. Accepted a call to Central PA-coal mining country-and served Holy Trinity, Shamokin, and St. Stephen's, Mt. Carmel, for five plus years. Next was our favorite parish-Trinity, Baraboo, Wisconsin-for six years, then to St. Luke's, Whitewater, for five years, where we were able to buy a home again. Nancy's fibromyalgia was giving her trouble and we accepted a call to two small parishes in deep East Texas. I have learned to conjugate "you-all" and to smoke beef brisket in our almost 8 years in the South.

We have three grown children: Greg-our oldest-and his wife Kelly live in Minneapolis; Jeremy and his wife Cathy and our only grandchildren, Cora Ann and Violet Frances, live in Elyria; our youngest, born at seminary, Valerie, lives in Madison, WI. Our recent desire to move to Ohio has been prompted by loneliness for our kids and grandkids and my elderly mother's declining health. Nancy has found a health drink that significantly reduces her fibromyalgia symptoms.

We are absolutely thrilled at becoming your new priest and priest spouse. Nancy is a gifted singer. I love leading worship and preaching and helping people fall in love with God. Pastoral care is what I do and I believe I do it well. My office door will always be open to any of you and you can be assured that I take priestly confidentiality very seriously.

We are going to have a lot of fun and share laughter and tears and all that being a Christian community entails. And, we are going to grow like gangbusters because that is what the Lord expects of all of us. I firmly believe that all members are ministers and every one has gifts to offer in the Lord's service.

See you all in mid June.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Steve (you can call me Steve or Fr. Steve)