

**Fr. Francis Kenney**  
**Celebrating 70 years of profession**



My life as a Marianist has been very, very happy, especially the last 20 years. I have had many unusual and happy assignments.

In the Novitiate, I was the bell ringer and had a special job of gathering every day the accounts of all the novices' daily meditations. My first teaching assignment was at Most Holy Trinity High School in Brooklyn, where I was told by one Brooklyn-accented person that I talked funny. I always liked sports. I was the athletic director at Most Holy Trinity.

I taught as a brother for only a few years. Later I became a priest and was assigned as the principal of the school and the director of the religious community. I spent two years as a student at Catholic University where I received a doctorate in Theology. My doctoral thesis was on Mary's spiritual maternity according to modern theologians.

My first assignment after my studies was as chaplain of the Postulate. Next I was sent for short periods at Cathedral Latin, then St. Joseph's, both in Cleveland. Following that I spent three years at Hamilton Catholic. After that I was in charge of the Second Novitiate in St. Louis for three years. Following that assignment I was director of the Marianist community of 36 Marianists at St. Joseph's High School in Cleveland. I next spent about 15 years at the University of Dayton in the student-life area, sometimes described as "wine, women and song." During that time I was chaplain of the football and basketball teams.

I very much enjoyed my assignments, but the best was yet to come. I spent 20 happy years as assistant pastor at Emmanuel Parish in Dayton. While at Emmanuel I got into a marvelous Marian apparitions movement and a healing ministry. A fired-up single man, after a visit to Medjugorje, made me the spiritual director of countless pilgrimages to Marian shrines all over Europe, the United States and Mexico.

The Blessed Mother sent me a half-dozen women visionaries. I began gathering

beautiful messages from above and still get them. My Marian prayer group at Emmanuel numbered over 250. I still have three great groups that meet at Bergamo, one on Tuesday morning, the other two on Wednesday and Thursday nights at Bergamo.

I'm still telling jokes and loving every moment of my life.