

# Mayoral Proclamation

WHEREAS, Kenneth P. Knippel was born on May 29, 1950 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Winifred and Roland Knippel, the first of three children; and

WHEREAS, Ken attended three Catholic elementary schools: Pius X (K-2); Mother of Good Counsel (3); and St. Margaret Mary (4-8); entered De Sales Preparatory Seminary for high school; and earned a B.A. from St. Francis de Sales College Seminary in 1972 with a major in Theology and a minor in Philosophy, and a Master of Divinity from St. Francis Seminary School of Pastoral Ministry in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Ken was ordained a diocesan priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee on May 28, 1976 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist by Archbishop William E. Cousins, and celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving the next day on his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday at St. Philip Neri which was his home parish at the time; and

WHEREAS, Ken did his Clinical Pastoral Education at the First Evangelical Church in Houston, Texas; attended Cardinal Stritch University to be certified by the State of Wisconsin to teach Religious Studies in grades 7-12; and took a three month sabbatical at the North American College in Rome for a complete updating in the spring of 1993;

WHEREAS, Ken took a second sabbatical to study parish administration models and spiritual direction at the Sydney Experience in the spring of 2004; and took a third sabbatical in 2012 in National Parks and monasteries in the western United States financed by a Lily Endowment Grant; and

WHEREAS, Ken has served in six assignments as a priest: as associate pastor at St. Sebastian from 1976-1981; as team member at Mary Queen of Heaven in West Allis from 1981-1984; for the Archdiocese as Residency Director of the Call to Ministry Program and subsequently as Director including teaching part-time at Dominican High School from 1984-1990; as pastor of St. Mary of Czestochowa (now Our Lady of Divine Providence) from 1990-1996; as pastor of St. Eugene Congregation from 1996-2008; and as pastor of St. John Vianney Parish in Brookfield from 2008-2018; and

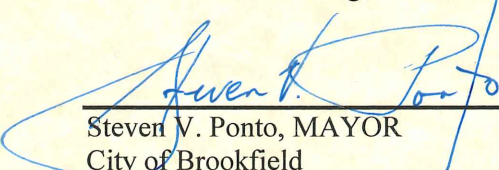
WHEREAS, Ken was appointed dean of District 11 by Archbishop Weakland and reappointed by Archbishop Timothy Dolan, holding that position for 11 years until he accepted the appointment as pastor of St. John Vianney Parish. In 2006, he also became the supervising priest for St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Milwaukee. He also is an influential member of the Brookfield – Elm Grove Interfaith Network (BEGIN); and

WHEREAS, Ken established two international twinning parishes in Uganda, Africa and in Piura, Peru, that have forged strong and enduring partnerships; spearheaded the effort to combine all of the second collections into the Archdiocesan National and International Combined Collections; and has served as a mentor and supervising priest for numerous seminarians and newly ordained priests;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven V. Ponto, Mayor of the City of Brookfield, on behalf of all of the residents of this municipality, congratulate Father Kenneth P. Knippel as he enters a well-deserved retirement, express our gratitude for his service to St. John Vianney Parish and to this community; and wish him continued success and happiness as he continues his priestly calling as a senior priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese.



Signed and sealed this 15th day of June,  
Two Thousand and Eighteen.

  
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Steven V. Ponto, MAYOR  
City of Brookfield