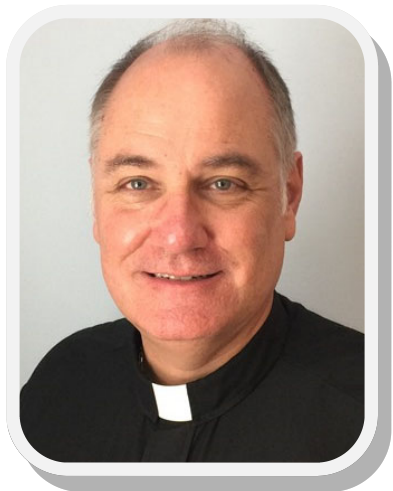


Welcome Father Dennis



Born in Worcester, Massachusetts to André and Jean Willey, the youngest of four children. Siblings are Daniel, David and Diane.

Raised in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Member of Sacred Heart Church where he received the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation. Was an active Altar Server until High School graduation and was sexton for five years. Graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1980. Was active in Track & Field and Cross Country in High School.

Attended undergraduate level studies at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. Graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

Was commissioned an Officer in The United States Army Reserve in May of 1984 and served on active duty as an Aviation Branch Officer and helicopter pilot (qualified in to fly the Huey, Cobra and Kiawa helicopters) until the fall of 1988 when he was released from active duty to pursue his vocation to the Priesthood. He remained in the Army Reserve as a Staff Specialist until 1995 when he resigned his commission.

Accepted to minor seminary studies for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut he studied philosophy at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT from January 1989 until May 1990. In the fall of 1990 he began his major theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1992 he requested to be transferred from the Archdiocese of Hartford and was accepted by and later incardinated into the Diocese of Charleston, SC. He graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree from St. Mary's in May of 1994 and was ordained a Catholic Priest in the Diocese of Charleston on 2 July 1994.

In the past twenty-three years he has served as a Parochial Vicar, Episcopal Master of Ceremonies, Promotor of Justice, Vocations Director and as Pastor in several parish assignments in the Diocese of Charleston. His parish assignments have included Christ Our King, The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, St. Mary Our Lady of Ransom, Nativity and Sacred Heart Churches, as well as serving as the Catholic Chaplain at The Citadel, and as the Sacramental Priest for the Catholic Student Association at The College of Charleston. In April of 2013 He was appointed the Dean of the Charleston Deanery and was elected to this position by his brother priests again in January of 2016. As Dean he has served on the Presbyteral Council and Priest Personnel Board. He will remain a member of the College of Consultors and the Priest Retirement Board. At the dedication of the new church sanctuary on 17 March 2016 Bishop Guglielmone announced Fr. Willey as the Pastor of Our Lady of the Lake in Chapin, South Carolina, effective 12 May 2016.

In Fr. Dennis words he is always "busy, but it is a GOOD busy!"