

## Meet RTDA's New Chaplain

Father H. Setter is passionate about two things in life: God and cigars, although he does joke that cigars are a very, very close second to the Almighty! Presiding over The Church of the Holy Spirit in Goddard, Kansas, he has his work cut out for him. The daily rigours of priestly life, together with weddings, funerals, community projects and the welfare of his parishioners keep this man busy. Having enjoyed cigars for the better part of 30 years, he loves nothing more than a cigar to contemplate a hectic daily schedule. His attendance at the RTDA Trade Show over the past several years makes him a natural choice as Chaplain for the Association.

First introduced to cigars on a golf course with friends, he remembers smoking 'not a particularly good one', although he quickly recalls his first 'premium' cigar – a Punch Rothschild Double Maduro, as the one that really opened his eyes to the wonders of fine tobacco. With an appreciation of all aspects of the cigar world and no one favorite cigar, he admits having a penchant for robustos and figurados.

And what do his parishioners think of his smoking? "They love it, they are very supportive, I have never had any backlash," he states. He continues by mentioning his very public love of cigars is shared with the community. "I felt that my passion could be private and hidden away or it could be public and shared. My love of cigars has allowed me to conduct a lot of fundraising through benefit dinners and the cigar community has been very supportive of my causes."

Hosted by Father H (H is his full first name) for the past ten years, the Benefit Cigar Dinners give back to those most in need in his community. "They sell out every year with people coming from all over the country to attend, it's fantastic," he explains. An elegant five course meal, together with an auctioning of donated products from the cigar industry, and a wonderful spirit greet those who attend. He has so far raised \$175,000 with all proceeds going to local charities. "It is great to be able to use a passion such as mine to generate goodwill in the wider community," says Father H.

Together with an ultimate concern for people, he also shares a concern for the premium tobacco industry. "Every person I know who likes cigars understands and respects people who don't. They are courteous enough to enquire if smoking is ok," he begins. "I would like to see more education that would lead to a greater distinction between cigars and cigarettes, especially when they are lumped together in terms of anti-tobacco legislation. A cigar after dinner with a glass of wine is very different to cigarette smoking throughout the day," he says in a more serious tone, evidence of his passion.

When approached by the RTDA to be the Association's Chaplain, he was quite honored. "Because I am not a part of the industry in as much that I am not a threat as a competitor, I can be a 'cheerleader'. I can champion all cigar makers for making fantastic products. It is a tremendous honor to be asked to be Chaplain," he cheerfully states. Welcome Father H. We need more cheerleaders.



*Father H - bestowing his holiness on the Association*