



FATHER LAWRENCE SCHOETTELKOTTE

Celebrating 50 years of ordination

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Aug. 17, 1938, I attended Catholic grade school at St. John the Evangelist in Deer Park. After graduation from eighth grade in 1953, I went to Purcell High School. During my senior year, I decided to be a priest or religious. I was attracted to both the diocesan priesthood and to the Society of Mary. There were about an equal number of diocesan priests and Marianists at Purcell at that time. I talked seriously to both about a vocation. After a real struggle and a lot of prayer, I decided on the Society of Mary and have been happy and grateful with the decision ever since.

After novitiate at Marcy, New York, and first vows on Sept. 8, 1958, I attended University of Dayton where I earned a bachelor's degree in education. I spent many years in high school ministry teaching and moderating extracurricular activities. Along the way, I spent two years in Fribourg, Switzerland, studying (first and second) theology. I then returned to the United States for third and fourth theology at Saint Louis University. I like to think I got the best of both worlds.

Ordained on Jan. 31, 1970, I continued in high school ministry until 1993. In those years, I mainly taught religion at all levels, moderated LIFE groups, and was a class moderator as well as an assistant tennis coach and school counselor. While at Hackett Catholic Central High School in Kalamazoo, Michigan, I was chaplain of the school and served on the Diocesan Committee on Youth (DCY).

In 1993, I made the change from high school ministry to parish ministry. I considered this a sort of career change. This was a difficult decision as I really liked high school ministry. But I felt called to parish ministry and decided to make the change.

Over the years, I have been grateful for all the support from the Marianists with whom I lived and worked. Each new assignment brought new challenges and new opportunities for growth. Most of all, I thank our Blessed Mother for her guidance and inspiration through the years.