

Like his spiritual role model and Polish compatriot, Blessed John Paul II, Father Dawid J. Wejnerowski has been gifted with many talents.

Before entering the seminary in his native Poland, Father Wejnerowski worked as a radio journalist and created illustrations for a newspaper. He also worked in a factory that made plastic forms.

"I was trying everything before I became a priest," said Father Wejnerowski, who was ordained by Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski

at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen, May 26.

"I took a course in painting and was thinking of becoming an artist. I also wrote poems and worked on some movie projects in the seminary. It was kind of confusing, because in my past, whatever I was trying to do, people would tell me, 'You are talented in that field and you are talented in this field.'

"But I was always looking for something more. I said, 'There is some-

thing missing.'"

What was missing from his pursuits in the secular world was God, he said.

Father Wejnerowski was born to Jozef Wejnerowski and Danuta Jalowik Weyneroska, in Bydgoszcz, Poland, where he attended elementary and high school.

While studying at Prymasowskie Wyzsze Seminarium Duchowne, Gniezno, Poland, Father Wejnerowski was advised by a missionary friar to study and eventually serve in the United States

because of the shortage of priests.

"I never thought that one day I would leave my country," he said. "I was a local patriot. But I was the first one who left my seminary in Poland. Everyone was laughing.

"I wasn't sure of the future because my English was below zero. I couldn't say a word. Second, I am an only child so I thought, 'Am I supposed to leave my parents and go to a different part of the world and to a new culture?'"

"I am trying to be open for all opportunities and whatever God wants me to do I will try to do my best. I don't want to limit that spirit within me"

— Father Dawid Wejnerowski

After prayerful discernment, he enrolled at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Mich.

In addition to Blessed John Paul II, Father Wejnerowski said a major influence in his vocation was the late Father Zygmund Tryeowski, pastor of his family's parish, Our Lady Queen of the Martyrs.

"He was a saint," Father Wejnerowski said. "He was always very humble but always pointing to Jesus and making things happen. Our parish was like an organism, always alive and you could feel his huge, beautiful spirit.

"Even when he was dying [of cancer] he never, ever said a word that he was suffering or in pain. And when my archbishop was visiting him, he was in pain, and he asked my archbishop, 'How is your health?'"

"That is amazing. To the last moment he was thinking about others."

Father Wejnerowski will serve his first assignment as a parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Parish, Annandale, but said there is nothing specific he looks forward to in his ministry.

"I am trying to be open for all the opportunities and whatever God wants me to do I will try to do my best. I don't want to limit that spirit within me," he said.

His previous ministry experience



FATHER DAWID WEJNEROWSKI

was at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Bridgewater; Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, Middlesex; and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Old Bridge.

—Chris Donahue

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