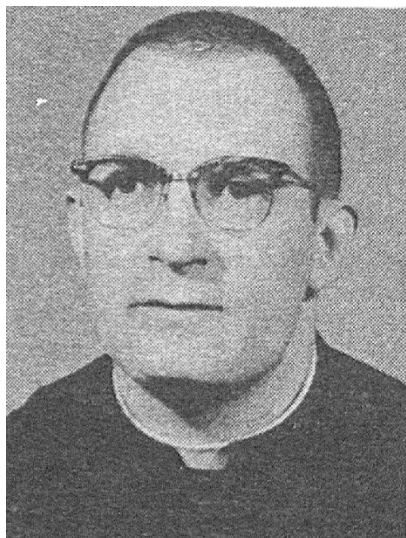


Rev. Alfred John Fisher

35th State Chaplain of Oregon 1975-77



Alfred John Fisher was born on Jan. 22, 1928, in Fond du Lac County, WI to Paul and Gertrude Ziegler Fisher.

Dairy farming was his culture, as was rural Catholic religion. His education started in a one-room school house, followed by attendance at Catholic high school and a philosophy degree from St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, WI. He studied theology at Regina Cleri Seminary in Regina Saskatchewan, Canada. He also studied the Mexican language in San Antonio, Texas.

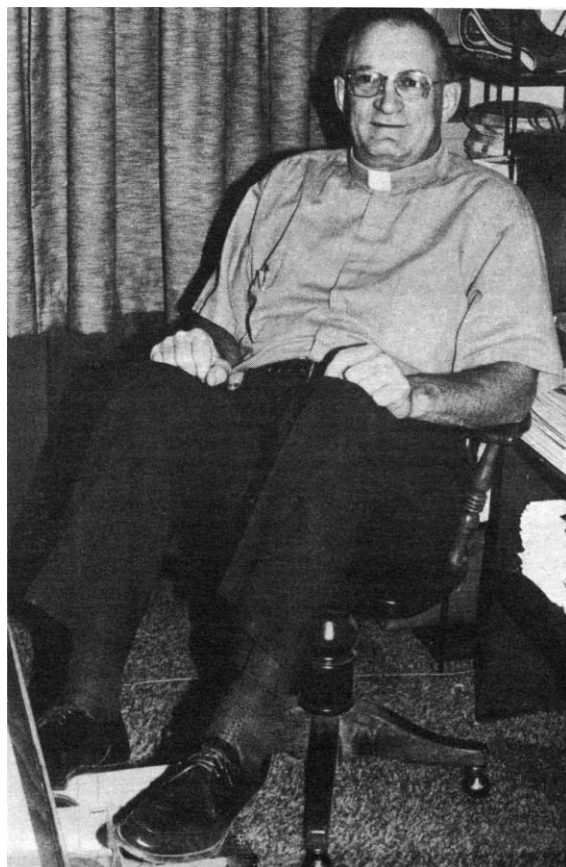
The first 32 years of his priesthood was spent as a pastor in the Baker Diocese, OR. He was pastor at St. Elizabeth Parish in John Day, OR.

He served at the Indian mission, school and ranch. Country high desert and timber areas in the mountains provided more unique assignments.

His second 32-year career consisted of part time ministry in the Sunday circuit in Alaska. His many postings in Alaska include Holy Rosary Academy Chaplain and Auxiliary Chaplain for the Air Force and Army.

He was the N.W. Chaplain to the Boy Scout National Jamboree. Rev. Fisher was an accomplished author having written five small books of which his first, *The Happy Priest*, is an autobiography. He produced a documentary on cultural studies at St. Andrews Mission School for a Portland TV station.

Additionally, Rev. Fisher rode a Honda 90 bike, skied, practiced photography, bicycled and played high school basketball and college intramural sports. He played slow-pitch softball, climbed Mt. Hood in Oregon, and won a bowling trophy with a score of 264. He founded a Newman Club and rode shotgun during the filming of an Idaho Historical Society TV documentary.



Rev. Fisher played classical piano; in high school, the clarinet; and in college he played the saxophone and trumpet, and performed in the choir and orchestra. In later years he played the accordion, tuba and organ. In his retirement years he was an active Friday night fan of local bands. He celebrated polka Masses at polka festivals in California, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska.

Rev. Fisher was the Oregon Knights of Columbus State Chaplain 1975–77. He was also the State Chaplain for Alaska.

Rev. Alfred John Fisher died on April 21, 2023 in Anchorage, AK.

He is buried at the Saint John the Baptist Cemetery in Johnburg, WI. His gravestone in Wisconsin reads, "Missionary to Oregon and Alaska."



"The more visible Catholics are, the more the Church is going to grow and attract even more converts. A silent Church just isn't going to grow." Rev. Alfred J. Fisher, June 25, 1982, John Day, OR

