



The Marianists

Fr. Timothy Dwyer

50 years of ordination

On August 4, I will celebrate 50 years as a Marianist priest. Thinking back over these years, I've come to realize how important family has been throughout my entire life. I was born an only child, but into a large extended Irish-American family; I don't think I was ever very conscious of being an "only." We actually referred to our family as a tribe — parents and grandparents, uncles and aunts and numerous cousins; we belonged to one other. So family has been important to me from the beginning.

I first met the Marianists as a freshman at De Andreis High School in St. Louis. The brothers and priests at De A were, by and large, excellent teachers; more importantly, they took a personal interest in us — in the kind of people we were becoming. They played sports with us on Saturdays and visited with us on their frequent walks through our neighborhoods. They were not only our teachers, they were our role models and our friends. Throughout the years, we became family. Consequently, for me, the move from my family into the Marianist family was really a no-brainer.

Now, as I look back on the past 50 years as a Marianist priest, I do so with profound gratitude. I've been blessed to live and work in the Marianist family with so many wonderful men and women. I'm deeply grateful for the wonderful opportunities I've had ministering in the Marianist family both as a brother and as a priest in a variety of settings. Each assignment has afforded me the opportunity to live and work with others as family and to both use and develop my talents in the service of others.

What has been most rewarding throughout these 50 years is living in community and working side by side with men and women committed to embodying the spirit of Jesus and Mary in their lives and in the lives of others. That, for me, is what Marianist priesthood is all about.