



FATHER PATRICK PHILBIN

Celebrating 70 years of profession

Celebrating 50 years of ordination

As a young religious, I never expected that my ministerial experience would be so varied: extremely intelligent, well-to-do students of Irish and Italian ancestry at Chaminade Mineola, to struggling African-American males from the Watts area of Los Angeles at Serra High School in Gardena, to Asian-American students at the predominantly Asian University of California in Irvine. There I ministered daily to Filipinos, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and, especially, Vietnamese as southern California became the home to many leaving the ravages of war in Vietnam. It was while I was working with the Vietnamese that I was invited, through the Diocese of Orange and the Auxiliary Bishop of Saigon, Vietnam, to teach first-year seminarians and young nuns part-time at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in Saigon. In retirement, this continues and remains to be a joy beyond my fondest imaginings as a young Marianist religious.