

**Remarks by Bishop Felipe J. Estévez
at the Funeral Mass of Father Robert Napier
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Interlachen
May 27, 2015**

There is an awesome beauty that is in God's plan Father Napier passed to the Father's House on the 25th anniversary of his priesthood.

His priesthood reflected a great deal of the biblical perspectives on the priesthood of Christ especially in Heb. 5: A compassionate priest in solidarity with the suffering of all human beings.

As pope emeritus Benedict wrote: "the priest is not a thing for a few hours but is fulfilled precisely in pastoral life, in his sufferings and his weaknesses, in his sorrows and also in his joys, of course. In this way we increasingly become priests in communion with Christ."

Bob Napier was richly talented and shared these talents with generosity. He also personally had to deal with great sufferings and lived in his flesh the mediation of Christ saving the world by the way of suffering truly from within in his own body and soul.

He was faithful to the end; he was obedient to the Lord to the end, participating in the priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ of sufferings and joys.