

## JUBILEE BIOGRAPHY

PAUL F. VIESON, S.M.

I was born on the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, 1940, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the eldest child of the late Chester Joseph and Kathryn Miller Vieson. My devote Catholic family taught me a deep love of the Mass and, as a child, I gathered neighborhood children for my congregation as I pretended to say Mass. An elderly neighbor called me “the monsignor.”

After parish grade school education, I met the Marianists at Purcell High School in 1954 and the following year I was in the postulate at Beacon, New York, the first time I had ever been away from home. At Marcy, I was a member of Fr. Martin’s last class and professed vows in 1959 and final vows in 1964. After University of Dayton graduation with the B.A. in history and theology and B.S.Ed., I taught at the then Chaminade High School, Dayton where I was known as “Vicious Vieson.” I was sad to leave in 1966 when I went to Fribourg for seminary where I received the S.T.B. The European experience was fine even if my French was not! At St. Louis University, I woke up intellectually because of fine instructors and seminary mentors and I received the Research M.A. in historical theology. After diaconal ordination I spent the next fourteen years as a very active deacon and finally was ordained priest by Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk after, in his words, “the longest temporary diaconate in the Church’s history.”

Along the way, I picked up an M.A. and Ph.D. in Tudor history, English Constitutional and Legal history, and the French Revolution and Empire history from The University of Chicago. That was the most stimulating intellectual experience I have ever had.

Teaching European history at The University of Dayton and serving as community director followed and in 1998 I was appointed the Director of the Marianist Archives Center for the former Cincinnati, New York, and Pacific Provinces. While I always enjoyed teaching, that assignment has been enriching. I’ve also served on the diocesan Priests Council, as temporary parish administrator, and for twenty-one years as assistant priest at Sacred Heart Parish, New Carlisle.

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For all the years, graces, joys, sacrifices: “Thanks be to God, Mary, and my Marianist Family!” And the thanks is entirely inadequate.