



Fr. Paul Reich

60 years of ordination

I came into the world on Dec. 15, 1928, the second of three children, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When my Catholic grade school education was complete, I enrolled at a brand-new high school — North Catholic High School — staffed by members of the Marianist order. I already had become familiar with the names Marianists and Fr. Chaminade, since two of my uncles were members: Fr. Georg Reich and Bro. Michael Reich. They were guests at our home when travelling to and from schools of learning.

I would have graduated from North Catholic High School in 1946, but I was asked to join the Marianist novitiate class of '45-'46 at Beacon, New York. In August 1946, we made our first profession. We moved to St. Louis for our first year of scholastica, followed by two years at Mt. St. John, Dayton, Ohio, and to assignments in one of our Society of Mary schools.

I was sent to Chaminade High School, Mineola, Long Island, New York, where I taught Latin and math. After two years, I was sent to St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, Ohio, and then Cathedral Latin School across town. After two years there, I sailed to Europe on the Andrea Doria to begin my seminary studies. Getting to know brothers from other countries was a wonderful experience for me, involving so much understanding and humor. We were ordained July 4, 1957.

Life after ordination was interesting. From Dayton I was sent again to St. Joseph in Cleveland, followed by Chaminade, Hollywood, Florida, (before it became Chaminade-Madonna) and to St. James, Chester, Pennsylvania. From there I went back to Chaminade, Florida, working with Fr. Paul Landolfi in adult education.

After another five years at St. James, I was invited to try out parish ministry at St. Joseph Catholic Community, in Sykesville/Eldersburg, Maryland as associate pastor to Fr. Ted Cassidy. The community was completed by Bro. Joseph Marshall, who studied at Loyola University. The assignment allowed me to continue teaching — to adults in the RCIA program. Throughout the next 29 years, I continued “trying out” my parish assignment and teaching the RCIA classes, plus all other things a parish priest does.

I have joined the retirement community at Siena Woods in Dayton. Since, I have tried to adjust to the changes and, at the same time, battle a series of health problems. But the Lord can help me in all things, and I’m sure He will help me through these events, also. As so often happens, the example and encouragement of my fellow brothers will help me through.

God bless all of them.