

Multos Annos  
Thanks Be To God  
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JUBILEE  
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Celebration June 1, 2007  
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**Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary  
(SS.CC.)**



2007 JUBILEES  
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**60TH PROFESSION**

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BRO. PAUL ALVES, SS.CC.

FR. JOHN YAMADA, SS.CC.



FR. MICHAEL ANNUNZIATO, SS.CC.

# 60 Years Profession 60 Years Profession

## FR. MICHAEL ANNUNZIATO, SS.CC.

**A**s a youth, my dream was always to be a missionary, and even though I started in the diocesan seminary, I knew that wasn't my vocation. The congregation that fulfilled my dreams was the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts.

Our charism lends itself to missionary work. When I reflect, I see how my family life and upbringing prepared me for the family spirit of the Congregation. I was brought up in a close knit Italian family. Family came first, and there were many hardships that had to be overcome. This family orientation was also helpful in my formation when I entered the Congregation's apostolic school. It was like going from the smaller family to a larger family.

In my reflections about the community, my first thoughts were about Mary, the mother of Jesus. Imagine how she must have felt when she heard from the angel that she was going to conceive a child and he was going to be the Son of the Most High God. It must have blown her mind and all

of the realities that she and Joseph must have shared changed in an instant. Yet, she accepted the challenge, and the world was changed forever.

Then my thoughts moved to the heart of Jesus. Like us in all things except sin, his was the greatest act of humility and one which I must try to imitate, limited as I am. This is the true image of a heart aflame with love and which all of us have to try to imitate.

It was meditations like these that helped the charism of the Congregation grow in my heart and helped me through all of the events of my religious vocation. If it weren't for this, I don't think that I would have been able to try to adapt to the cultures where I was sent to serve.

This entwining of the hearts of Jesus and Mary encourages us to try

to imitate their love for the world, by inspiring us to go out and try to bring the love and peace of the Sacred Hearts to all humankind. We want to share our charism with the world because this is the foundation of our family spirit and what differentiates us from other communities.

I remember vividly both in Ibaraki and Yamagata Prefectures, and in the different churches in Texas, the way these different groups of people, so distant from each other, would always say, "Your Congregation is so different from the other ones that were here before you. They were here but never became part of us. When you came, you always tried to become one with us, and that is what makes us want to work more with you." This worked for me. ■

*Fr. Michael teaching Kanji in Yamagata City at Sensha Sei Johanne Kyokai (St. John's the Baptist Church) in 1961.*



# 50 YEARS ORDINATION 50 YEARS ORDINATION

## FR. BEN FOLGER, SS.CC.



FR. BEN FOLGER, SS.CC.

I didn't have to join the Navy to see the world. After I was ordained in 1957, I taught Religion and Spanish at Bishop Amat High School in California for ten years, followed by two years of parish work in San Dimas, California.

From there I did parish work in Wellfleet, Mass., which was followed by parishes in Acushnet and Fairhaven. I ministered at St. Joseph's in Nassau, Bahamas for five and a half years, then in Maryland, near D.C. After some time as director of Damien Residence, I decided to take part in the formation of the Community in Mission in Artesia, New Mexico.

The beauty of our life, as I see it, remains in being available to the people we serve; to continue listening and praying for guidance; and to hope that we can do what the Lord wants us to do. We keep saying, "I've come to do your will" and that has to

continue. I find that over the years people have been tremendous, and I think the Lord has been tremendous in what he has opened up for us.

Basically, the journey of faith is what it is all about: to truly mean it when we say that we are putting things into the hands of God, surrendering to God's will. Putting God's kingdom into today's world is the call to faith, hope, and love. If we fail that, we are not really accomplishing much of anything.

Our faith opens us up to the spirit of God. As a community, our mission is to preach the love that we see in the Eucharist. This is what we came into our community for, to grow in love and service. And I think this is what the world needs from us - to

Fr. Ben Folger, ss.cc., is the Parochial Vicar of the CIM in Artesia, New Mexico. The community serves St. Anthony Parish and the neighboring parish of Our Lady of Grace, as well as at Immaculate Conception Parish in Dexter and its two affiliated missions in Hagerman and Lake Arthur. This photo was taken from the groundbreaking ceremony for the new worship space for the St. Anthony parish in March 2002.



## FR. GABRIEL HEALY, SS.CC. 50 YEARS ORDINATION

Remember not the former things,  
Neither consider the things of old.

Behold, I am doing a new thing  
Even now it is springing to light.

Do you not perceive it?

A way will I make in the wilderness  
And rivers in the desert!

*Isaiah 43:18-19*



FR. GABRIEL HEALY, SS.CC.

We have arrived at Jubilee Celebration for so many of our brothers. It is a wonderful opportunity to record something of how we lived and what we lived for.

I want everyone to know that my life has everything to do with loving, caring and sharing through belonging to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. We are a small community, but an important one, because we touch so many people throughout the world. I begin where I always seem to begin - with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, whose wisdom guides us, sometimes mysteriously, sometimes against our will, and sometimes with a wonderful sense of humor.

My mother and father loved me unconditionally. With their love and the love of God, I was born with the blessing of a missionary heart. I became aware of it in grade school when a missionary came to our class to speak about the foreign missions. I was so excited and that feeling has never left me. Even now, as I reflect on fifty years, my heart still beats with the desire to serve God.

Reading the life of Father Damien in high school gave content and depth to that sense of mission and nurtured in me the desire to belong to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts. To this Congregation I was called, and from this Congregation I was almost separated.

At the Minor Seminary, my studies were interrupted by illness, and I went home for surgery. The

Superior wrote to me urging me to stay home and recover. However, the letter I actually received told me to return. The superior conceded and I continued my studies. There was never any doubt in my mind that God's will was reflected in the letter I received, and here I am. This was a deciding point in my vocation, and it made me feel deeply then, as I do now, that there are never any accidents with God.

Following ordination, I assumed a series of assignments for the Congregation. I taught biology and math in California. I became Vocation Director; Assistant Novice Master and Novice Master; Treasurer; Pastor of St Anthony's Church in Mattapoisett and of Holy Trinity Church in Harwich and finally Director of Development.

At Holy Trinity, the Society of St Vincent de Paul and I established The Family Pantry. It has been renamed "Gabriel's Place." It is very dear to my heart and I remain deeply honored. Later, a second Family Pantry, "Damien's Place" was established by Father Tom McElroy and me as an outreach of Sacred Hearts Retreat Center.

Finally, the Provincial has appointed me to the vocation of Mission Animator. (Only the Provincial and the Holy Spirit could have come up with that one.) However, it seems to fit me, and I have placed retirement on hold.

If you believe that what you are doing is God's Will, life becomes a series of opportunities -of trying to be or become what God has found in you. Only God looks deep enough, long enough, and hard enough to see who we are and then with patience, love, and forgiveness guides those who keep his covenant to the promise of a life fulfilled.

With humility and gratitude, a child with a missionary heart who did his best to remain obedient to and celebrate the covenant offered him, has by the grace of God become recognized for the life he had hoped to live, Mission Animator to those who would love and serve the poor. ■



# 50 YEARS PROFESSION 50 YEARS PROFESSION

**FATHER ROY YURCO, SS.CC.**

**“Our vocation is a gift from God.”**

I am originally from New York City, the cultural capital of the world. My parents emigrated to the U.S. in the early 1930s from Slovakia. My father was a carpenter and my Mom worked in a restaurant. When I was 15, I learned about Blessed Father Damien in the vocation club at my school.

I visited Queen of Peace Seminary at Jaffrey, New Hampshire. As a religious of the congregation, I have had many assignments. I taught for a year in California, was procurator at the “Monastery,” here in Fairhaven, and I did pastoral work.

I remember when I was the pastor at St. Boniface in New Bedford, there was a large number of elderly. Many were ill and needed home visits. Later on, during my days at St. Anthony’s, in Mattapoisett, I became spiritual director of the Damien Council of the Knights of Columbus. In all these years as a religious, I have tried to imitate Jesus.

Our vocation is a gift from God. Drawing from Eucharist and Adoration, we have an opportunity to share our gift with all the people that we encounter. ■



**FATHER ROY YURCO, SS.CC.**



*During his years in seminary, Fr. Roy did a pen and ink drawing of the Congregation’s insignia. He said he drew it free hand after seeing it so often in the center of all his brothers’ habits. Not long ago, an SS.CC. made a request for “Fr. Roy’s Logo.”*

“When I was 15, I learned about Blessed Father Damien in the vocation club at my school.”



# BRO. FRANCIS NAKAZAWA, SS.CC. 50 YEARS PROFESSION



**BRO.  
FRANCIS  
NAKAZAWA,  
SS.CC.**

**M**y vocation began at Sophia University. Seeing the way one of the Jesuit brothers lived out of the call to religious life inspired me to think over the possibility of living in this way myself.

From the beginning, I wanted to become a Brother (non-clerical). I wanted to be free to help poor people, the sick, and all those in need. By that time, the SS.CC. had arrived in Ibaraki Prefecture; Fr. William Condon was the Provincial. While I was helping Father Albert Evans, ss.cc., he told me about the novitiate program in Wareham when I mentioned that I would like to join the Congregation.

After three years, I took my first vows, and then, after returning to Japan, I began my apostolic life as an SS.CC. Brother in Tomobe. While serving there, I became a prison chaplain and was able to attend meetings for chaplains in the Philippines. During this time, I went with a Jesuit brother to a mountain in Mindanao where there was a leprosarium.

We brought medicine, clothes, and money. It was my first experience of seeing people so afflicted. Distributing communion to the people with leprosy was, indeed, very emotional. It was then that I realized what an honor it was to be an SS.CC., and to follow even if very slightly in the footsteps of our own Blessed Father Damien.



Every day, I ask myself: How can I live in union with the Heart of Jesus? Fr. Coudrin wrote in his letter (1836) that, “we are not expected to live our lives without suffering.”

“Only one thing is necessary: to bear suffering with much patience.” As a religious brother in the Congregation, I have come to realize that, in spite of many challenges, prayer and reflection have made life a very happy one. I thank God with all my heart. ■

Stained glass window of the Naka Church by Ms. Tachibana



# 40 YEARS ORDINATION

**FR. TOM MC ELROY, SS.CC.**

I have been in the Congregation's preaching ministry for the past twenty years. What I have experienced in the transformation of peoples' lives has been incredible. The Mission that Christ has given to us as a Congregation has to do with the hearts of the Lord and his mother. It has to do with forgiveness and compassion for the sinner—which includes all of us. People must hear what Jesus says, for it is through His word that they will find His way, His truth, and His life. The Word must be preached and that is one of the beliefs of our Congregation. From my preaching of the Word of God as a ministry of the Congregation, I have seen this truth to be absolute. Recently, I received, "My Cross," written by a woman who took part in a retreat I led not too long ago. What better gift to mark my anniversary?

## My Cross

I found myself  
alone in the woods,  
consumed by darkness  
and fear.

The trees were tall  
the brush was thick,  
and the visibility was not very clear.

I found one lit path  
but only to see  
a large piece of wood  
on the ground.

Impossible to lift  
too large to get over,  
and much too big to go around.

Desperate to find  
an alternate route, I searched the darkness  
in fear.

Each path only proved  
worse than the last,  
and destiny  
brought me back here.

Tired and worn,  
helpless and broken,  
I fell to my knees  
to pray.

That's where  
you found me,  
raised me back up  
and showed me the light of the way.

You recalled my faith,  
questioned my beliefs,  
and challenged me  
on knowing the cost.

It is obvious now  
the lit path is for me.  
Chosen by He  
who loves me the most.

So I pick up this wood,  
I lift up my cross,  
and I journey with my head held high.

I thank you for guidance  
and helping remind me: We must live  
like Him because He chose to die.

JUBILEE 2007



**FR. TOM MC ELROY,  
SS.CC.**

*Arlene Zonni*

## FR. BILL PENDERGHEST, SS.CC.

## 40 YEARS ORDINATION



FR. BILL PENDERGHEST, SS.CC.

*When Fr. Bill was in Lima, Peru, for the 2003 Enlarged General Council, he and other SS.CC.s went to Machu Picchu, a fortress city of the ancient Incas.*

**F**r. Bill Penderghest came to the Community after graduating from high school. His first year of studies in the Congregation was at Catholic University in Washington, DC. He continued studies at St. Mary College, Winona, MN, and completed his philosophy and theological studies at Queen of Peace Seminary at Jaffrey Center, New Hampshire. He professed his final vows in September 1964 and was ordained in June 1967.

Fr. Bill has been Parochial Vicar and Pastor of our congregation's missions in New York, Texas and Massachusetts. From the mid 80s to the early 90s, he was director of Development and Computer Systems for the Eastern United States Province. From 1988 to 1997 he was the treasurer for the Province.

In the mid 70s, Fr. Bill twice spent summers studying Spanish, first in San Antonio, Texas and then in Cuernavaca, Mexico. He has been a simultaneous translator for the 1988 and 1994 General Chapter meetings and Enlarged General Council meetings. In February 2001, he was appointed as General Treasurer, Econome General.

### **HOW THE CHARISM GIVES MEANING TO MY LIFE:**

Aspects of our charism, such as compassion and concern for marginalized people and people who are hurting, have continued to move me to be present to people in special need. The family spirit and the importance of being together in sharing our life has both enlivened and disappointed me on many occasions. Our times of sharing and unison have been the cause of much joy. Our times of division, disagreement and disregard have often saddened and disappointed me. Meaning comes from being in God's presence despite these.

### **HOW THE SS.CC. MISSION RELEASES THE GRACE OF GOD'S KINGDOM:**

The release of God's kingdom is sometimes spontaneous and overpowering. At most times it is gradual and displayed in small increments. It always requires faith to correctly see and celebrate it. Two separate people can look at the same series of events and have different responses and interpretations based on their faith and awareness. I often find myself in the middle of these two people. The SS.CC. mission is part of the polarity (the other being community). They are both integral to the response and depth of faith perception. This overflows and influences the outcome—celebration and the deepening of mission awareness and activity. ■



# 40 YEARS PROFESSION 40 YEARS PROFESSION

## BRO. PAUL ALVES. SS.CC.



*Great satisfaction comes with the work that you are doing something special for God and that's the mission to reach out to people and to love them and hopefully to be a very special part in their lives.*

*Bro. Paul Alves, ss.cc.*

**BRO. PAUL ALVES,  
SS.CC.**

**A**s brothers, we walk as Jesus walked, and in our dealings and ministry we try to show a compassionate heart by caring for and loving the people that we are responsible for and by walking with them in their lives. I've seen that as also being helpful in moments that they are down - to help repair their sense of presence and how they feel about themselves.

I have been very blessed in so many ways and I believe it's the Grace of God. I don't look at any place where I have worked with any regrets but more in the sense of great peace and believing that we are doing God's work and it's holy and beautiful.

I started with the Congregation in 1965. I was in formation in Wareham until 1967. From there, I went to Washington, D.C., until 1969. I returned to the Monastery, now Damien Residence, in Fairhaven, where I continued with my studies.

I took up residence at Our Lady of the Assumption, where I remained from 1971 until 1980. During that time, I attended college and was teaching at St. Anthony's High School.

In 1978, I earned my Masters and then became assistant principal at Greenwich Conn., and then a year later became the principal at St. Mary's High School in Greenwich. In 1983, Fr. Bill Heffron asked me to be the treasure for the Province (I said

that I would be glad to assist but that education was my first love and he said, "well, do both." I began living in Milton, and started a Come and See House while I was the dean of students at Columbus High School in the north end of Boston. I continued there until 1988 and then became principal at Marion High School for ten years. In 1998, I took a yearlong sabbatical. After that I went to Cardinal Spellman where I am dean of students. ■

*In March 2007, Bro. Paul and other members of the Provincial Council honored Fr. Michael Annunziato, ss.cc., who turned 80 this year. Left to Right: Fr. Tom McElroy, ss.cc., Bro. Paul Alves, ss.cc., Fr. Michael Annunziato, ss.cc., Fr. Martin Gomes, ss.cc., Fr. Bill Petrie, ss.cc., provincial, Fr. Stan Kolasa, ss.cc.*





**FR. JOHN YAMADA,  
SS.CC.**

*On the Congregation's Family Spirit and Its Mission*

“The Family Spirit” of our Congregation’s charism gave the most meaning to my life. The mystery of the Church is God’s family as children of God the Father. This charism of our Congregation helped me in living my faith and working in my ministries. ... Because all the people in the world are God’s children, and because the mission and role of Church is to be the witness to this reality, our charism of ‘family spirit’ helps to release the grace of God’s kingdom into today’s challenging world.”

Fr. John Yamada, ss.cc.

“ Our Congregation is one of the “ heart”... To make the spiritual meaning of the heart important is to make the human heart more important than material richness, fame, speed, efficiency, convenience and

*From Fr. John’s reflection in the SS.CC. publication ...Charism in the Church*

Father John Yamada is presently pastor at Queen of Peace Parish in Tsuchiura. He was twice chosen as the Vice Provincial of the Japanese Vice Province from 1984 to 1989 and from 1999 until 2005. He has also served as pastor at churches in Toride and Yamagata. Father’s first assignment was as assistant pastor at Holy Family Parish in Mito.

*Fr. John Yamada, ss.cc.,( second from the left) with members of the community during Hitachi’s 50th Jubilee celebration in 2006.*



# *Salve Regina*

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae:  
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.  
Ad te clamamus, exsules, filii Hevae.  
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes  
in hac lacrimarum valle.  
Eia ergo, Advocata nostra,  
illos tuos misericordes oculos  
ad nos converte.  
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,  
nobis, post hoc exsilium ostende.  
O clemens: O pia: O dulcis  
Virgo Maria.

