



## **FATHER H. JAMES BARTLETT**

*50 years of ordination*

When my pastor suggested going to see the Marianists, I did just that, learning much about them and, eventually, deciding to join them. I made first vows Dec. 8, 1958, at Marcy and finished college at University of Dayton. My first assignment was teaching at Mineola, after which, I was transferred to Purcell in Cincinnati where I conducted an all-Catholic school choir and also coached track. Three years later, I entered the seminary in Switzerland where I got to know Marianists from the other nations, which helped us understand one another and how the Society of Mary was lived elsewhere.

I spent a summer in Spain — they didn't know English and I did not know Spanish — what a great way to learn a language! Next summer, in the Holy Land, I learned much about Jesus.

After I was ordained at Marcy in 1969, I went to Moeller where I was director, managed the community's expenses, authorized teachers' contracts and taught religion. From there I served as chaplain and teacher, with positive experiences in Memphis and Chaminade Julianne in Dayton. I even had one student who thanked me for being his dad! Four years later, I was moved to Dublin, Ireland, where green was everywhere! On sabbatical, while looking back through the years, I felt that God was working through me, like a person might come in for counseling with a very unusual problem. I felt helpless, but after the session, I knew that all my words came from the Lord!

I changed directions and began working in parish ministry — Albion, Michigan, for five years and Dayton for 13 years. Youth groups, baptisms, first communions, funerals and counseling. After Dayton, I resigned, took a semester off and well ... ahhhhh! Somebody had to do it, so I accepted a move to Hawaii!! Finally, I was off to VASJ in Cleveland, teasing and being teased by the students I teased — students who were kidding me already. I felt like a grandfather to them! I retired early at 78, due to arthritis. The students wanted me to stay, which made leaving difficult.

Now I am retired and living at our residence here in San Antonio, and 61 years in the order — and 50 years ordained — proved my pastor right!!

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