



## **Father Timothy Dwyer**

### *Celebrating 70 years of Profession*

Thinking back over these years, I've come to realize how important "family" has been throughout my entire life. I was born an only child but into a large extended Irish-American family. I don't think I was ever very conscious of being an "only." We actually referred to our family as a "tribe" – parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and numerous cousins. We belonged to each other. So, family was important to me from the beginning.

I first met the Marianists as a freshman at DeAndreis High School in St. Louis. The Brothers and priests at DeA were excellent teachers, more importantly, they took a personal interest in us and who we were becoming. They played sports with us on Saturdays and visited with us on their frequent walks through our neighborhoods. They were our teachers, our role models, and our friends. Over the years, we became "family." Consequently, for me, the move from my family into the Marianist family was a no-brainer.

Now, as I look back, I do so with profound gratitude. I've been blessed to live and work in the Marianist family with so many wonderful men and women. I'm deeply grateful for the wonderful opportunities I've had to minister in the Marianist family, both as a brother and as a priest in a variety of settings. Each assignment has afforded me the opportunity to live and work with others as "family" and to use and develop my talents in the service of others.

What has been most rewarding has been living in community and working side by side with men and women committed to embodying the spirit of Jesus and Mary in their lives and in the lives of others. That, for me, is what Marianist priesthood is all about.