

Father Joseph Van Phung, a native of Vietnam, was ordained for the Diocese of Davenport in June 24, 2000 by Bishop William E. Franklin. Fr. Joseph came from the family of 8 children; his three siblings now live in the US. Fr. Joseph escaped from Vietnam by boat to Hong Kong in 1991. After receiving the refugee status he was moved to Philippines and arrived in the United States in 1993; his first home in the United States was in Texas. He later moved to Davenport and began studying for the diocese and attending St. Ambrose University. After graduating in 1996 he continued to study theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC.

Fr. Joseph was a parochial vicar to St. Mary's in Iowa City from 2000-2004 and Sacred Heart Cathedral from 2004-2008. He was assigned as pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish, Mt. Pleasant, from 2008 – 2016 and Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison and St. Joseph, Montrose 2016 - 2023.



Father Joseph loves this prayer and would like to share it here!

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. - Thomas Merton, "Thoughts in Solitude"