



FATHER THEODORE LEY

Celebrating 50 years of ordination

The day my father drove me to what was once a military academy, to see if I might like the new Chaminade High School, a tall, genial young man walked down the steps of “The Hanging Gardens of Chaminade,” and introduced himself as Brother Dave. Father David Schuyler was the first Marianist I met. A few weeks later at entrance exam, Marianist “prudent inclination towards leniency” was already evident: Brother John Samaha told us not to worry about the exam. Two years later, I asked Father Lawrence Mann how I could become a brother. The provincial, Father Leonard Fee, soon told me they were starting a program for boys in regular high school. So, nominally — it was not today’s developed young-adult live-in — I became the first aspirant. In the novitiate, I thought I might be able to serve the Society as one of our priests, if I could somehow continue my family’s *métier*: music. Our visiting Superior General, Father Paul Hoffer, said with a wide smile, “Eet ees possibool!”

Since those early days, I have tried to do what I can for Marianist Community life as one of its community chaplains, while also trying to be of help in the local diocese.

I wouldn’t trade these years for anything. I am convinced I have lived with some of the finest men in the world. My prayer now is to be able to continue *ora et labora* a little longer and see the ministries mature under new leadership. Then I hope to enjoy what Fr. Chaminade wanted for those of us who live long enough: a time of daily prayer and community to focus on Marianist essentials.

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