

**New England Jesuit
Oral History Program**



**Fr. Arthur H. Paré, S.J.
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THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HISTORY

Oral histories are the taped recordings of interviews with interesting and often important persons. They are not folklore, gossip, hearsay, or rumor. They are the voice of the person interviewed. These oral records are, in many instances, transcribed into printed documentary form. Though only so much can be done, of course, in an hour or some times two, they are an important historical record whose value increases with the inevitable march of time.

For whatever reason, New England Jesuits, among others around the world, have not made any significant number of oral histories of their members. Given the range of their achievements and their impact on the Church and society, this seems to many to be an important opportunity missed. They have all worked as best they could for the greater glory of God. Some have done extraordinary things. Some have done important things. All have made valuable contributions to spirituality, education, art, science, discovery, and many other fields. But living memories quickly fade. Valuable and inspiring stories slip away. This need not be. Their stories can be retold, their achievements can be remembered, their adventures saved. Their inspiration can provide future generations with attractive models. That is what oral history is all about.

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March 2008

Interview with Fr. Arthur H. Paré, S.J.
by Fr. Richard W. Rousseau, S.J.
November 8, 2007

EARLY YEARS

RICHARD ROUSSEAU: Let's begin with your early years. Tell us when and where you were born, as well as about your father and mother.

ARTHUR PARÉ: I was born on October 13, 1928 in Manchester, New Hampshire. My father's name was Henry Paré; and my mother's maiden name was Laura Trudel. My dad came from Quebec City. Mom was born in the United States, but she was educated in Montreal, because there were no Catholic schools in Derry at the time. And she also learned French.

I grew up in a very, very French neighborhood on the west side of Manchester. I was also baptized and brought up in a French parish called St. Jean Baptiste, where everybody spoke French in the area. So I had to learn both French and English on the street and in school. And so, that's how I became bilingual.

HIS FATHER

RR: Tell us more about your father.

AP: Well, dad was born in 1900 and immigrated to the

States in 1917. He came not knowing much English. His first job was at General Electric in Pittsfield. His older brother, Gerard, happened to be working there, so maybe he had an in there. He got down to brass tacks and learned English quite rapidly. He then got a degree in electrical engineering through a correspondence course. He worked for GE in various places like Lowell, Lawrence, and Manchester. It was while he was in Manchester that he decided to quit GE and work for the Public Service Company of New Hampshire.

RR: I assume it was because he wouldn't have to move around so much?

AP: Exactly. And also, by that time, he had met my mother. [Laughter] My mother was a beautician in a beauty parlor in Manchester. They met at a dance hall at Lake Massebesic on the east side of the city, which provides its water supply. There used to be trolley cars all the way out to Lake Massebesic, and the dance hall became a favorite picnic spot. However, it doesn't allow any swimming, but it's a wonderful place for sailing.

So that's where they met, and one thing led to another. [Laughter] My Uncle Arthur, my mom's brother after whom I am named, once said to her, "You better marry him. He's really a good guy." [Laughter] Which, of course, they did in September 1927 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Derry, New Hampshire. I came along in 1928.

HIS MOTHER

RR: Tell us more about your mother.

AP: She was born in Exeter, New Hampshire, in St. Michael's Parish. But when she was still very young, the family moved to Derry. Her father, Edmund Trudel, owned Portsmouth Brewing, a beer company. But I don't think that was the only thing he did. He was also very much involved his parish.

And my mother used to tell me about how very meticulous he was about people's drinking. He would say things to them like, "Okay, you've had enough. Out you go." [Laughter]. Unfortunately, however, I never got to know my grandparents on my father's side, because dad's mother died about a week before I was born.

During her education in Montreal, my mother lived with some relatives. She learned to play the piano in a local Catholic school.

RR: Did she play it at home?

AP: She did, and she tried to teach me how to play the piano, fruitlessly, I might add. While I was practicing my scales, I was constantly looking out the window to see how the boys were doing with their baseball game. That's where I wanted I be. But I did memorize the biographies of various composers at the top of the page. [Laughter] That's how I got to know Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn, and Wagner, and loved their music. It had an important influence on me.

She grew up in the Jesuit parish in Montreal, Immaculate Conception, and she thought the world of their choir. She felt that the music there was just the best thing in town. So I've often wondered recently, given my parents' interest in music over the years, what would have happened if I had told my parents that I wanted to join the St. Anselm Benedictines, who lived right up the hill from us. And the same for the Franciscans or some other religious order. So when I told my mother that I was interested in the Jesuits, all she said was "That's fine, that's nice." [Laughter]

HIS SISTER

RR: How about your brothers and sisters?

AP: My sister, Jane, who grew up in the same atmosphere learning French, after high school got a degree in nursing at St. Elizabeth's. I think she graduated in 1952

after my first year of philosophy. She then went to New York to major in surgical nursing.

And that's where she met John O'Connor, who was a resident in urology. They married on January 5, 1955. It was while I was in Beirut, so I wasn't able to attend. However, Reggie O'Neill, a Jesuit whom she had met at Weston, as did my brother Bill, then at Fordham, was the one who presided at the ceremony.

RR: That was a nice gesture.

AP: Very much so. She had first asked Leon Lajoie, whom she had met here at Weston as well when he was doing his theology. There were also other French Canadian Province Jesuits there, and when I had visitors, I would invite all of them to join us. She just thought the world of Leon, and I can see why. I used to go to see him myself when I was down in the dumps [laughter], and he would always pick me up. But he could not officiate at the wedding, and so Reggie, as a good friend, took over.

HIS BROTHER

RR: Tell us more about your brother.

AP: He became a psychologist. He wanted to go to Holy Cross in the worst way, but fate intervened. His principal didn't remind his secretary to send his grades in to Holy Cross in time for admission. Holy Cross then lost interest. He had been an all-state football player for two years. Bill, his coach, and dad went down to Fordham. Ed McGee was a friend of the Fordham coach, and Bill was given a scholarship there. So that's where he went to college. But while he was there, he got interested in psychology. Actually, I don't think that Holy Cross had a similar psychology program at that time.

RR: So it was providential for Bill.

AP: That's right. He then went on to get a scholarship to

Carnegie Tech, as it was called at the time. It's now Carnegie Mellon. And he went on to graduate with a doctorate in psychology in '55.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

RR: Let's go on to the local church and school that you were involved with as you grew up.

AP: All right. I had the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary for eight years in grammar school. Sister Constance really stood out. We had her for English in the seventh and eighth grades. We used to call her Sister Connie. She came from Maine, actually, and she was extremely broad-minded, with a very bubbly personality. She's still alive and lives at the Presentation house in Methuen, Massachusetts.

RR: Did you still have any French classes?

AP: Oh, yes. Sr. Roland taught us in French. [Laughter] She was a little bit stricter, but we really learned our French from her. It was a coed school, with girls and boys in all the classes.

HIS PARISH

RR: How about your local parish?

AP: I should say that the parish was very, very "present," shall I say, in our lives. [Laughter] We always walked to church, because there were no parking spaces there. And, besides, no one had a car.

RR: I hope it wasn't too far.

AP: It wasn't bad. Besides, we also walked to school every day. And I remember the priests very, very clearly. Monsignor Gilbert, who was my pastor before I entered the Society, was a very broad-minded pastor, who really wanted his kids to become conversant with the English language.

RR: Did he ever explain why?

AP: Yes, he said that English was necessary to earn a liv-

ing. And, from time to time, he would take us to Red Sox baseball games. Also, I was an altar server and would sometimes work in his garden at the back of the rectory. The only problem was that it seemed to be mainly rocks! [Laughter]

RR: Not much you could do about that.

AP: That's right, but we got a kick out of it. He was very, very good to us. Then there was Fr. Drapeau, the handyman. He was always in overalls, and built both a parish center and a skating rink with lights over the rink. He took care of whatever was needed.

RR: It sounds like he was a great help.

AP: Also, the parish center had a couple of bowling alleys in the basement, along with some pool tables on the side. In the summer time, the skating rink area was used for clay tennis courts. In the winter we flooded and froze it for ice skating. And I remember very well shoveling that rink. If I had a dime for all the times I shoveled it, I'd be a millionaire. [Laughter] But I didn't mind. It developed my muscles. [Laughter]

HIGH SCHOOL

RR: What about your high school days?

AP: I went to St. Joseph's High School for Boys, which was on the east side of the Merrimack River. Its sport nickname was "The Giant Killers." That was because we were a very small school of only 350 boys. There were nine or ten LaSalle Christian Brothers, FSC, and one priest, teaching us. I owe them a great deal. They were just fine gentlemen.

That was when I started playing baseball a little more seriously. During my second, third, and fourth grades, I played first base. It happened that I was the tallest one on the team. [Laughter] So I did fairly well in sports and in school.

As for football, we had to walk to all our games. We

even had to walk to Livingston Park, a good quarter of a mile away. And Derryfield Park was in the other direction, but uphill all the way. Actually, it was a way of getting warmed up for the game. Luckily, going back after practice was downhill. And often Brother William, who came from Waltham, I think, would drive me home.

RR: Did you have a job somewhere?

AP: Yes. I had a job at Ferretti's Market on Elm Street in Manchester. Then, when I went through BC football in the Lahey years, I got interested in the Society.

VOCATION

RR: I was just going to ask you about BC. [Laughter]

AP: As you can imagine, my years at St. Joseph's made me very interested in football. I remember especially BC beating Tennessee in one of the bowl games. Then it came to mind that I had a grand-uncle who was a Jesuit in the French Canadian Province. His name was Fr. Joseph Ignatius Paré. I had met him a couple of times at home. And I thought he was a pretty cool cat. So it got me thinking about the Society.

One day Brother Alfred, my chemistry and physics teacher, said to me, "Well, why don't you read *Saint Among the Savages* by Francis Talbot?" So I did, and after reading it, I said to myself, "Gee, I wonder whether he was encouraging me to consider the priesthood or discouraging me from it." [Laughter]

RR: You saw in the book how the Jesuits got their heads chopped off! [Laughter]

AP: Right. But he had also said to me, "Fr. Martin Harney at Boston College has come out with a new history of the Society." So I read that, too. Then, my Latin teacher for years, Laurence Gardner, who later became a monsignor, made an appointment for me at the Jesuit provincial's office, which was at 300 Newbury Street

at the time. So I went down there during my senior year. That's when I met Brother Kilmartin of happy memory. [Laughter] And I told him I was an athlete of sorts.

RR: Who was the provincial then?

AP: It was Fr. John McEleney. Then my examiner, Fr. Louis Gallagher said, "Do you speak French?" I said, "Yes, I do." And he continued the interview in French. My first reaction to this was, "These guys don't trust you very much, do they?" It didn't make a very good impression on me.

But Monsignor Gardner said to me later, "Why don't you go to BC and take a look at these guys before you take the jump." So that's what I did, and before long I had applied to the Society and been accepted.

BOSTON COLLEGE

AP: Once I got settled at BC, I ended up, of all places, in Fr. Oswald Archibald Reinhalter's Latin, English, and Greek classes. There were about fifteen of us in that class, and I'd say about half of them entered the Society and persevered. Among them who stayed, for example, were George McRae, Bob Doherty, Dave Boulton, Frank Lewis, and John Kerdiejus.

RR: An amazing group, all from the same class. Did you graduate from BC before entering?

AP: No, I entered after my first year there. An interesting thing happened to me that year at BC. I had picked up the trumpet during my second or third year in high school and played in the band. So I did the same thing at BC, along with John Kerdiejus, whom I didn't know that well, and John Caskin and Bob Regan, whom I did.

We were a famous class, and I'll never forget what happened in the BC cafeteria after our last exam of the year. I said to John Kerdiejus, "I don't know if I'm

going to ever see you again. I'm entering the Society of Jesus." And he said, "Is that right? Holy Smokes!" So, I entered on August 14, 1947. A couple of days later, the names of those entering in the next group in September were put up on the board, lo and behold, John's name was on the list! [Laughter] I said, "You son of a gun." [Laughter] He later explained, "I really didn't know. You kind of gave me a kick in the pants, and I decided to enter, too." [Laughter]

RR: So you had some influence on him! [Laughter]

AP: My first convert.

RR: Who was the master of novices when you got there?

AP: Fr. John Post, and his *socius* or assistant was Fr. James Hickey.

LOVE FOR HISTORY

RR: At this point, I'd just like to say that we don't want to spend too much time on the course itself, which is quite similar for most Jesuits. So tell us anything that really stands out in your philosophy or in theology years.

AP: Of course, I understand. Actually, they made me repeat the first year of college that I had taken at BC. I think it was because I wasn't that proficient in Greek. And I was competing with guys who had taken Greek for three or four years. I found it difficult. As for everything else in my studies, I found them very easy. One of the best lecturers that I ever had in the Society was Fr. [Thomas] "Dixie" Grogan, who taught us history. He gave me a great love of history.

RR: Yes, I've heard that about him and his history classes.

AP: I had thought I was going to major in chemistry, because I had done very well in high school chemistry. But when I realized that I was weak in mathematics, I said to myself, "We'll put that aside. I have a good memory, and moved on to major in modern European languages. So I took some further courses at BC while

in philosophy.

RR: Was this in the summertime?

AP: No, it was during the year. Each Monday, Bobby Patterson and I went down to BC for an afternoon course. If I remember correctly, it was a three-hour lecture. And it was during my philosophy that I became very friendly with Reggie O'Neill. I was also friendly with Bob Lindsay and Oliva Blanchette, who entered the Society with me on the same day.

As a matter of fact, the day I arrived at Shadowbrook and got out of the car, I heard someone speaking French in the car next to ours. The Blanchettes were delivering their son. [Laughter] And we soon became very good friends. Actually three guys with a French Canadian background from New Hampshire were there as well. But one of them, the one from Nashua, I don't think lasted through postulancy.

RR: An impressive group.

AP: Oliva went to Louvain, Belgium, for his philosophy along with George McRae.

RR: I was also at St. Albert de Louvain at the time, and was in theology there with Oliva and George for three years.

REGENCY IN BEIRUT

AP: That's interesting. I wasn't aware of that. A number of us had an interesting regency. I was first slated to go to Baghdad, and Walter Pelletier was to go to Beirut with me.

RR: Had you asked to go to Baghdad?

AP: No. We were both scheduled to go to Beirut. Jimmy Coleran, who was then rector at Weston, called the provincial and said, "Pelletier doesn't know any French. Paré is the one you want to send to Beirut." And the provincial agreed with him. And Jimmy called the two of us in. He indicated the swap wordlessly. He pointed

a finger at each of us, then crossed his arms to show the swap as he said where we were going: Walter ended up going to Baghdad and I went to Beirut. At the time, we were four Americans in Beirut: Joe Holland, Tom O'Connor, Dan Foley, and myself. I was the replacement for Vinnie Burns.

RR: And what kind of responsibility did you have in Beirut?

AP: We taught English at the college. I taught in Notre Dame De Jamhour, which was a beautiful new building, only two years old. It had a wonderful view over the city. I could have stayed there the rest of my life. It was just gorgeous: the blue Mediterranean to the west and the snow-capped mountains to the east. I couldn't ask for better. [Laughter] And the Lebanese were wonderful. From '54 to '57 I had a great time.

I also had permission and opportunity to go to Germany each summer to study modern European history. I also wanted to improve my German. I had started studying German under a very good teacher at Boston College named Mr. Cahill. Why not? I already had French up to here. Later on, I was joined by Ray Bertrand, and we had two wonderful years together.

THEOLOGY

AP: I returned to theology in 1957, and my first summer back I said to myself, "I don't think I'm going to hack this after roaming around Europe as a free spirit." [Laughter] There I was, surrounded by four walls, and I heard that they had even denied us an annual visit to our families at home, which we had enjoyed as philosophers.

RR: It must have been quite a change for you.

AP: I just couldn't understand it. Luckily, I ran across John McKenzie's book, *The Two-Edged Sword*. I started reading that, and I said to myself, "Maybe it won't be so bad after all." [Laughter] So we had some time to read

good books.

I enjoyed Phil Donnelly quite a bit, as well as Hugh Peter Lyons, who came from England. I had [John J.] “Mabel” Crowley, [so called for using a Mabel for his example], the canon lawyer. He was an excellent teacher, and gave us a really superb course. I also had John Ford and John Lynch for moral theology. We used a text called Genicot Salzman.

RR: So a number of good things happened?

AP: Yes, and I remember there was a little footnote in one of the chapters in that book about the way French Canadians made swear words out of such sacred objects as tabernacle, calvary, or even the name of Christ. I had heard all these when I was growing up in Manchester. I don’t know of any other group that does this.

RR: Frenchmen in Europe don’t use these terms much.

AP: As for my ordination, it was in 1960 with Cardinal Cushing presiding. After that, I did a fourth year of theology.

TERTIANSHIP AT PORT TOWNSEND

AP: And, in 1962, I did my tertianship in Port Townsend. Our rather large class of twenty-five had Fr. Ed Flajole in his first year as an instructor at Port Townsend, Washington, not far from Seattle.

That’s where I again met a priest named Raymond Grieger, whom I had met in Germany as a scholastic doing his philosophy there. So I was amazed that he had caught up with me, in a sense. He was running a camp for boys from East Germany at the novitiate of the East German Province in exile at Bingen on the Rhine.

Jim Roach, an extremely good friend who did theology here at Weston with me, was with me, along with John Boyle. John just passed away this past Septem-

ber. John and I were sent, after the long retreat, to Spokane, Washington for our six-week hospital trial. That's where we became very good friends.

RR: Quite a variety of friends and acquaintances.

AP: John, being from Los Angeles, had never seen a hockey game, so we went to see a game. The Kings did not exist at the time. I think the team was called the Indians. Anyhow, John sat on the edge of his seat the whole game. [Laughter] It was a very good experience for him.

I also became a very good friends there with Sister Barbara Anne Brenner, and we remained friends until her death in 1999. She was the dietitian there in Spokane, and I would go alongside her and say, "Do you have any Awful Awfuls?" That's a famous milkshake found especially in New England. [Laughter]

It was good to get out on weekends, because the nearby Crown Zellerbach paper mill in Port Townsend sent its odor into the Jesuit house. But we did have a very good cook in Brother Collins. And another member of our class was Frank Haig, the brother of General Haig. Frank became the president of Wheeling College.

STUDYING HISTORY IN CHICAGO

RR: After your tertianship where did you go?

AP: I went to Loyola, Chicago, to do some further studies in history. And after that I went to Brown, but did not succeed in getting the doctorate. I had gone through a number of dry runs with the teachers, and they had said to me, "You're just fine." But then in the exam they just nailed me with all kinds of recondite things, so I said to myself, "Maybe God wants me to do something else."

TEACHING HISTORY AT CRANWELL

AP: It was a blessing in disguise [laughter], because I don't see myself in the halls of academe. So I went first to the juniorate at Shadowbrook to teach. [Fr./Dr.] Bill Foley was one of my students. Then, after two years, Shadowbrook closed and the juniors went to Boston College for their courses.

But Bob Farrell and I simply went across the town of Lenox to Cranwell Prep, where we were both in the same student dorm. I found that to be a very, very good time as well as an extremely busy one. I was teaching and organizing the campus sports programs. I even washed the boarders' soccer uniforms, because I didn't want them to be on the field with dirty uniforms.

I remember how, at one time, I even had to teach some foreigners American football. I was there for several happy years. I worked with Frs. John J. Walsh, Grogan, Campbell, Jimmy O'Neil, and Brother Vinny Brennan until '75, when the school itself closed.

RR: That closing of Cranwell must have been a sad time for all involved.

AP: Definitely. I had been under the impression that Ray Swords had come to Cranwell as rector to see if he could save it, but I guess it was all too much for him. I had heard that a benefactor had given us a half a million dollars, which we had used to build a chapel that actually cost over a million dollars. As you can imagine, this ultimately made our fiscal situation worse. Who knows what would have happened if we hadn't built that chapel?

RR: I heard that at the time a number of schools similar to Cranwell were also in trouble. Is that right?

AP: Exactly. I think there was massive discontent with private other local prep schools and many others. Then again, in some ways, at least for me, it was probably providential.

TEACHING AT KIMBALL UNION ACADEMY

AP: I spent a year or two teaching at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire. I just felt that we Jesuits didn't seem to know how to run a private boarding school. I taught history and lived in the dorm. I was on one night and off two. Some of the lay people would come in to replace me.

RR: Did that take off some of the pressure?

AP: Yes, but that wasn't true of Cranwell. Luckily, I was in the Cranwell dorm with three prefects, and so I said to myself, "I've got to get out of here." And Bob Farrell said, "OK, I'll take your bed checks." Then I'd go to Pittsfield for a movie or something like that.

And I met a wonderful friend, George Akerstrom, while at Kimball Union Academy. He died in 2001. As one of the first members of the East-West football teams, he was one of the giants. While he was a senior at Colgate, his football team was undefeated, untied, and unscored against. [Laughter]

RR: So he was quite an athlete.

AP: Yes. He was a master tactician in hockey. We had a natural but covered ice rink. Before the season started, he would bring the kids down there with a basketball, and they'd run drills on the rink. Then, when there was real ice on the rink, we would know exactly where to go and not go. I said to myself, "God, I'll never be able to stand this. I'm freezing to death." But when I was actually skating on the ice, I had no problem with the cold, because I was always in motion.

George and I remained friends after I left there. I'll never forget the time I was coming back from a run at Bishop Connolly High in Fall River, when I saw this guy walking up the corridor ahead of me. And I said, "Hey, that's George Akerstrom." So I went up to him and he turned around and said, "Mary died." And he just fell in my arms. I tried to come to his support.

He later got a job nearby, and would stop to see me occasionally. We used to go to New Hampshire to a very good hotelier school with a wonderful restaurant. Then we'd go to a hockey game. He and his daughter Linda lived in Lee, Mass. We had some wonderful times together.

BISHOP CONNOLLY HIGH SCHOOL

RR: Where did you go after Cranwell closed?

AP: I went to Bishop Connolly, where my classmate, Tom Gibbons, was principal. I liked it there, and he wanted me there to coach the soccer team. [Laughter] So in my first year I was helping the soccer coach. Then, the next year, I became the coach myself. I loved the coaching, because I could see the kids under different circumstances.

RR: So something other than the strictly academic?

AP: That's right. It was very personal as well.

RR: Also, didn't it help you to see the better side of many students?

AP: Yes, we got to see the "whole" person, as it were.

RR: How long were you there?

AP: I was there for twelve years, including a year's sabbatical in '79-'80.

RR: How did that go?

AR: The first semester I studied Clinical Pastoral Education at Bon Secour Hospital in Methuen, and the second semester I went to the Centre Saint-Dominique in L'Arbresle, France.

RR: A year of renewal.

AP: Yes, it was.

RR: But you left Connolly before it actually closed, didn't you?

MINISTER AT CHEVERUS

AP: Well, I just wanted a little change, so I went to Sacred

Heart Parish in Laconia, New Hampshire, and worked there for a year or so. But, when I asked the provincial about going back to Connolly, he said, “No, I’d like you to go to Cheverus to be the minister.”

RR: How did you like that year at Cheverus?

AP: I got to like it. I coached the freshman soccer team on the front lawn. But the front lawn there is now a parking lot. And, as I said, I got to like it quite a lot. From January to April, I used to go up to North Conway to help out the pastor. He had lost his assistant, who went to Florida. So he asked me if I could help on weekends. I did, and was lucky enough to meet one of the ushers who owned a ski slope nearby. Since I had no French class on Mondays, I’d stay overnight and go skiing on a nearby mountain.

RR: Did that lead to more time at the parishes from that point on?

AP: Yes, but not that much. But I did get to know the people better. John Reilly, one of my classmates from high school at St. Joe’s, had become a millionaire. He had a chalet up there, where we were able to ski together a lot and renew our acquaintance.

MANCHESTER DIOCESE

RR: What happened next?

AP: That’s when I suddenly heard from the provincial again, who said, “I want you to go to Bangor, Maine, to be the next pastor.” But in the end the bishop kept the same pastor, who had been a Jesuit, when he left the Society.

Now, at that time my mother was in her nineties, and my sister wintered in Florida. My brother, after teaching at BC for about six years, had gone down to Maryland to work with somebody who had trained with Ivan Pavlov. He said, “I just couldn’t miss that kind of opportunity.” [Laughter] And he has been

there ever since.

RR: What did you do then?

AP: I asked Bob Manning if I could go to the Diocese of Manchester, so I could be closer to my mom. And he said yes. I liked Bishop Odore Gendron of Manchester.

I had made a number of retreats at St. Anselm's while Bishop Gerry was the abbot. I went to see him and we talked about spirituality. He later became my boss again at St. Pius Parish in Portland. But before I got to St. Pius, I was assigned to St. John the Baptist in Suncook, which is a little northern suburb between Manchester and Concord. Once again, I was at a francophone parish, where I preached in French at the eight o'clock Mass. All the other Masses there were in English. At that time I also worked at Bishop Brady High School as a freshman counselor.

RR: Sounds like you were quite busy.

AP: One day a student said to me, "You're from St. John the Baptist aren't you? I see you at the eight o'clock Mass." So I asked him, "Do you understand French?" And he said, "No. I don't." [Laughter] So I said to the pastor, Eugene Pelletier, "Gene, we've got to change things. This is absurd. The kids who come here for Mass don't understand a word."

RR: Was that common?

AP: Yes. So the decision was made to drop the French Mass. I had been there about two years, when one day I went down to Manchester for a priest's funeral. While there, I was approached in the sacristy by Bishop O'Neil, who said to me, "Arthur, I'd really like you to go up to St. Kieran's in Berlin, New Hampshire, and be the pastor there."

BERLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

RR: Is Berlin quite high up in New Hampshire?

AP: Yes. That's where Oliva Blanchette comes from. And the first thought that came to mind was, "Oh Lord. I'm going to have to officiate at Oliva's father's funeral." And, sure enough, [laughter] I called Bill Barry, the provincial, and he said, "Well, what do you think? Do you want to go there?" And I said, "I wouldn't mind going. Yes, I'll go."

So I did, and was the French pastor of the Irish church. [Laughter] I said, "The man upstairs has a sense of humor." [Laughter] Berlin is north of Mount Washington. For years, the city had been dominated by a very large paper mill, but no longer; the mill is now closed.

RR: That's a long way from Massachusetts.

AP: There were four parishes in the area; all, except for St. Kieran, were French-speaking. And after my first year there, lo and behold, Bill Babineau, who had once been in the Society, was named pastor at Guardian Angel, the only parish on the east side of the river. Bill had been in philosophy at Weston when I was in theology, and we had gotten to know each other. He was sent to Innsbruck for theology, and I think he was there with Ernie Passero. And I thought I'd never see him again, but when he came to St. Kieran's with another priest from Berlin, I recognized him right away. So, of course, we again became very good friends. Even up here, he's still a Jesuit. We enjoyed one another's company, and did a lot of skiing and hiking together.

RR: So all that worked out quite well?

AP: It really did. Our afternoon hikes were also great. On Sunday afternoons, I'd go down to Mount Willard and climb to the ledge. It would take me about forty-five minutes to an hour of hiking. Once there, I had a terrific view. The view went all the way down through Crawford Notch almost to North Conway. It was just gorgeous. It was superb as an afternoon exercise. We

did that together several times.

We also climbed part of Mount Washington together. We four priests actually got along very well together and would often meet for breakfast. The fifth priest was from Gorham about four or five miles south of Berlin.

PIUS X IN PORTLAND

AP: I was there for four years, when Bill Barry again called me and said, "I'd like you to go down to Portland to be the pastor at St. Pius X."

RR: How did you feel about that?

AP: It was fine with me. I went there and took over from Monsignor Charles Murphy. I was the first Jesuit pastor there, and it's just a stone's throw from Cheverus! I had attended the funeral of Ed Fayne [S.J.], who had been with me at Cranwell. I never thought I'd see that church again, but I did. [Laughter] I met some very wonderful people there. I'm still in touch with people from both Berlin and Portland.

Those eight years were very good for me. I had a town meeting my first summer there, and people were quite angry about the change, especially one person. He apparently thought that I didn't know anything about the church finances. He and a number of others claimed that the church had a lot of money in various places. I said that we'd look into it. Then, after a while, I was able to build up a wonderful parish council with some truly dedicated, able, and efficient people. They took care of a lot of the affairs when I started a stewardship program.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

RR: What was that?

AP: I thought the stewardship program would be a terrific door to spirituality by using the gifts that God has

given us. It is a recognition of what God has given us. And it worked out very well for a while. I think it made a lot of converts in many different ways. I have heard, however, that it is now somewhat on the decline. But I still believe it is a wonderful way to get people to realize what God has done for us.

RR: Could you elaborate just a bit? How did that work?

AP: It is a realization and accepting of the gifts God has given us. It is very important to remain aware of those gifts. If you have a good deal of money, then in gratitude you can give to support the needs of the parish. Or, if you have a musical gift and can sing, then share it with others, since the Church always needs music. Do you have mechanical ability? Then you can repair cars for others. That's something a lot of people need help with, but can't afford it. The question is simple, given what God has done for me, what can I do for others? It can be something as down-to-earth as fixing a car.

RR: That's very nicely put.

AP: Yes, giving is a form of prayer. Yes, you're thanking God for what he has given you. It is a way of praising him. And I feel that Portland itself is very user-friendly, if I may put it that way.

STAYING FIT

RR: Were you able to do the exercising you like so much?

AP: Yes. There's a big cove below the church. It's about a three-mile walk to go around it. It is good exercise. There were always lots of bicycles on the streets of the city. I used to go out biking practically every day. It was great.

RR: You seem to have loved the city.

AP: Yes, one reason was that it allowed me to stay fit. I wasn't able to ski as often as I did when I was up in Berlin. But Bill Babineau and I used to get together,

and one year we even went out to Aspen, Colorado. One winter, '98, there was a huge ice storm, which we managed to miss by a day. We were able to do these things, because we were able to stay at a nearby rectory for nothing, instead of going to a hotel or lodge. [Laughter] We only had to pay for the flight, the skiing, and meals.

SABBATICAL IN CAMBRIDGE

RR: Sounds like you know how to make the best of things. Where did you go on sabbatical?

AP: I spent a year in Cambridge at Weston Jesuit School of Theology, where I took some courses in scripture with Dan Harrington. I also studied some church history with Francine Cardman. Along with these courses, I did an awful lot of reading. I did manage to go up on Loon Mountain a couple of times to do some skiing. I went there with Bill Babineau. My nephew is an orthopedic surgeon in Concord, New Hampshire, and his group of surgeons had a chalet at Loon to make sure that a surgeon was always present on weekends. We were able to use it free during the week—a great arrangement for us.

RR: You certainly have a lot of connections!

AP: I was also able to spend close to a month in Europe towards the end of my sabbatical stay; I got to visit Germany. I had made some very good friends when I was in Germany some years earlier at Wuerzburg and Munich. And I try to visit them as often as I can, because it's a cheap vacation. [Laughter] They take care of everything.

RR: Any other European friends?

AP: Yes, during my '79 sabbatical, I spent some time in France doing a theological renewal with the Dominicans near Lyons. I'd met a Franciscan sister there, Marie Courcelle, and we became good friends. She is now a

provincial. She is a real polyglot and can even write Arabic. She met a New England Jesuit, John Carty, when she was a superior in Egypt. But now she's superior of a polyglot province in Eastern Europe with headquarters in Vienna.

RR: An important and interesting person.

AP: She's unbelievable in some ways. Then we were asked to staff a parish in Salem, New Hampshire. As Mike Linden said, "Since you know everybody in New Hampshire, you'll be assigned there."

RR: [Laughter] Close to that in any case!

AP: I was asked, "Would you like to go there?" And I said, "Well, sure, it's closer to home." [Laughter] And that's how I ended up there, with Richard Cleary and Joe Schad. We were the first three Jesuits to work in that area.

RR: What is the name of the parish?

AP: It is St. Joseph, and it's just across the Massachusetts state line, north of Methuen. Richard Cleary was the pastor. However, his health began to give him problems, so John Michalowski took his place. In the meantime, Joe Schad went to Mercy Hospital in Portland, Maine to be the chaplain there.

FRENCH HORN

RR: I understand you have developed your love of music over the years.

AP: Yes, I fell in love with the French horn while I was in high school. However, I was busy with the trumpet at that time. It was while I was working at Connolly High School in Fall River that I found that a French horn professor lived very near the high school, so I thought this was a sign from God to start the horn. I was able to play with the Fall River Symphony and planted the seed for a music program at the school, which unfortunately never reached fruition.

However, when I started to work at St. John the Baptist in Suncook, New Hampshire, I organized a brass quintet, and we played at a number of liturgies, especially at Christmas time. I continued to practice in Berlin.

Portland offered me more opportunities to play. I joined the Italian Heritage Band, organized a quintet, which played at different parish functions. We even played in downtown Portland and received a stipend. I also played with a horn quartet every Monday morning for a couple of years. These and the band concerts were an exciting and life-giving tonic in my life. Sadly, I did not play at all during my 2004-2005 sabbatical. However, the experience of trying to play this wonderful instrument was a great time in my life.

GOD'S PROVIDENCE

RR: All right, could we try to sum thing up?

AP: Yes. I would say that one of the greatest blessings in my life has been the people that I have met over the years. For example, Sister Barbara Anne Brenner, George Akerstrom, and Marie Courcelle.

I was really saddened when I saw Jack Boyle's name on the deceased list. When Bill Devine asked me to go out to Santa Clara in '93, Jack met me at the airport in San Francisco. At the time, I was involved in parish work as a Jesuit ministry in Berlin, New Hampshire.

Then there was Edmundo Rodriguez [S.J.]. I had met him during my '79 sabbatical. He was also one of the presenters and facilitators at the workshop in Santa Clara. We became good friends.

RR: Do you find woven into all these things in your life—the changes, the places, the churches—that there has nevertheless been a kind of thread or connection that you could call God's overseeing providence in your life in so many different ways?

AP: I'm a firm believer in God's providence. I see it working in all that I have been doing. I see it in this heart attack that I am just recovering from. The Lord is telling me, "Arthur, get off your fanny, get some exercise, stay in shape, get out there, and do what needs to be done." Even at seventy-nine, I think the Lord wants me to do more of his work.

I also see God's providence at work in regard to my sister, who is very close to me. God was at work when she successfully fought her breast cancer. God's finger has been present in everything I have done.

RR: Wonderful! Thank you very much.

Prayer of St. Ignatius for Generosity

Dearest Lord,
teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve You as You deserve:
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds;
to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labor and not ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I am doing Your will.
Amen.

Rev Arthur H. Paré, S.J.

- Born:** October 13, 1928, Manchester,
New Hampshire
- Entered:** August 14, 1947, Lenox, Massachusetts,
St. Stanislaus Novitiate/ Shadowbrook
- Ordained:** June 18, 1960, Weston, Massachusetts,
Weston College
- Final Vows:** June 1, 1987, Fall River, Massachusetts,
Bishop Connolly High School
- 1942 Manchester, New Hampshire: St. Joseph High
School for Boys - Student
- 1946 Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts: Boston College -
Student
- 1947 Lenox, Massachusetts: St. Stanislaus Novitiate/
Shadowbrook- Novitiate, juniorate
- 1951 Weston, Massachusetts: Weston College - Studied
philosophy
- 1954 Beirut, Lebanon: College Notre Dame de Jambour
- Taught English
- 1957 Weston, Massachusetts: Weston College - Studied
theology
- 1961 Port Townsend, Washington: Manresa -
Tertianship

- 1962 Chicago, Illinois: Loyola University - Studied history
- 1965 Boston, Massachusetts: St. Andrew Bobola House - Studied history at Brown University
- 1967 Lenox, Massachusetts: St. Stanislaus Novitiate/Shadowbrook - Minister, taught history
- 1970 Lenox, Massachusetts: Cranwell Preparatory School- Chair of History Department, taught history, coach of soccer and skiing
- 1973 Meriden, New Hampshire: Kimball Union - Taught history
- 1974 Lenox, Massachusetts: Cranwell Preparatory School- Taught history
- 1975 Fall River, Massachusetts: Bishop Connolly High School - Chair of History Department, taught history, soccer coach
- 1979 Sabbatical
 First semester: Studied Clinical Pastoral Theology at Bon Secours Hospital, Methuen, Massachusetts
 Second semester: Studied at Centre Saint-Dominique, L'Arbresle, France.
- 1987 Laconia, New Hampshire: Sacred Heart Church - Parish ministry
- 1988 Portland, Maine: Cheverus High School - Minister, taught French, coached soccer

- 1989 Bangor, Maine: St. Joseph Church - Pastoral ministry
- 1990 Suncook, New Hampshire: St. John the Baptist - Pastoral ministry, counselor at Bishop Brady High School
- 1992 Berlin, New Hampshire: St. Kieren Church - Pastor
- 1996 Portland, Maine: St. Pius X Church - Pastor
- 2004 Cambridge, Massachusetts: Weston Jesuit Community/Faber House - Sabbatical at Weston Jesuit School of Theology
- 2006- Salem, New Hampshire: St. Joseph Church - Pastoral ministry.

Degrees

- 1952 Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, Weston College-Boston College.
- 1954 Master of Arts, Philosophy, Weston College-Boston College
- 1961 Licentiate in Sacred Theology, Weston College
- 1987 Master of Arts, History, Loyola University, Chicago