

David Werthmann profile

Living Our Faith

Hello, Dave

I've been a parishioner for: 22 years. I started attending Mass at SFX in 1987 before I became a staff member at St. Vincent's Parish and later moved to the West Coast where I worked and studied for four years. By the early 2000s I moved back to St. Louis to be closer to my ailing father in Iowa. I officially registered as a parishioner in 2001.

Living my faith: For many years my only connection to SFX was the 10:30 Sunday liturgy. That's what attracted me to the parish in the first place. In retirement, I got involved with the parish's anti-racism work because that has always been a great interest of mine. I currently serve on the Anti-racism Committee and the Anti-racism Parish History Committee, and help prepare the weekly Anti-racism Column for the weekly bulletin. In addition, I serve as a Eucharistic Minister and a member of the Elder Prayer Companions group that prays daily for the needs of the parish and its members. Earlier in 2023, I helped organize the parish library containing all the books (now over 1500) that have been donated by parishioners.

Why I'm involved: I attend daily Mass as often as I can. One day while praying and receiving the Eucharist, I became aware that I, too, am somehow transformed into the image and likeness of God. I take that transforming presence of Christ with me into the world. It's nothing I do. It's God who brings about whatever transformation needs to happen. It's said that about 35% of the world's population claims to be Christian. Imagine if all of them receive the Eucharist every Sunday -- how transforming that would be, and what a different world we would live in!!

Three words that describe SFX: Dynamic, Life-giving, Uplifting

My neighborhood: I live in the Bevo community. My city block is very diverse, eclectic in fact. My neighbors include interracial and African American families, older white couples, LGBTQ folks, Bosnian immigrants and a family who recently moved to St. Louis from Cuba.

Fun facts: I retired in 2019 – right before the pandemic broke out (providential!) – after working at Aquinas Institute of Theology for 12 years and Liguori Publications for six years.

My grandparents started a family-owned bakery in the 1930s, which my father and uncle took over and operated for 10 more years. My family lived upstairs, and my bedroom was above the giant oven that baked several dozen loaves of bread at a time. Many SFX parishioners have become aware of my own baking skills. I also enjoy traveling, and have set foot on four continents: Europe (twice), Australia, Africa and, of course, North America.