



FATHER DAVID JOSEPH FLEMING

50 years of ordination

I grew up in the heartland of America, but somehow (surely by a wonderful education and maybe by grace), I also felt attracted to cultural diversity. Over the years, I have enjoyed meeting and working closely with people of varied ages, backgrounds and experiences, and I sometimes have felt challenged but always enriched by them. Increasingly, I have experienced my work as one of bridge-building: between different cultures, languages and continents, and also between different generations, within the Marianist family in its broadest dimensions — religious and lay. My experience in Asia also has given me many rich connections with non-Christian people whose deeply held spiritual traditions have fascinated and touched me, and taught me a great deal.

I have tried to remain a learner and to expand horizons all through life, and to share experiences widely with those I meet. I also have felt called to build bridges across time between today's world and the rich heritages we have in our spiritual roots — very particularly in our Christian and Marianist ones. Now, after many years, I feel close spiritual and religious bonds with so many very different people. This is a great fulfilling grace in my experience of life, and I hope to keep cultivating it until the end. I feel wonderfully thankful and blessed by so many different people who share the journey.

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