



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **The Duensing Family Story**
- **Get Involved**
- **Newsletter Introduction from Fr. Eric Tellez**

We Felt So At Home With The St. Patrick Community and The Clergy There



Dave and Helen Duensing

We have been members of St. Patrick since we moved to Scottsdale in 1988 and Mass was in Fenlon Hall. When we downsized in 1998, we moved across the line to Phoenix. We couldn't imagine moving to another parish. We felt so "at home" with the clergy and our many friends. We love the St. Patrick Community.

I, Dave, was born in Lexington, Missouri, a small town that overlooked the Missouri River. Those were the early days of the Great Depression. The area was mainly noted for farming and

coal mining and had been the site of a Civil War battle. A cannon ball from the war remains embedded in one of the pillars in front of the county court house.

My parents were Gustav Duensing, of German descent, and my mother, Margaret Hagerty, an Irish Catholic. Those were difficult times and my father had no special skills, so we moved to Kansas City, Missouri to look for employment. Later we moved to Freeman, Missouri where he was hired to work for an oil pipeline company which pumped the oil from

fields in Oklahoma and Texas to refineries in Kansas City and Chicago. The company eventually became an arm of Standard Oil. Our father was a "blue collar" worker and always provided well for his family.

My two older brothers and I attended school in Freeman. For religious education, my mother drove us to Louisburg, Kansas five days a week for eight weeks each summer for eight years. Classes were taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph's. This was twenty miles, round trip, each day. After graduation, we enrolled

Introductory Letter from Fr. Eric

When one speaks of Dave and Helen Duensing you immediately think of their gentleness, their kind hearts and how they live in true humility. I always enjoy my conversations with them and

come away feeling good because that is just the spirit they exude. When I speak of our parishioners who are faithful to Mass and faithful to our St. Patrick Catholic Community, the Duensings

would truly come to mind as fulfilling these qualities.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Eric Tellez



Duensing Boys

God has blessed us in so many ways. There have been enough "bumps along the way" to keep us focused and to remind us of the love and blessings we have been given.

in Central Missouri State University (GO MULES). From there I attended one semester in pharmacy school before being accepted at the University of Missouri School of Dentistry.

It was during dental school that I met the love of my life, Helen Robertson. We have been married 57 years. After graduating, I enlisted in the Air Force for two years active duty and six years in the Reserves. I was stationed at Canon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico.

Helen was born in Humansville, a small town in the Missouri Ozarks, the youngest of seven children. When she was seven years old, her father Will Robertson passed away. With the beginning of World War II just a few years later, things were not easy for her. There was not a lot of money, but her mother was a good manager and she always had everything she needed.

In school, Helen's passion was music. She played the piano for the Boys Glee Club, sang in the Girls Glee Club and small ensembles, and played trumpet in the band.

When she decided she wanted to be a nurse, she and her mother decided that St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri would be a good fit. Her mother's friend Clair said, "Don't send her there. They will try and convert her." Her mother, a devout Baptist replied, "Only Helen can make that decision." Of course, there was never any pressure for any of the students to convert.

The Sisters of Mercy ran the

hospital. They were all nurses and were teachers, supervisors and good friends. Helen was in awe of these women who had dedicated their lives to Christ.

After graduation in 1952, Helen worked at the St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City. In December, she happened to attend a fraternity party and was introduced to this wonderful, good looking dental student, David, and he was CATHOLIC. Soon after we started dating, I asked Helen to attend Mass with me. Helen loved it and knew she wanted to join the Church. Helen received instructions (Catechized), was



Duensing Grandchildren

baptized and confirmed. We were married in Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Kansas City in December 1953.

While we were in the military, our oldest son Tim was born. After discharge we moved to Liberal, Kansas, where I practiced dentistry for 20 years. It was there our family grew to seven with the birth of four more baby boys. These were busy years. All of them participated in Boy Scouts, music and most sports. We tried to attend all of their events. We all remain avid sports fans.

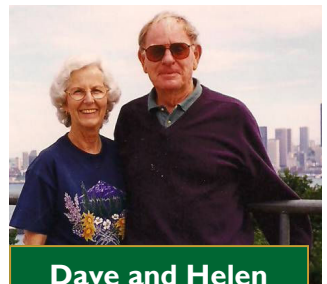
Tim lives in Prescott and is a staff physician at the V.A. Hospital. John is an accountant, lives in Phoenix and works for a

security company. Mark is a high school math teacher and lives in Millington, New Jersey. Steve is an air traffic controller and lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. Tom, an accountant, is the City Auditor for the City of Tempe. We have four wonderful daughters-in-law, 13 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

In 1979, we sold our dental practice and purchased a Burger King franchise in Yuma to start a new phase of our lives. We built a second store in El Centro, California and a third in San Pedro, California. After selling the stores, we retired and moved to the Valley.

I am a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. Patrick Men's Club. We are funeral hosts, and enjoy being "bulletin bunnies." We start most days by attending Mass.

God has blessed us in so many ways. There have been enough "bumps along the way" to keep us focused and to remind us of the love and blessings we have been given. We can honestly say it is wonderful being Catholic and being members of St. Patrick Catholic Community.



Dave and Helen

Join Dave and Helen in ministry involvement! Here are some of the ministries mentioned in their story.

Get Involved!!

Funeral Hosts
Mary/Dick Iglar
480-922-6254

Knights of Columbus
Bob Julien
480-860-0720

Bulletin Bunnies
Debbie Rimbey
480-998-3843