

**Bro. Kevin Whelan
50 years professed**



“Duc in altum” (Launch out into the deep) was the motto I chose at the end of our novitiate year of 1959 in Marcy, N.Y., and it has been embedded in my consciousness my entire life.

I was born in Jersey City, N.J., to Katherine (Bauer) and John F. Whelan. A few months after my birth, the family moved to Mineola, Long Island, where I grew up with my two brothers, John and Dennis, presently diocesan priests on Long Island, and my sister Mary, who has been happily married for over 50 years to Jack Daley.

I attended Corpus Christi Grade School and upon graduation enrolled in Chaminade High School in Mineola. There I was impressed by the quality of life among the Marianists and their dedication to teaching—so much so, that when asked by Fr. Joe Lynch in my senior year if I'd like to join the order, I simply said “Yes.” And that “Yes” has taken me on a journey that I never believed possible.

After completing undergraduate studies at the University of Dayton, my first assignment was to St. James High School in Chester, Penn., teaching English and being Dean of the freshmen division. After two years, I was assigned to Colegio San Jose in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, where I taught English in all grade levels for six years and was moderator of several clubs and activities. I returned to the States and taught English and counseled students in the New York area at Most Holy Trinity High School in Brooklyn and St. Agnes Cathedral High School in Rockville Centre, Long Island, and for 10 consecutive years, ran an apartment for disadvantaged boys at St. John's Home in Rockaway, New York. During this time, I continued to pursue my education by going to graduate schools during the summers and at night to St. John's University in New York and Queens College, where I earned master's in English and an master's in education in counseling.

My next “launching out into the deep” found me back at Colegio San Jose, where I taught English and did college placement counseling with seniors for nine years. For the next six years, I did college placement counseling with the seniors of Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory and continued with guidance counseling at the same school for another six years. I am now completing my 12th year here in sunny, warm Hollywood, Fla., and as I reflect back upon these 50 years, I realized how blessed Marianist life has been and, truly, I am grateful.