



The Marianists

Fr. John Bakle

50 years of ordination

It's been a gift and a privilege for me for 50 years of Marianist priesthood, to bring to a number of unique places (geographical and sociological), institutions and service situations, the gift of our Marianist charisms as I was formed in it by many wonderful men, and as I endeavored to live it. For me, that means — by my own presence and witness to and involvement with others — to give the gift that is our Marianist gift to the church: a way of seeing and understanding “church”; a way of “living the church” and of living in the church; a way of serving the church and of serving in and with the church; — the Church, the ongoing, dynamic, presence of Christ in the world; the Church, the “ongoing incarnation”; her humanity, incarnate.

I want to acknowledge all who have been on the journey with me over the years: many family members and good friends, especially, the 50 members of the Marcy profession group of September 1955. And since this is a sacerdotal jubilee for me, I acknowledge those of that same group who were ordained: in 1966, Fr. Don Wallace, SM, in Fribourg, Switzerland; in 1967, with me at Holy Cross Church, Euclid, Ohio, Fr. Ed Klements, SM, Fr. Lee Sciarrotta, SM, and Fr. John Conrad, SM, (older brother of Bro. Dave); and in 1968, Frs. Tom Thompson, SM, and Tony Victoria, SM, (later incardinated into the Diocese of Waterloo, Canada).

Thanks to many Marianists who have worked with me — particularly, during my Army years — especially Fr. Norbert Burns, SM, and Bro. Don Boccardi, SM. Thanks to many other Marianists for their friendship and support, especially, Frs. Steve Tutas, SM, Bill Behringer, SM, and Bert Buby, SM.

Of those I have failed or offended across the years, I ask your pardon and forgiveness. To those I have been able to serve in any way, I thank you, and God, for the privilege. I pray that my journey may continue for a few more good years, with God's blessing and Mary's loving and maternal patronage.