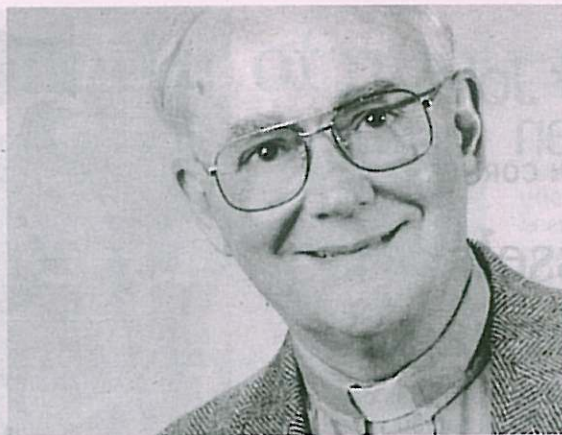


# 8 questions for ... Father Jim Bartlett

*Born in Utica, N.Y., Marianist Father James "Jim" Bartlett, 74, was raised in central New York state with two younger sisters. After earning a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton, he took his first vows as a Marianist brother in 1958. He received his licentiate degree in theology from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and was ordained a priest in 1969 in Marcy, N.Y. Father Bartlett worked for 21 years as a high school teacher and chaplain and 18 years in parish ministry in Ohio, Tennessee, Ireland and Michigan. He spent 10 more years in campus ministry and teaching at Michigan's Albion College and the University of Dayton. He arrived in Hawaii in 2007, taught at Chaminade University for a few years, and now focuses on campus ministry and helps out at parishes. A spiritual director for more than 30 years, he also teaches others how to serve in that role.*



said he couldn't do it. Before he was killed for his refusal, More made sure that his family was safely out of England. Of recent movies, I liked "Avatar" and "The Hurt Locker." Some people didn't like "Avatar" because they said it was about a nature religion. But I thought it had a theme typical of many science fiction works — good versus evil. When I left the theater after "The Hurt Locker," I was just drained. I thought,

"This is what these young guys are going through everyday."

a Marianist but also to all baptized people. John was in a sense our proxy.

### 3. Where have you always wanted to visit?

Asia. Especially southern Asia and countries like Thailand and Cambodia. So much of our world history used to focus on Europe, but so much was discovered by people from other countries. There's a lot of richness in other ancient cultures like China and India.

### 4. What's the church's biggest challenge today?

I really think it's healing the distrust between priests and bishops because of all the things going on in the church, primarily the worldwide priest abuse scandal. I think there's the challenge of dealing with any "zero tolerance" situation where all are set up to be guilty until proven innocent, and there's no compassion. I've been in dioceses where bishops were little monarchs and other places where they were truly shepherds. Where they are shepherds, the priests really appreciate them.

### 5. What's your favorite movie?

I like the original version of "A Man For All Seasons" about the life of Sir Thomas More. Thomas was one of Henry VIII's most trusted advisers and was respected by most of the kingdom. Yet when push came to shove, and Henry asked More to recognize his divorce as valid, the Catholic More

### 6. What are some of the joys you find in your ministry?

Some of my joys are weddings, funerals and reconciliation because you can really touch people's lives. Whenever I do a wedding it's never out of the book or what I've always done. I always try to personalize it. The same goes with funerals. I try to find out a lot about a person. For reconciliation and as a spiritual director I just try and focus on being compassionate. Those are all ways that God can work in and through us, to help people and touch their lives.

### 7. What music do you listen to?

Jazz, especially soft jazz. I can work on a homily, a paper or whatever and not be distracted. A lot of other music, I get distracted and start mouthing the words or singing along. But with jazz I can just enjoy it and keep working.

### 8. Any other favorites?

I love salmon, especially served with garlic butter. I also enjoy Father Ron Rolheiser's books. I've read almost everything he's written, starting with "The Holy Longing: The Search for A Christian Spirituality." I also enjoy Father Henri Nouwen's work. He was someone who just seemed to understand the world, especially the workings of the first world.

### 1. Who have you admired most in your life?

My Grandfather Bartlett. He was quiet, very prayerful, and very compassionate toward his children and grandchildren. I grew up within 30 miles of both sets of grandparents so I was close to all of them.

### 2. What's your favorite Bible passage?

John 19: 26-27. "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home." That's when Jesus made his mother our mother. I see that as applying to me as