

**International Forgiveness Institute  
Founding Board Member Profile**

## **Monsignor John H. Hebl**



Monsignor John H. Hebl, a native of Portage, Wisconsin, received his education in Portage, Madison, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained to the Catholic priesthood in 1961 and served in various parishes in the Diocese of Madison, WI. He undertook graduate studies at the University of California-Orange, the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, earning M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in psychology and the virtue of forgiveness.

For many years Msgr. Hebl was the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Director of the Thanksgiving Clothing Drive for Catholic Relief Services where he also assisted as a priest-counselor. For over 44 years he ministered as an Associate, Administrator, Pastor, and priest-counselor in parishes while serving on many Diocesan Boards and Commissions.

During the Vietnam War and Desert Storm 1, Msgr. Hebl was called to active duty as a Chaplain in the United States Air Force and the Wisconsin Air National Guard. Later he became liaison Chaplain to the Strategic Air Command and the Pentagon where, as Brigadier General, he was assigned as Air National Guard Assistant to the Air Force Chief of Chaplains in Washington, DC. Upon retirement he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Msgr. John is a founding Board member of the International Forgiveness Institute (IFI) occasionally giving talks and writing articles on forgiveness—the basis for his doctoral dissertation. He conducted and published numerous forgiveness research studies with IFI co-founder Dr. Robert Enright including initial development and testing of the Process Model of Forgiveness in 1993 that is now the world-wide standard for interpersonal forgiveness.

In 2005 Msgr. Hebl retired from active parish ministry but has maintained his ongoing involvement with Dr. Enright and the International Forgiveness Institute including a crucial supportive role with the 2022 ***International Educational Conference on Agape Love and Forgiveness***.