

CURRICULUM VITAE

**Reverend Thomas J. Kessler, M.Div.
Director of Pastoral Formation
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity**

2260 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55105
Phone: 651-962-5966 Fax: 651-962 5790

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The seventh of eleven children of the late William and Leona Kessler, Father Kessler was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania on Easter Sunday, April 10th, 1955. Father was ordained a priest by Bishop Thomas J. Welsh at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown on May 12th, 1984.

From 1973 until he entered the seminary in 1976 Thomas Kessler was a salesman of structural steel for Nasco Steel, Inc. in Philadelphia, Pa.

In June of 1980 with a major in Philosophy, Father received a Bachelor of Arts from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1984 following four years of Theological Studies at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, Father Kessler received a Masters of Divinity.

From 1984 – 88 Father Kessler served as an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and as a hospital chaplain at the Reading Hospital in West Reading, Pennsylvania.

As a member of the Society of Saint James the Apostle from 1988-93, Father served as a missionary in Buena Vista and El Torno, Bolivia in South America.

Until 1995 Father served as an assistant pastor at Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Reading, Pennsylvania.

In the years from 1995 until 1999 Father Kessler was a Professor and Director of Spiritual Activities at Notre Dame High School in Easton, Pennsylvania.

Father was appointed by Bishop William G. Curlin and worked primarily in Hispanic Ministry as the administrator of Saint Dorothy Catholic Church in Lincolnton, North Carolina from 1999 – until 2002 at which time he was appointed pastor of Saint Leo the Great Catholic Church and hospital chaplain at the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina where he served until 2007.

With the permission of Bishop Peter J. Jugis of the Diocese of Charlotte, the Most Reverend Harry J. Flynn, the Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, appointed Father Thomas J. Kessler the Director of Pastoral Formation at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity on July 6th, 2007.