



BRO. THOMAS OLDENSKI

50 years of profession

“Surprised by joy” would characterize my dispositions of these past 50 years as a Marianist. Being brother to so many persons in my life is a great source of grace and joy. It is no coincidence that Pope Francis has proclaimed this year of my Golden Jubilee, a year of Jubilee of Mercy. This provides me the opportunity to reaffirm the mercies and love of God in my life, which has allowed me to be who I have been and now am.

In my early years, I was a cook, motivated by serving those who serve God’s people. I moved from the kitchen into the classroom as a “yes” response when I was asked to do so, because of a need for a religion teacher. And since then, my focus has been education in one form or another, even though I still enjoy cooking and baking.

I have served as administrator, teacher and counselor in secondary schools in Memphis, Dayton, Kalamazoo, Benin City and Dublin. I presently serve as a university professor in Dayton, Bangalore and Bangkok. I have had the opportunity to give retreats and in-service days to teachers and administrators of Catholic schools and other schools within the USA to many other places like Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Trinidad and Tobago, Micronesia and Saipan. I consider the world as my classroom, and I am a global educator.

I have the privilege to work with our brothers in the District of India and to see these young men develop intellectually and spiritually to be committed and vibrant Marianists.

Indeed the God who is mighty has done great things for me! I continue to be surprised by joy as I discover what God has in store for me as I continue to grow more in age, grace and wisdom.