



Bishop Charles Buswell CoL **October 15, 1913 — June 14, 2008**

Bishop Charles Buswell was born October 15, 1913, the fourth of five children born to Charles Buswell and Bridget Mary Doherty Buswell. After their marriage, the Buswells moved from Boston to Homestead, and later to Kingfisher, OK where their children were born and raised.

After Charles had completed two years at St. Benedict College in Atchison, KS, he began his studies for the priesthood at St. Louis Preparatory Seminary in Webster Groves, MO. Further studies were at Kenrick Seminary and he received his degree at the University of Louvain, American College, in Louvain, Belgium. Charles was ordained in July 1939 for the Diocese of Oklahoma City.

The beginnings of the relationship between Charles Buswell and the Sisters of Loretto began early when the Ginder and Buswell families settled in Kingfisher, OK. Charles and Sylvia's half-brother, Henry, became schoolmates and friends and the families in this small town did business with one another.

Years later, while serving at the Cathedral Parish in Oklahoma City, Charles taught at John Carroll High School and Sylvia Ginder was in his "Catholic Church History" class. She remembers that Fr. Charles was well liked by students and always had a smile for them.

In 1959 Pope John XXIII appointed Charles as the second bishop of the diocese of Pueblo, CO, a post he held for 20 years; and it was here that Charles' path again crossed with Loretto's. The Sisters of Loretto had previously taught at the Cathedral School in Pueblo but had left. In conversations with Mary Luke Tobin, then Superior General, Charles made known that he would like Loretto Sisters back in his diocese. In 1964 Kathleen O'Malley, Yolanda Veytia (now Yolanda Butler) and Kathleen Vonderhaar went to Pueblo to live and work. The work

was not to be traditional classroom education but rather something involving the unmet needs in a part of the city where many Hispanic families lived. Bishop Buswell was very supportive in this endeavor and was a frequent visitor to the Sisters' house on East 2nd St. Kathleen Vonderhaar recalls Charles' vision in building ecumenical bridges with other faiths and his enduring hope for more inclusion of lay people and women in the Church. During this time, Charles was attending the two final sessions of Vatican II and was pleased that Mary Luke was able to participate as an Observer in this important event as well. Loretto community members who worked in Pueblo discovered a vision of what Church could be and have expressed "how lucky we were" to have been there with Charles.

Encouraged by Loretto President Maureen McCormack, Bishop Buswell applied for co-membership in 1994 and stated in his application that he brought to Loretto a "desire to work with the Community in its efforts to make Vatican II become alive and productive in the Church and Society; and to continue its efforts for justice in the Church particularly for women". Loretto Center in Denver hosted a co-membership celebration for Charles, which coincided with his 81st birthday. A highlight of the occasion was a colloquy between Charles and Mary Luke about their hopes for the full flowering of Vatican II.

The friendship and conversations between Mary Luke and Charles continued through correspondence and twice yearly visits at the times of Luke's May birthday and Charles' October birthday. They would meet midway between Pueblo and Denver in Colorado Springs for lunch. Later these visits continued in Denver with Cecily Jones and Sylvia Ginder facilitating the lunch and transportation.

Upon his resignation as Bishop of Pueblo, Charles said that he hoped he would be remembered for the motto on his coat of arms as Bishop: "Peace always and love". For those who knew him both personally and by reputation, Charles' hope would be realized. Charles Buswell, priest, bishop and friend, died peacefully on June 14, 2008 in Pueblo, CO.