

The Vincentian

2022 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



The 'Class of '82' Celebrates 40 Years of Ministry

On June 11 (after press time for this newsletter), a group of outstanding priests celebrated together 40 years of service to God and the poor in the Vincentian tradition.



Father Anthony Dosen, C.M., hails from the south side of Chicago, where he went to Sacred Heart Elementary School and St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Lemont, IL. He was ordained at the DeAndreis chapel on June 5, 1982.

Over the years, Fr. Tony developed a love for music and for education and collected a long list of degrees. He taught in high school seminaries and at the College of Education at DePaul University and later served as Associate Formation Director, Formation Director, and Mission Officer of the Western Province, his current position.

"My years of priesthood were filled with surprises and many consolations," he said. "I thought that I would spend my life being a priest-teacher working with high school-aged students. Little did I realize that God had other plans."



Father Miles Heinen, C.M., was born and raised in Dallas, TX. He was steered to St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Beaumont, TX, and ordained at Holy Trinity Parish in Dallas on June 12, 1982.

After serving as an associate pastor, he ministered in San Benito, Guatemala, and then with the Multi-Cultural Ministry Team in Fayetteville, AR.

After working in the Pastoral Formation program, he was appointed by the Superior General to head the Vincentian Solidarity Office and was elected in 2016 as Assistant General, an office he now holds at the Vincentian General Curia in Rome.

"I thank God that I am positioned to use the next few years to accompany the kingdom of God's doing by helping people hear the call of God's Spirit in a life changing way," he said. "What an adventure!"

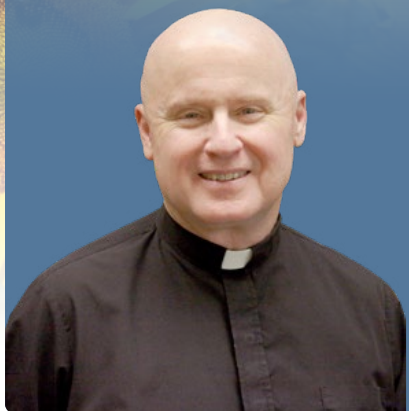


Father Gerard Kelly, C.M., was born and raised on the north side of Chicago. He followed his older brother to St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Lemont, IL, and was ordained at DeAndreis chapel on June 5, 1982.

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Dear Friends,

The grace and peace of the Risen Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you!

The summer season will soon be upon us. The last two summers, Covid has not permitted us to gather, travel, and enjoy the leisure of summer in the way we are accustomed. Hopefully, this summer will allow us the usual opportunities for fun, rest, prayer, and time with family and friends.

The spring months have been exciting for members of the Western Province. Our Superior General, Fr. Tomaz Mavric, C.M., announced the new Vice-Province of Kenya and the first Vice Provincial, Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M. You will recall our story last quarter in anticipation of this. Over 40 years, our presence in Kenya has grown from a mission to a region to a vice-province. Everyone throughout the Province is overjoyed and grateful to God for the gift of the Vice-Province of Kenya.

Another wonderful sign of new life is the new president of DePaul University in Chicago, which was founded by the Vincentians and is sponsored by the Western Province. We congratulate Dr. Robert Manuel, who was named the 13th President of DePaul, replacing Dr. Gabriel Esteban, who is retiring. We look forward to working with Dr. Manuel.

We are blessed this year to have eleven Vincentians celebrating their jubilees. Fr. John Gagnepain, celebrates 60 years of priestly ministry; Fr. Bernie Quinn, Fr. Paul Sisul, and Fr. Michael Walsh celebrate 50 years of priestly ministry; Fr. Anthony Dosen, Fr. Miles Heinen, Fr. Gerard Kelly, Fr. Kevin McCracken, Fr. Binh Nguyen, and Fr. Raymond Van Dorpe celebrate 40 years of priestly ministry; and Fr. David Nations celebrates 25 years of priestly ministry. We thank God for the gift of our brothers and their vocation. May God, who began the good work in them, bring it to completion.

Have a blessed, joyful, and peaceful summer.

Sincerely in St. Vincent DePaul,

Fr. Patrick McDevitt, C.M.
Provincial, Congregation of the Mission Western Province

Donor Spotlight:

Momma Knows Best About Supporting the Vincentians

Chicagoans Anne and John Scheurich contribute to the priests and brothers of the Congregation of the Mission for many reasons: personal experience, family, and love.

It started with growing up in big Catholic families in the late 1960s and early '70s. Their parents instilled in them both the cherished values of faith and family.

Anne was sixth oldest of nine children. "My mom worked part-time as a nurse at the hospital where all of us were born. Dad was a Chicago firefighter. He'd work a 24-hour shift and then go on to another side job directly after. On day three, he'd stay home and Mom would go to work. We all went to the parish school. Church was at the center of our lives. Oh, how the older parish ladies would stare as the 11 of us trooped into church and filled the whole pew!"

When she was seven, Anne's oldest brother, Raymond, left for the seminary to join the Vincentian priests.

John grew up in Beaumont, Texas, one of six kids. He remembers his mom always generously supporting Vincentian ministries. She belonged to the Association of the Miraculous Medal, starting in his youngest years. "My own involvement began in 1974. That's when Vincentian Fr. Richard O'Brien gave a vocation talk at our grade school. I decided to attend their minor seminary; I continued on to college at St. Mary's and the Novitiate in New Orleans. After a discernment period, I decided to end my studies toward the priesthood — but my love and appreciation for the Vincentians has continued to this day."

John and Anne later met through their Vincentian family and friends. They were married at St. Vincent DePaul parish in Chicago with Anne's big brother, Fr. Ray Van Dorpe, C.M., presiding.

A high school religion teacher in Beaumont, John moved to Chicago when he and Anne married and followed in the footsteps of Anne's father and other brothers, joining Chicago's firefighters.

The couple agree that the formative influence of the Vincentians on both their lives is one of the primary reasons they donate to the care of the senior members at St. Mary's of the Barrens.



“The Vincentians have shaped who I am as a person, Catholic, friend, and husband. I am truly grateful for all the priests and brothers who have done so much for me.”

—John Scheurich

For Anne, the inspiration to give is rooted even closer to home. "Ray was always there, always the one to answer life's big questions for me: "How do I tie my shoes?" "Is Santa Claus real?" "Should I marry this guy?"

And there's one last thing. Desiring to honor and emulate their parents' values, the couple admit to another especially important reason why they support the Vincentians. **"Cuz our mommas told us to."**

John and Anne Scheurich live on Chicago's north side and are active in their parish, St. Priscilla Church. A retired battalion chief for Chicago Fire Department, John works as a hazardous materials instructor for the International Association of Firefighters. Anne attended her mom's alma mater and worked as a nurse in both oncology and home health. More recently, she helped start two telehealth companies.

Fr. Shijo Grateful for Time Serving Hispanics in Alaska

Fr. Shijo Kanjirathamkunnel, C.M., recently returned home to his mother province in India for the first time in 14 years following a five-year assignment as Superior of the Vincentian International Mission in Alaska and the Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau.

Some might be surprised to learn of the significant Spanish-speaking population in Alaska, but, he said, Hispanics have been migrating to the state since the 1960s and '70s. The Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Anchorage, where the Vincentians are based, serves about 500 Hispanic families. He said he would also see crowds for Spanish Mass in Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Wasilla, and Fairbanks.

Spanish is a second language for Fr. Shijo, who studied canon law in Spain. He requested the Alaska assignment while serving in Rome. He said the winters took some getting used to, as well as the long polar nightfall.



“Summertime is always beautiful,” Fr. Shijo said. “By March, we regain light, and by the end of May snow disappears and everything turns green in about a week.”

Fr. Shijo said he is grateful to have had the opportunity to minister to the Hispanic people in Alaska, who otherwise can't celebrate the Eucharist in their native language.

“I also want to acknowledge the help I've received from the Western Province,” Fr. Shijo said. “It's been easy to run the mission because of it.”

Fr. Hank Grodecki, C.M., takes over as Superior with Fr. Shijo's departure. Fr. Shijo said it would be an adjustment being back in his home country after so many years, but he is not concerned.

“I don't think it will be too difficult,” he said. “Usually, I can adjust anywhere.”



50-Year

Jubilarians



Fr. Paul Sisul, C.M.

Fr. Paul was ordained in June 1972 at DeAndreis Seminary in Lemont, IL. He was on the faculty and administration at St. Louis Prep Seminary, St. Vincent's College in Cape Girardeau, MO, St. John's Seminary in Kansas City, MO, and Holy Name Seminary in Madison, WI. He taught at DePaul University in Chicago from 1999 through 2021 and is currently a Communications Specialist at the Provincial Office in St. Louis, where he manages video and photography projects.

A Very Vincentian Ministry

Fr. Jim Swift Has Devoted Career to Seminary Work



In the many conferences that St. Vincent de Paul gave to his confreres, he often reflected on the various ministries the Congregation had undertaken, including the work the confreres were doing in seminaries. In one conference he exclaimed:

Ah, Messieurs! What an important phrase 'to make better priests'! Who could understand the loftiness of this ministry? It's the most elevated one there is. (CCD, 11:7)

Over the past four centuries, many men have joined the Congregation of the Mission to carry on that same ministry: forming men for the priesthood. One of those is Fr. Jim Swift, C.M.

Fr. Jim began his journey to priesthood as a diocesan seminarian at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. There he came to admire the Vincentians who were in charge of his education and formation. It wasn't long before he realized that God was calling him to that very distinct and very Vincentian ministry.

Since his ordination in 1978, Fr. Jim has spent most of his priestly ministry teaching theology and forming both diocesan and religious order priests. He says:

"God's holy people want and have a right to priests with affirming pastoral hearts and personalities, a spirituality rooted in their intimate friendship with Jesus, a knowledge and love of our Catholic intellectual tradition and an ability to teach and preach well. To be a co-worker with the Holy Spirit in forming such future priests is what seminary ministry is all about."

Currently, Fr. Jim is the rector of Holy Trinity Seminary, the undergraduate diocesan seminary in Dallas, Texas. For the past eight years, he has helped many men discern their vocation to the priesthood but also helped many who discerned that this was not God's call for them.

"One of the joys of seminary ministry is seeing the men whom you were blessed to accompany through discernment and formation in their seminary years make a total gift of self in being ordained priests. And it's the same joy in seeing those men who have discerned out and are also making a total gift of self in marriage."

Father Jim is now wrapping up his term at Holy Trinity Seminary, but he is not leaving this very Vincentian ministry. In July he will head across the state to Houston, where he will assume the position of Spiritual Director at St. Mary's Seminary. God bless you in your new position, Fr. Jim!



50-Year



Fr. Bernard Quinn, C.M.

Fr. Bernie was ordained in June 1972 at DeAndreis Seminary in Lemont, IL. After seven years of seminary work and a year of study

in Paris, his assignments took him from Burundi to Montebello, CA; New Orleans; Los Angeles; Patterson and Montebello, CA; and Nairobi, Kenya. He has served as a Pastor, Superior, Provincial, and Novice Master, and is currently Director for the Daughters of Charity Province of the West in California.

50-Year



Fr. Michael Walsh, C.M.

Fr. Mike was ordained in June 1972 and taught as an assistant professor at DeAndreis Seminary in Lemont, IL, and St. John's Seminary in

Camarillo, CA, between 1975 and 1998. He served as Formation Director, Associate Pastor, and Pastor in Oxnard, CA, Patterson, CA, St. Louis, and Little Rock. He is currently Parochial Vicar at Holy Trinity Church in Dallas, TX, a position he has held since 2016.

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Fr. Richardson, C.M., Remembered for DePaul Leadership



Fr. John Richardson, C.M. passed away on March 29, 2022, at the age of 98 at the Apostle of Charity Residence in Perryville, MO. Ordained in 1949, he served his long priestly ministry most notably as president of DePaul University from 1981 to 1993.

He was remembered at ceremonies on April 5 in Perryville and April 27 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Chicago.

“Fr. Richardson was a dedicated Vincentian, priest, educator, and missionary,” said Rev. Patrick McDevitt, Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Mission Western Province. “He was passionate about improving the lives of others and working for a more just and fair society.”

After three years as a moral theology and sociology instructor at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, Fr. Richardson began his career at DePaul in 1954 as dean of the university’s graduate school. He went on to serve as executive vice president from 1960 to 1981 and dean of faculties from 1960 to 1980. During his time as President, Fr. Richardson guided the expansion and growth of the university, focusing on the development of its distinct Vincentian identity, academic excellence, student enrollment, and institutional and financial resources. During his tenure, the university purchased and completely renovated the Goldblatt building, renamed the DePaul Center, which became the anchor of the downtown campus.

“I have been blessed in having truly outstanding colleagues, women and men who, probably unknown to them, have shaped most of the success my apostolates may have had,” Fr. Richardson stated in 2008. “Only God knows how faithful my life has been to the vision and ideals of St. Vincent.”

In Memoriam

Bro. Thomas Juneman, C.M.

Nov. 27, 1953, to April 11, 2022



Bro. Tom Juneman, C.M., was born in Blue Island, IL., and grew up in the Beverly area of Chicago’s Southwest Side. After earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration from San Diego State University, he spent 20 years working in management and accounting before applying for admission to the Congregation of the Mission in 1997.

He wrote at that time he wished to “serve the alienated and marginalized, hungry and homeless.” As a Vincentian brother, he did just that for nearly 20 years throughout the West, South, and Midwest.

He served as assistant to the program director at the Apostle of Charity Residence at St. Mary’s of the Barrens in his final five years. His funeral Mass was held at St. Mary’s of the Barrens on April 20, 2022.

Rev. Michael Boyle, C.M.

Sept. 24, 1928, to April 4, 2022



Fr. Mike Boyle, C.M., even in later years, carried himself with a vigor and vitality that belied his age, retiring at age 94, less than a year before his passing. Known for his intelligence and creativity, he served as a teacher, associate pastor, and pastor and is, perhaps, best known for a technological innovation of his making.

Fr. Boyle created the Parish Data System, a database that placed all parish sacramental records, financial records, and parish census data into one comprehensive collection. He also created HomilyWeek.com, a resource that allows church goers to better prepare and to reflect on the scripture readings they would hear that weekend. The site continues with a stored trove of information and is available for use under “Prayer and Service” and “Education/Evangelization.” Fr. Boyle was buried at St. Mary’s of the Barrens, Perryville, MO, on April 9, 2022.

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Fr. Gerry's first assignments were in the seminary apostolate until 1994, when he was assigned to St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Perryville, MO. That experience helped him hone his pastoral skills for his next assignment – Chaplain of the Staff for Catholic Charities in Chicago, where he has served since 1998.

“All of the assignments I’ve had have been life-giving,” he said. “I’ve had an awareness in all of them that God is with me.”



Father Kevin McCracken, C.M., also grew up near a Vincentian seminary—St. Vincent de Paul minor seminary in Montebello, CA, his hometown. He went straight through the prescribed seminary program at the time and was ordained at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church on June 18, 1982.

He later earned a master's degree in liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame. He spent the next 26 years devoted to the seminary apostolate at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, CA, as a teacher, administrator, and spiritual director. In the local community, he also served as the local superior.

In 2013 he was appointed provincial treasurer of the Western Province and three years later as spiritual director for the Association of the Miraculous Medal. He currently holds both positions.

“I was attracted to the priesthood because I fell in love with the liturgy, especially the Mass, at a very young age,” he said. “I hope to continue to celebrate the liturgy with believers and have opportunities to present adult liturgical and sacramental formation programs.”



Father Binh Nguyen, C.M., originally attended St. Joseph Seminary in Saigon, entering the Vincentian novitiate at Dalat in 1970 during the Vietnam War. His studies were interrupted in 1975 when the North Vietnamese Army captured Saigon, and he was forced to leave the country. He finished his theological studies at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Northampton, PA, and was ordained at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church in Montebello, CA, on June 18, 1982.

Father Binh has worked in several Vincentian parishes in the US, often serving Vietnamese Catholics. He earned a master's degree in spirituality from the University of San Francisco and is currently a “confrere in residence” at St. Mary's of the Barrens in Perryville, MO.

“My first assignment, still as a seminarian, was to go to St. Vincent's parish in Huntington Beach, CA,” he said. “People liked to come to the parish and felt like they were members of a big family; they volunteered to do whatever the parish needed. It was my favorite assignment.”



Father Ray Van Dorpe, C.M., comes from Chicago, IL, and has been a Vincentian priest since 1982. He has been assigned to the seminary apostolate in St. Louis, rural parish ministry in the Diocese of Pueblo, CO, and then lay and ordained ministry formation there. Fr. Ray served the Congregation as assistant provincial, starting in 2002, then provincial treasurer, and finally as provincial of the Western Province until 2020. He is currently in the Communications Department of the Western Province and is chaplain for the Seton Residence of the Daughters of Charity in Evansville, IN.

“For the past 40 years, God has called me to serve him in many different kinds of priestly ministry. In all these various roles of ministry, I have been blessed to have found skills I didn't know I had and found good people to make up for the skills I didn't have. Along the way, many wonderful folks have supported and befriended me. God has been very good to me!”



CONGREGATION
of the **MISSION**

THE VINCENTIANS
WESTERN PROVINCE

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

2022 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Learn more about the Congregation of the Mission Western Province, join us in prayer, and offer your support. Visit us online at vincentian.org and like us on Facebook at facebook.com/CMWesternProvince.

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25-Year



Fr. David Nations, C.M.

Fr. David was ordained in July 1997 at St. Mary's of the Barrens in Perryville, MO. In his early years, he worked in various capacities in Los Angeles, Chicago, Fayetteville, AR, and the St. Louis area, before becoming Vocations Director for the Southern and Western Provinces. He has also served as a Parochial Vicar and Administrator, and, most recently as Pastor and Superior at St. Vincent's Church in Los Angeles. He has also worked with Vincentian Marian Youth as a Regional Spiritual Director and National Priest Advisor.

DePaul University Names New President



Dr. Robert L. Manuel has been named the 13th president of DePaul University in Chicago, succeeding Dr. Gabriel Esteban, who is retiring. On Aug. 1, Dr. Manuel will take office at DePaul, the largest Catholic university in the United States, which is sponsored by the Western Province and was founded by the Congregation of the Mission in 1898. Read more at www.vincentian.org.