



The 2024 Recipient Robert Ahlborg

Robert 'Bob' Ahlborg was born to Edmond and Sophie Ahlborg in Superior on October 8, 1948. The oldest of four, he attended Cathedral School from 2nd Grade through graduation in 1966. His church service started at an early age, as he began serving as an altar boy in the sixth grade at 5:30 AM mass with Monsignor Kress. Later on as an adult, he began serving the church as a morning sacristan when Cathedral Church was shut down in 2000 for construction. Bob is still a sacristan and lead usher for the 7:30 AM Sunday mass.

After high school, he joined the Navy and did 4 active years as an aviation electrician in squadron VS-37 (Air Anti-Submarine Warfare Squadron) stationed at North Island in San Diego, CA. During the Vietnam conflict, he departed San Diego on the Aircraft Carrier USS Hornet CVS-12, and served in Vietnam and the Far East during tours in 1967 – 1969.

After his military experience, he returned home and reacquainted himself with the area, to which his father said, "You party too much and it's time to get a real job." Subsequently, he got hired on at the railroad, with Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range, now Canadian National Railroad. He worked hard and diligently as a machinist, retiring in 2002.

Bob found true love in a Lutheran girl from Solon Springs. As they courted and planned their lives together, Fr. Meulemans was the chaplain at St. Joe's Hospital in Billings Park and they went for marriage classes in his 'broom closet' office. On October 27, 1973 he married Mary Beth Polzin at Pilgrim Lutheran Church with both a Lutheran pastor and Catholic Priest presiding. Fr. Meulemans says Bob and Mary Beth were one of his greatest marriage successes, culminating in the celebration of 50 years of marriage in 2023.

Bob and Mary Beth settled in Billings Park, building the home they still live in today, and started their family. Drew was born in 1977, Taylor in 1979 and Garrett in 1980. Drew married Carissa; they live in Superior and have two children, Hadley and Dawson. Taylor married Ewa, from Poland and they currently reside in Monterey, CA and have two children, Amelia and Franek. Garrett is married to Paige; they live in St. Paul, MN.

Throughout Bob's life, he has had a passion for gardening and says he 'always wanted to be a farmer'. His gardening skills are legendary and every resident in Billings Park has probably had something from his beautiful garden over the years. Once fully retired, Bob became everyone's handy man, and he polished his 'jack of all trades' reputation with plowing, shoveling, plumbing, painting, building, siding, etc. He is a friend to all those in need and, regardless of that need, he'll happily step up to the challenge to ease theirs.

Bob has been on Cathedral's Building & Grounds Committee for over 15 years and has played key roles in the School Exterior Project during the Faith In Our Future Campaign, new exterior doors at the church, the installation of the new pipe organ, upgrade of the baptismal font, classroom remodels, upgrades to the priests' duplex, our current Centennial Campaign adventure, and so many other repairs and upgrades all over the Cathedral Campus. His knowledge, advice and elbow grease have been priceless to our Cathedral Family.

