



## The Marianists

### **Fr. Richard Kuhn**

*60 years of ordination*

I was born April 4, 1928, the eldest of six children, into what I now appreciate as a very faith-filled home. That, the family agrees, was God's special gift to us through our mother, Violet — very loving care, the rosary, daily Mass, grace at meals, Catholic schooling and much more. My youngest brother, Eddie, died at age 10, when I was a student at Most Holy Trinity High School. It left me thinking about how short life can be. Bro. Wilb, my good friend and teacher, listened to my story and started me on a search that led to religious life.

I entered an order — the Marianists—of which some members I already knew and to whom I'd grown close. There was lots of happiness in this new life, which I took as a sign that "I belonged." After I entered the classroom, I began to understand that I could help students even more as a priest-teacher. I was ordained in Fribourg, Switzerland, and entered a new phase of my work as a Marianist brother-priest-teacher who could offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

After that service, the value of faith communities within the school and working with families grabbed my attention. After some experiences at our Marianist Family Retreat Center in Cape May Point, New Jersey, I asked to work with families. Then-Provincial Fr. Jack McGrath assigned me to work with families at the Cape, and later at North Topsail Beach, North Carolina.

Age has been creeping up on me all along (I'm 90 this year), and I find myself left with an apostolic focus on FAMILY. Life on Earth is about getting ready for family living with God in eternity. The Holy Trinity is family, and God invites us into His life. I am most grateful to my God, to Mary, my mother, and to all the other wonderful companions God has given me on the journey.