

Rev. Donald C.

Willette

1988-1991



"It was late at night," he said. "I took a little nap on a curve right above Peaceful Valley. I woke up in just enough time to know I was in real trouble."

Willette went over a 100-foot cliff without a seat belt. The impact bounced him through the roof of his Cadillac El Dorado convertible. When he came to his senses, he was 30 feet from the car and wondering why he wasn't dead. A hospital took 30 x-rays, expecting to find broken bones or internal injuries. But except for some cuts and bruises, Willette was fine.

"I began to ask the question, 'my God, what if I'd died?' " he said. "I began to think there must be more."

RETURNED TO PRIESTHOOD

He consulted a local priest about returning to the seminary. It took a year to sell off his property and business.

Donald C. Willette, son of Mr. and Mrs. Corliss N. Willette of Estes Park, is a member of Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Estes Park and graduated from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minn., in 1963 receiving his B.A. degree.

He then attended Regina Clerical Seminary in Regina, Sask., and attended the Pontifical Josephinum in Ohio from 1965 to 1967. He re-entered St. Thomas Seminary in September of 1980 where he is studying for his Master of Divinity degree.

Don Willette has had a business career in Estes Park and has spent 6 years active duty in the United States Air Force and 9 years in reserve duty.

Ordained June 1984, Archdiocese of Denver

Attended Regina Clerical Seminary, Regina Sask.,

Pontifical Josephinum

Former Businessman

Discerned the priesthood after car accident (car went off 100 ft cliff, went through sun roof, survived with minor injuries)

The Denver Catholic Register Wed April 23, 1986

The Louisville Times, Volume 77, Number 48, May 22, 1991