

Alois (Al) F. Kertz, PhD

My parents were simply the most humble, hardworking, faith-filled people I have known. I grew up the middle of seven children on a small dairy farm near Bloomsdale, Missouri in Ste. Genevieve County. My parents were older, especially in that era, when they married, and it was not unusual at that time that they did not get to go beyond 8th grade schooling. They wanted us to develop our God-given talents to our best - not at the expense of others, but to help others.

Al attended St. Agnes elementary school in Bloomsdale, and then Valle Catholic High School in Ste. Genevieve at considerable financial sacrifice by his parents. That in itself was a life lesson, and those two schools prepared Al well academically, morally, and spiritually. With the aid of scholarships, part time and summer work, and further financial help from parents, his BS and MS degrees were completed in dairy husbandry and nutrition at the University of Missouri-Columbia. After two years of active US Army duty at Natick Laboratories and being platoon leader along with food supply and management in Thailand, Al completed a PhD in growth and development of cattle at Cornell University.

Al was blessed many times by mentors, meeting his wife Molly, and providential happenings. His postgraduate employment began at Ralston Purina Company in dairy research, followed by various other responsibilities until he joined the international company. That did not last long before the company was bought by another company, and his job was eliminated. In June 2001, Al began his own consulting business. That also led to a renaissance in his relationship with God as he could now prioritize more time for spiritual reading, daily Mass, Bible study, and Eucharistic adoration at the local Carmelite monastery.

In the meantime, he and Molly had four children, now with 10 grandchildren, and they began pro-life work. This had its genesis when, to their horror, they learned that at the time their oldest daughter was born, their doctor was performing abortions in New York state.

Al learned about ITEST in the latter 1970s through ITEST Founder Fr. Robert Brungs' columns in the *St. Louis Review*. ITEST was a marriage of his faith and scientific work. Al also became involved in more bioethical issues which he understood well because of his dairy cattle work. In 2006, Al joined a cadre of scientists who spoke out before organizations and wrote in opposition to a Missouri constitutional amendment to legalize human cloning for research while falsely claiming to ban it. Al "debated" this issue with proponent and former US Senator John Danforth on a TV program. While the amendment barely passed, as the journal *Science* noted, it failed to provide the certainty to do such human cloning in Missouri. Al has been an inveterate letter-to-editor writer to help clarify life issues spawned by the culture of death. ITEST keeps him plugged-in to these areas.

Much of his consulting work has been international, along with writing articles for dairy periodicals and journals and presentations and serving scientific associations and reviewer of journal articles in his field. Over the period from 2007 to 2019, he worked 28 times in China with their developing dairy industry. He tries to draw a fine line between helping people and not their autocratic government. His book, *Dairy Calf and Heifer Feeding and Management: Some Key Concepts and Practices*, has been translated into Mandarin and published. He has also worked in Russia and Iran among other countries. Cows are the same around the world, and so are people. People want to have family and friends, meaningful work, and to worship God in their world. Autocratic governments make all of those elements difficult or impossible. His axioms for continuing what he does are: Do I enjoy it? Does my health allow it? And more difficult at times to answer, am I being useful?! Having been so blessed in his life, it is still a priority for him to help others and to be a witness for God and His Church.