



Father Jim Tobin, SM

Celebrating 70 years of Profession

“For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes.” That quote from Dag Hammarskjöld has always captured a milestone moment for me. As I reflect on these 70 years as a Marianist, I am grateful to God for so many blessings—too many to count—and I recall a verse from one of the Psalms: “What return shall I give the Lord for all that He has done for me? I will take up the chalice of salvation and call upon the Lord.”

I attended Chaminade College Prep in St. Louis, MO, for both elementary and high school, graduating in 1954. In 1954, I entered the Marianist Novitiate in Galesville, Wisconsin, professing my First Profession of Vows in the Society of Mary in 1955. I went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in English from St. Mary’s University (1958), a master’s degree in Latin from Saint Louis University (1965), a licentiate degree in sacred theology from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland (1969), and a master’s degree in liturgy from the University of Notre Dame (1976).

I was not always the student, however. I began my career in 1958 teaching fourth and sixth grade in Victoria, TX, before teaching the next year in El Paso. I then taught religion, Latin, and English at McBride High School in St. Louis, MO. From 1961 until 1964, I served as Prefect of Freshmen and Sophomores at Maryhurst Prep in addition to teaching religion and Latin.

Following my ordination in Fribourg on March 22, 1969, I returned to St. Louis to serve in a variety of roles. For three years, I taught religion and Latin at St. Mary’s High School, served two years at the Vincent Gray Community through the East St. Louis Inner City Ministry, and served as chaplain and religion teacher at St. John Vianney High School for five years. I became Assistant Novice Director for the Marianist Novitiate in 1977, serving as chaplain and teaching novitiate classes until 1979, before serving as chaplain and campus minister at Saint Louis University School of Medicine until 1993, when I became President of the Marianist Retreat and Conference Center.

In 1996, I began a sabbatical year with studies at Loyola University Chicago, concluding in 1997 with time spent in India and Rome before returning to St. Louis to serve as pastor of Our Lady of the Pillar Parish until 2012. I then participated in a sabbatical program in Manziana, Italy, in the fall of 2012 before starting my current position as chaplain for the Greehey School of Business at St. Mary’s University in 2013.

I thank God for the blessing of my family, my fellow brothers, so many friends, students, and Pillar parishioners for all their love, support, and encouragement over the years. I am grateful for all the different ministries, especially the sacramental ministry as a Marianist Priest. I give thanks for all the education and opportunities for travel, opening my mind and heart to the wonder and mysteries of life and all its grace.

The past is the past, and I leave my sins to God's mercy, trusting in His love, and I ask for the grace to live fully in the moment in His presence. As St. Paul says, I am still running the race at the ripe old age of 88 and fighting the good fight here and now. The finish line is approaching as I come down the homestretch and, as the letter to Hebrews says it so well, I am trying to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus and trusting in Mary's intercession for all the graces I need to continue to help Mary in her mission of bringing Jesus into this broken world for whatever time the Lord gives me before He calls me home.

Our Church celebrates this Jubilee Year of Hope, and so for my fellow Marianist Jubilarians and myself we are grateful to be anchored in that hope of our Marianist vocation. That said, for all that has been, thanks, and for all that will be, yes.