

## BIOGRAPHY OF FR GREG SCHAFFER

I was born August 17, 1965 in Saint Paul, Minnesota, to Pat and Rita Schaffer and am the oldest of five children. I grew up on the East Side of Saint Paul and attended St Pascal's Grade School and St Bernard's High School. After graduating from high school in 1984, I entered St John Vianney Seminary at the College of St. Thomas. To help pay for college I joined the US Army Reserve and served at the 5501<sup>st</sup> US Army Hospital out of Ft Snelling for six years obtaining the rank of Specialist as a combat medic (91B) and psychiatric nurse (91F).

After four years at St John Vianney Seminary, earning an undergraduate degree in Philosophy, I entered St Paul Seminary. I took a leave of absence, after one year at St Paul Seminary, and worked with my uncle at his mission in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala, from 1989 to 1991 during the years of civil unrest. During my time in Guatemala my interest in the missions and desire for the priesthood grew.

I returned to St Paul Seminary and earned a Masters of Divinity and a Masters in Theology in Dogmatic Theology and was ordained a priest in 1994. My first assignment as a priest was to serve on the East Side of Saint Paul close to where I grew up at the Parish of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Maplewood. Three years later I left to study Spanish in Bolivia in order to serve our Archdiocesan Mission parish of Jesucristo Resucitado in San Felix, Venezuela. In 2000, I was named pastor of Jesucristo Resucitado Parish and continue in that capacity today.