

Community Welcomes Milwaukee Archbishop Jeffrey Grob

Milwaukee Archbishop Jeffrey Grob made his first visit to St. Joseph Chapel on July 8, presiding at a 10 a.m. Mass. Sisters, associates, staff, and guests joined in welcoming the Archbishop, a Wisconsin native who was taught by our sisters in grade school.

Sister Deborah Fumagalli, our congregation's President, made note of this early connection in her welcoming remarks to the Archbishop. "We know that your roots are here in Wisconsin, beginning in St. Francis Xavier Parish and School in Cross Plains," Sister Deborah said. "Many of our sisters were born and raised in that parish, and many more have ministered there through the decades. We are proud that our sisters played a part in your early formation, and in nurturing your priestly vocation."

In his own opening remarks, Archbishop Grob agreed that, "In no small way, you sisters made me who I am. It is with great joy and great pride that I am with you today. I am privileged and I am at home here, back among those who helped to shape my earliest years. I come to you with a grateful heart."

In his homily, reflecting on Matthew's gospel (Mt 9:32-38), Archbishop Grob observed, "It's the moments we encounter in the gospels when Jesus is moved by very human emotions that are uniquely compelling, to see the Lord's love. His emotions are reminders that Jesus is not God dressed up in human clothing. He truly sees the people, troubled and lacking guidance, and his heart is moved with pity.

"In Jesus' ability to resonate with human experiences of being troubled and abandoned, broken and wounded, we can better understand a gentle God who genuinely cares and loves each and every one of us, especially the most abandoned and neglected."

Archbishop Grob concluded his homily with the hopeful message, "No matter what we're facing, whatever the circumstance of our lives, the Lord desires to enter into that, and to bring healing and forgiveness to that. Some free advice: Allow him."

Offering his thanks at the end of the liturgy, Archbishop Grob said that during the Mass he was "flooded with memories of so many good School Sisters of St. Francis who have touched my life and shaped my years. How many countless others have come to know the heart of Christ and the face of God because of your work? Know that I am deeply grateful."

Following the Mass, sisters enjoyed the opportunity to greet Archbishop Grob at a festive reception with light refreshments in St. Joseph Hall. Thanks to everyone who planned, prepared, and participated in making this joyful day so special!

An archived recording of the Mass is available for viewing on the School Sisters of St. Francis' Ustream channel: <https://video.ibm.com/recorded/134428649>