



**From the July 2012 Newsletter,
Knights of Columbus Msgr. Basche Council 4505**



FR. BOB'S CORNER

A Look Back at Right Reverend Monsignor Delbert William Basche

Archbishop Lori spoke of history in this month's bulletin as he assumes his duties in Baltimore, a historical city. So I thought it might be fitting to look into the history of our council's name's sake, Msgr. Delbert Basche.

The Knights of Columbus Council #4505 was chartered in 1957. It was named the Msgr. Basche Council #4505 in memory of Right Reverend Monsignor Delbert William Basche, a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay.

Msgr. Basche was the second of four children of the William B. and Elizabeth (Baier) Basche family. Delbert was born December 22, 1904 in Green Bay, WI. He attended high school and junior college at the Capuchin school, St. Lawrence College (now St. Lawrence Seminary) Mt. Calvary, WI. From there he went to Milwaukee to study philosophy and theology at St. Francis Major Seminary.

Bishop Paul Peter Rhode ordained Delbert Basche to the priesthood on February 25, 1931 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay, WI. Fr. Delbert Basche was appointed Assistant at St. Mary Parish, Appleton, WI on March 20, 1931. On June 22, 1932 he was appointed chancellor of the diocese.

Fr. Delbert Basche served as chancellor for 14 years. All knew him for his cheerful and efficient service. He had a constant smile, friendly and welcoming. Due to failing health he had to give up his duties as chancellor of the diocese. He was named pastor to St. Francis Xavier Parish, De Pere, on June 24, 1946. While pastor, he built a new convent, parish gymnasium and renovated the church.

Pope Pius XII raised Fr. Delbert Basche to the dignity of a domestic prelate on October 11, 1949, giving him the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

The progressive advance of a brain tumor broke his health, but not his spirit. He continued being his wonderful pleasant self. Death came at St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay, on December 14, 1954, just eight days away from his 50th birthday.

Msgr. Delbert Basche lies buried with his parents in Allouez Cemetery at Green Bay. The plot and gravestones are just off of Webster Avenue on the south end of the cemetery. The brown marble cross gravestone is very visible from the street.

Msgr. Delbert Basche was a priest greatly loved by all. Everyone spoke well of him, priests, people of the parish and diocese, and the community in general. People have fond recollections of him, of his kindness, friendliness, and thoughtfulness.

Those who chose to name our Knights of Columbus Council after Msgr. Delbert Basche made a wise choice. Msgr. Basche is someone to be honored and appreciated. He is truly a Christian model. His many attributes are to be imitated – his cheerfulness and dedicated service, his energy in accomplishing his tasks, his welcoming smile, his genuine interest in people, in you individually.

Love, Fr. Bob
Fr. Bob Rhyner, Council Chaplain