

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ronald Moorman

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*People of Faith* Oral History project

Interview # PF-A-L-2016-011

Ronald Moorman, who started his professional life as a Catholic Priest before leaving the ministry for social work, then returning to the ministry as a Lutheran pastor, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *People of Faith* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: April 21, May 4, May 19 and June 14, 2016

Location: State Historians office, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Time: 2:02 + 1:53 + 1:33 + 0:56 / 2.03 + 1.88 + 1.55 + 0.93  
hrs = 6.39 hrs

Session 1: Early years and parochial education

Session 2: Moorman's years as a Catholic priest and decision to leave the ministry

Session 3: Experiences with DCFS and Child Care Association of Illinois

Session 4: Experiences as a Lutheran Minister, and into retirement for 3rd time

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 26, 2016.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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# Abstract

## Ronald Moorman, *People of Faith*, PF-A-L-2016-011

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Ronald (Ron) Moorman was born on July 15th, 1939 in Dayton, Ohio. He grew up in a large family in west-central Illinois where German Catholics had a strong presence. He was drawn to the ministry at an early age, and spent his high school years at Brunnerdale Minor Seminary in Canton, Ohio, part of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. From there, he attended St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana, still intent to become a Catholic priest. After many years of study and contemplation, he was ordained in 1966. Ron's first posting was to St. Mary Parish in Centerville, Iowa, where he served as an assistant priest until 1969. He was then moved to Sedalia, Missouri, and the St. Patrick Catholic Church.

Ron served as a priest during a period of dramatic change for the Catholic Church as well as in the U.S. in general. In 1970, however, he decided to leave the priesthood and moved to Moline, IL where he worked for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as a case worker. From 1972-1973 he attended the University of Illinois and earned a Masters of Social Work degree. He then returned to the Moline area, where he then served in a management position with DCFS. By 1979 Ron was recently married, and decided to make the move to the not-for-profit world, taking a job as the Associate Director of the Child Care Association of Illinois. He became director in 1982, and continued there until retiring in 2001.

That same year, Ron decided to return to the ministry, this time as a pastor with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He served as an interim pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Flannigan, Illinois until 2004, then accepted a call to Luther Memorial Church in Springfield, Illinois, where he served until 2011, when he once again retired. Bishop John Roth asked Moorman to serve in the local ELCA synod office on a part time basis, and he did that until 2015 when he retired for a third time.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** service as a Catholic Priest; Catholic Church in America; Catholic pre-seminaries; Child Care Association of Illinois; Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS); Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Luther Memorial Church, Springfield, Illinois; Brunnerdale Seminary, Canton, Ohio; St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana; Second Vatican Council (Vatican II); Missionaries of the Precious Blood

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