



Father Patrick J. Tonry, SM

Celebrating 60 years of Ordination

I am impressed by how fast Jubilees come upon us. As I reflect on this, my 60th anniversary of ordination, I am almost overcome with feelings of gratitude and appreciation.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens, NY, I attended St. Clement Grade School in Queens and then Mount St. John Normal School in Dayton, OH, before professing my First Vows on September 5, 1952, in Marcy, NY. I continued my studies at University of Dayton and then served at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland, OH, for six years before entering the seminary at the University of Fribourg,

Switzerland, in 1961. I was ordained on April 3, 1965, and am very grateful for the call to Marianist priesthood—a call of service to my Marianist Brothers and our ministries.

I have served at high schools—Chaminade High School in Mineola, NY (1965-72) and Colegio San Jose in Puerto Rico (1972-74)—and at the college level at University of Dayton (campus minister 1984-85, instructor 1993-96), in addition to parish ministry at St. Joseph in Eldersburg, MD (1996-2006). I was twice stationed at the Marianist Provincialate in Baltimore, MD (1974-82, 1985-93), and have served at the Marianist Mission in Dayton, OH (2006-19), the Marianist communities in Philadelphia (2010-20) and at University of Dayton (2020-22), and the Marianist Center in Cupertino, CA (2022-23).

I am and have been very happy as a Marianist religious and am unbelievably blessed. While ministering to others, I was able to continue to my own education and growth at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN, and the Jesuit and Franciscan Schools of Theology in Berkeley, CA. I have been supported, appreciated, challenged, and uplifted in daily life, community, and mission. I have been honored to be community and ministry chaplain, to preside at our Eucharistic celebrations, to be available as confessor and spiritual director, and to preach the Word. As I ponder and reflect on these past 60 years now in my retirement at St. Leonard, faces and places arise in my mind and soul and lead me to almost shout “Deo Gratias.”