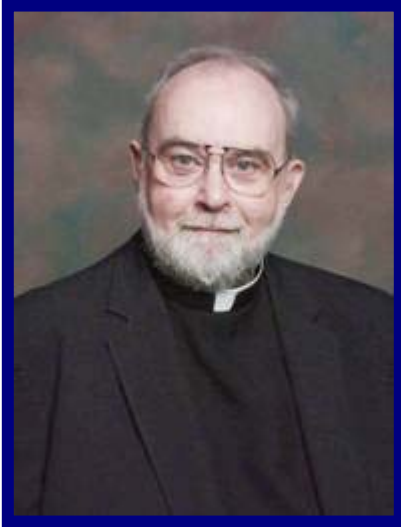


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April 2, 2007

Death Notice No. 11 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **THOMAS DOYLE**, priest, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on March 20, 2007, in Port Washington, New York, in the 74th year of his age and the 55th year of his religious profession.

Fr. Thomas was born on July 10, 1933, in Shanghai, China, to Thomas Doyle, a United States Navy machinist stationed in Shanghai, and Anne (Sellman) Doyle. His father's naval career prompted the family's return to the United States in the mid-1930s and their subsequent move to New York. Fr. Thomas attended elementary school on Long Island, New York, at St. Joan of Arc, Saint Mary's and at Coindre Hall, a boarding school run by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Huntington, Long Island. It was there that Fr. Thomas had his first inclination toward religious life and a career in education.

In 1947, Fr. Thomas entered Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York, and was inspired by the brothers of the Society of Mary who taught him. "The religious evidenced a marvelous family spirit among themselves as priests and laymen and toward the student body," Fr. Thomas wrote. Throughout high school, Fr. Thomas expressed interest in the Society of Mary. After receiving an academic and New York State Regents diploma from Chaminade in 1951, he entered the novitiate for the Society of Mary at Marcy, New York. He professed first vows in 1952 at Marcy and perpetual vows in 1959 at the University of Dayton.

In 1953, Fr. Thomas began his teaching career at Hamilton Catholic High School in Hamilton, Ohio. He taught religion, Latin, English, typing and reading. He also was sodality moderator, librarian and newspaper moderator. In 1956, he taught at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, Ohio, for a year, and then moved to Saint James High School in Chester, Pennsylvania, until 1962. At Saint James, Fr. Thomas was sophomore and junior division dean. In 1961, he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Dayton.

Returning to his alma mater, Fr. Thomas taught at Chaminade High School in Mineola from 1962 until 1967. At Chaminade, he also served as a guidance counselor, sodality moderator and dean. Fr. Thomas was editor of "And So Forth," the religion teachers' newsletter of the Marianist Province of New York, was a founding member of the National Marianist Religious Education Team and was coordinator of Marianist sodality moderators and conferences. In 1965, Fr. Thomas received a master's degree in systematic theology from LaSalle College in Philadelphia.

From 1967 to 1970, Fr. Thomas chaired the religion department and was an advisor and student council moderator at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Baltimore. He was appointed to the Province of New York formation council and earned a master's degree in liturgy from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana in 1970. Fr. Pat Tonry studied with Fr. Thomas at Notre Dame. "He was a very creative person and that showed in his images and language in preaching," said Fr. Pat. "He was a very good liturgist and was well-liked as a teacher and preacher."

From 1970 to 1971, Fr. Thomas was the director of the newly-founded Marianist Formation Center in Baltimore and was a member of the Priest's Senate Task Force on Ministry for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

In 1971, Fr. Thomas began his career in parish ministry at Saint Paul's Parish in Ellicott City, Maryland, where he was religion coordinator. From 1973 to 1974, he assisted at Saint Columbkille Parish in Brighton, Massachusetts, with field education projects, liturgies and parish visitations. During this time, he attended seminary school at St. Mary's in Baltimore and was ordained in 1974.

From 1974 to 1976, Fr. Thomas was the coordinator of the religious education programs at the Paulist Center in Boston. For the next 15 years, Fr. Thomas served at various parishes in Connecticut. He was associate pastor at St. Bernard's parish in Rockville (1976 to 1978), St. Joseph's parish in New London (1978 to 1979), St. Mary's parish in Clinton (1979 to 1981), and pastor at Sacred Heart parish in Vernon (1981 to 1992). In 1978, Fr. Thomas received a Doctor of Ministry from Andover-Newton Theological School in Newton, Massachusetts.

Fr. Thomas retired from active ministry in 1992 and resided in Manhasset, New York, and then Port Washington, New York.

Bro. Bob Moriarity remembers Fr. Thomas as one of the most imaginative, yet enigmatic, people he has ever known. "Years ago he did a talk entitled 'I Love a Mystery,'" said Bro. Bob. "After developing the theme in so many ways, he concluded by saying, 'I love a mystery—because I am a mystery.'"

Bro. Bob said that as a preacher, Fr. Thomas knew how to engage and draw people in. "When he finished a homily at Sacred Heart, I would see people turn to each other and say 'Wow, did you hear that?'"

Another friend, Bro. Stephen Glodek, characterized Fr. Thomas, or "T.J.," as he was often called, as unique and brilliant. "His abiding good humor and deep compassion for people were hallmarks of his significant contribution to the life, development and ongoing formation of the former Province of New York," said Bro. Stephen. "His deep faith was always tinged with just a bit of the sense of the absurd. T.J. will be deeply missed by his brothers."

May he rest in peace.

