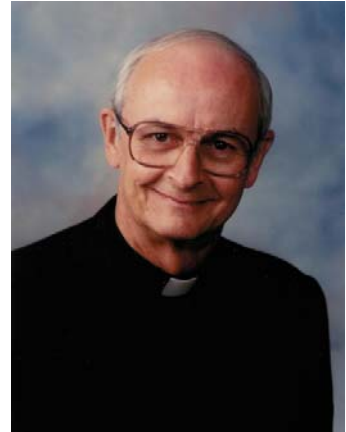


Fr. James F. Crilly, CSV  
Sixty Years of Religious Life

Fr. James F. Crilly, CSV, celebrates sixty years as a professed Viatorian. He has served as a teacher, priest, missionary, principal, superior, associate pastor, pastor, assistant provincial, and as a provincial chapter member. He has been assigned to just about everyplace where Viatorians have served in the last six decades. While he values all of his experiences and assignments as times of growth and enrichment, he admits that a special time in his life was spent in Bogotá, Colombia.



In 1961, he was one of three Viatorians asked to travel to Colombia to establish a high school for boys. Fr. Crilly had to learn Spanish, the restrictions and requirements of the Colombian government, and become knowledgeable about building construction. Once construction was completed and the school opened, Fr. Crilly initiated a unique scholarship program. Twenty percent of the student body came from low-income families in the area. Fr. Crilly served for twelve years in Colombia in such roles as the local community superior and school principal. Today, the school has an enrollment of over 1,000 students and boasts of an excellent reputation in Bogotá. What started as a mission almost fifty years ago, has now become the Foundation of Colombia, which includes the colegio and two parishes. The local community is comprised of two associates, three pre-novices, eight brothers, and nine priests.

Fr. Crilly prepared to be a teacher by majoring in biology for his bachelor and masters degrees at Loyola University in Chicago and the Catholic University of America in Washington. He then taught in Springfield and Peoria, IL, before traveling to Colombia. When speaking about his life, Fr. Crilly said, “I do perceive that the pastoral mission of the parish calls us to constantly strive to educate our people in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. . . My presence and participation in faith sharing sessions and in celebrating the Eucharist brings me to draw upon my background and experience as a teacher and reminds me that much teaching is done, not by words, but by example. We are called to teach as Jesus did, with our whole beings.” Congratulations Jim.

Br. Leo V. Ryan, CSV  
Sixty Years of Religious Life

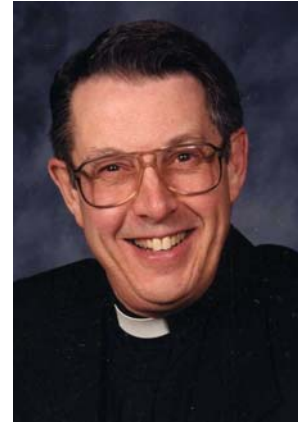
Br. Leo V. Ryan, CSV, also celebrates sixty years as a professed Viatorian. In nearly any place in the world one is likely to meet someone who knows his name since he has visited or worked in 89 countries. The Latin word *viator* is translated into English as traveler, and no one is a better traveler than Br. Ryan. While serving in the Peace Corps in Africa during 1967, he was conferred the Atoaja Chieftaincy for his service in promoting the Yoruba life and culture in Nigeria. In addition, he lived in Rome during 1967-69 after being elected Assistant General – the first American Brother to be elected and during that time was named Economy General. Finally, for over twenty years he has been a well-known professor, writer, and speaker in Finland and Poland, especially at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland.



In the United States, he is a well-known educator in the area of business administration. Br. Ryan served as assistant dean of the School of Business Administration at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Notre Dame from 1975 to 1980; and dean of the Graduate School of Business at DePaul University in Chicago from 1980 to 1988. He continues to work at DePaul. Br. Ryan also served as a teacher at Cathedral Boys High School in Springfield, IL; Spalding Institute in Peoria, IL; and as president of Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights, IL. Whether at the secondary or university level, Br. Ryan has always been in touch with his former students. He is well-known for mentoring the careers of many of them. Today Br. Ryan continues to lecture when the opportunity arises. He also serves on the International Commission on Father Querbes as the U.S. representative working toward the canonization of our founder. Congratulations Leo.

Fr. John N. Peeters, CSV  
50 Years of Religious Life

Fr. John N. Peeters, CSV, celebrates fifty years of religious life as a member of the Viatorian Community. These past five decades have been marked by his unfailing commitment to service to the Viatorian Community and to the People of God. As a master of language, whether it be English, French, Spanish, and even Italian, one can be sure that this master of grammar will correct any slip of the pen or of the tongue.

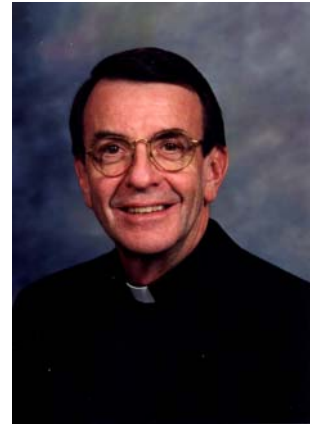


Fr. Peeters served as secretary to the provincial during the 1960's; then, he traveled to Rome to become secretary to the superior general during the 1970's. After completing his seminary studies at Catholic Theological Union in 1983, he was assigned to St. Joseph parish in Springfield, IL, as a parochial vicar. From 1988 to 1993, he served as Master of Novices in Bogotá, Colombia. Upon returning to the States, he became parochial vicar Maternity BVM Parish in Bourbonnais, IL, before moving to Central America to be a parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Belize. During all those years, he attended countless international meetings in Rome, acting as oral translator for members of the Province of Chicago. To this day, he translates countless newsletters and official documents into English, while still carrying out his pastoral duties.

In speaking about his ministry, he recently stated, "I must say that I never realized when I was a novice, that my projected career as a mathematics teacher would eventually be transmogrified into Latin and French. I never dreamt that my studies in French would bring me as a translator to a variety of Viatorian chapters and international meetings in Europe and in the Americas. I never imagined that my knowledge of Spanish would lead me to live and to work in Bogotá and in Belize. The Lord has indeed surprised me—pleasantly and necessarily—many times over the past half century."

Fr. Patrick W. Render, CSV  
50 Years of Religious Life

Fr. Patrick W. Render, CSV, learned about the Viatorians while a student at Spalding Institute in Peoria, IL; he entered the Community right after graduation. He has filled all the roles that embody the apostolate of the Viatorian Community. During his fifty years as a Viatorian religious, he has served as priest, teacher, principal, pastor, and provincial for the Province of Chicago. He is known by many as being an effective leader and fine homilist. Today, he says, “The thing that I am most aware of at this fifty year marker is how different Viatorian religious life is today than it was in 1960. At that time, Vatican II was only an announcement. I have lived through and been a part of a fascinating period of change in the congregation, in the province, in the Church, and in the world. I never could have imagined where the fifty years ahead would take me. Now with anniversary hindsight, to look at those years as a single block of time is to marvel at all that has happened and how much I have changed. It has not all been without pain, but it surely has been growth (and fun!).”

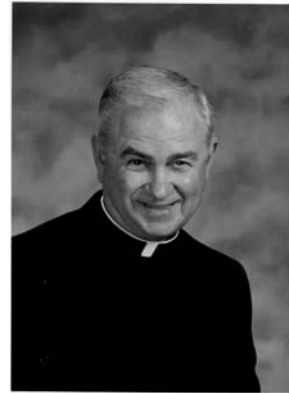


Fr. Render earned a B.A. degree in English from Loyola University, Chicago, and an M.A. degree in Education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He spent the first fifteen years of his career at Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights, IL, where he served as teacher, assistant principal, and finally president. For the next nine years, he was elected to leadership roles in the congregation, first as assistant provincial for one year and then as provincial for eight years.

From 1994 to 2001 he served as pastor at St. Joseph parish in Springfield, IL. Since 2001, he has been pastor at St. Thomas More Catholic Community in Henderson, NV.

Fr. John E. Van Wiel, CSV  
50 Years of Religious Life

Fr. John E. Van Wiel, CSV, grew up in the Quad Cities and attended Alleman High School in Rock Island, IL, where he came to know the Viatorians. After high school, he attended St. Procopius College in Lisle, IL, before entering the Viatorian Novitiate in 1959. He holds a B.S. degree in chemistry from Loyola University, Chicago, and an M.S. degree in chemistry from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.



As a lifetime student and learner, he earned an M.Ed. degree in school administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to prepare himself for his roles as principal of Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee and Alleman High School in Rock Island –his own alma mater– and as assistant administrator at Griffin High School in Springfield, IL. He obtained a Certificate in Religious Formation from St. Louis University in 1991 to prepare for his role as Vocation Director and Master of Novices for the Viatorian Community. For the past seventeen years, he has taught chemistry at Saint Viator High School and participated in numerous Kairos retreats. Many of those years were also spent as chair of the science department. In addition to teaching, Fr. Van Wiel also celebrates weekend Mass in parishes in the Arlington Heights area of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

On reflecting on his many years of service, Fr. Van Wiel states, “I feel very blessed by the many people who have befriended me and supported me along the way of fifty years as a Viatorian. I have many wonderful memories of my years in Kankakee, Rock Island, Springfield and Arlington Heights. I certainly have experienced the thousand fold that Jesus promised to those who leave other things to follow him.”

Like so many people, there is a side of the man that many do not know. In the case of Fr. Van Wiel, many are surprised to learn that he is a fine watercolorist and an avid fisherman.

Fr. Donald J. Fitzsimmons, CSV  
50 Years of Priesthood

Fr. Donald J. Fitzsimmons, CSV, attended Cathedral Boys High School in Springfield, IL. He entered the Viatorian Community in 1950 along with several of his classmates. At Loyola University, Chicago, Fr. Fitzsimmons earned a B.A. degree history and philosophy in 1955. He was ordained priest on May 28, 1960. He earned his M.A. degree in religious education at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC in 1969.

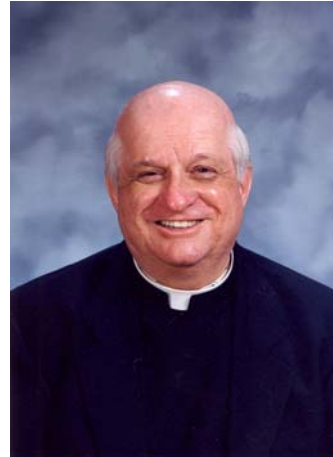


He spent the majority of his fifty years as a priest as high school teacher and substance abuse counselor. His wit and wisdom made him a good communicator with young people. For eighteen years, he served the students of Saint Viator High School, in Arlington Heights, IL, as counselor, teacher of religion, and retreat director. From 1988 to 1997, he served as a drug abuse counselor at Lutheran General Recovery Center in Vernon Hills, IL. From 1998 until his retirement, he worked in the Keys to Recovery Program as a substance abuse counselor at Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines, IL

When Fr. Fitzsimmons finds a new area of special interest, he becomes seriously involved in that subject. As a teenager, his free time was given to a basement full of aquariums for his collection of fish. For several years during the 1970's, photography consumed his time when he was not teaching or counseling. What started as hobby became a thorough study of the topic, and he became an artist who not only created beautiful compositions, but also one who operated his own dark room. When the world became concerned about the environment, Fr. Fitzsimmons became an expert on the topic of native grasslands in Illinois. In recent times, he taught himself everything one needs to know, and more, about computer technology.

Fr. Thomas G. Langenfeld, CSV  
50 Years of Priesthood

Fr. Thomas G. Langenfeld, CSV, exhibited his leadership skills in his first ten years as a Viatorian. After completing his novitiate, he attended Loyola University, Chicago, where he earned a BA degree in political science. After his ordination to priesthood in 1960, Fr. Langenfeld served as a high school teacher and administrator for ten years. He taught and was assistant principal at Spalding Institute in Peoria, IL, was assistant principal at Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights, and served as principal at Bishop McNamara High School in Kankakee, IL.

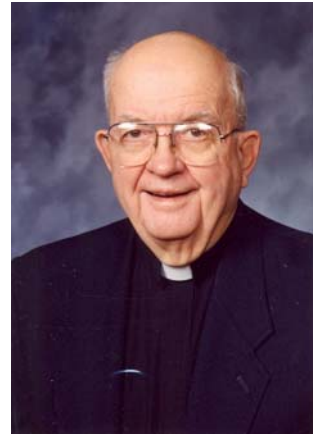


It did not shock anyone when he was elected superior general of the Clerics of St. Viator in 1972. He moved to Rome where he led the international Viatorian Community until 1984. During those years, he traveled the world using his talents in leadership and communication. When he returned from Rome, he spent a sabbatical year at the Weston School of Theology, in Cambridge, MA. Between 1986 and 1999, Fr. Langenfeld served as pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Kankakee, St. Patrick Church in Kankakee, and St. Viator parish in Las Vegas. Since then, he has continued to serve in the Diocese of Las Vegas.

Fr. Langenfeld recently stated, “I sit in amazement and surprise when I look back over fifty years. When ordained I simply wanted to have a life of helping young people become successful with their lives. My life has taken me to many different places. As I look back, I wonder how much my goal was achieved. It is difficult to look beyond failures to see successes, but I know there were some of both. And I do know that I have had a majority of happy times. I indeed have reason to celebrate!”

Fr. James E. Michaletz, CSV  
Fifty Years of Priesthood

Fr. James E. Michaletz, CSV, feels he has been blessed abundantly. “When I reflect on my fifty years as a priest, my initial and overwhelming feeling is one of gratitude for being a Viatorian and a priest, but also for the many grace-filled experiences I have had. I am fortunate to have been in Catholic education for so many years and in a variety of capacities. I have had the opportunity to minister to people in a variety of ways that have been so rewarding. I am especially grateful to God for being blessed and graced in countless ways.”



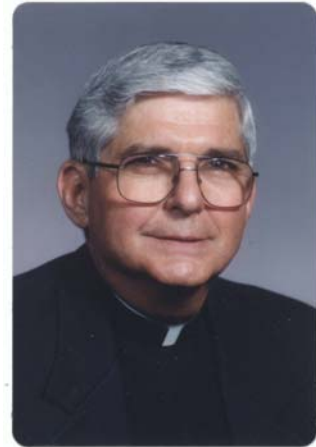
Known for his leadership skills and his ability to enhance the administrative talent of principals and board members of Catholic institutions, Fr. Michaletz earned a Ph.D. degree in educational administration from Loyola University, Chicago. His dissertation focuses on the topic of leadership. Since the early 1970's, that topic has kept him busy and focused in his work as an administrator and consultant to many educators, schools, and dioceses.

He served as Director of the Educational Planning Department for the Archdiocese of Chicago, and was Director of Education for the Province of Chicago of the Viatorian Community from 1977 to 1983. In 1985, he was named Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Springfield, IL, and in 1991, he became a member of the staff of the Education Department of Dominican University in River Forest, IL, where he served until 1999. At Dominican he devoted all his efforts to the education and formation of Catholic and public school principals.

One of the many boards on which he has served over the years is the Board of Trustees of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. In recent years, he has been an active priest in residence at Maternity BVM in Bourbonnais and has added board membership St. Mary's Provena Hospital to his list of activities.

Fr. Daniel J. Mirabelli, CSV  
Fifty Years of Priesthood

Fr. Daniel J. Mirabelli, CSV, has spent most of his fifty years as a priest serving the Alleman High School community in Rock Island, IL. He has become known as the persona of the school where he has worked for forty-four years as teacher of history and religion, and athletic director. He currently works in the office for development. Fr. Mirabelli is well known as a well organized, neat, and a reserved gentleman. It is only when he is watching or listening to his favorite athletic team or sports hero that his wild side shows. Just as he is a devoted and hard worker, he is a devoted fan.

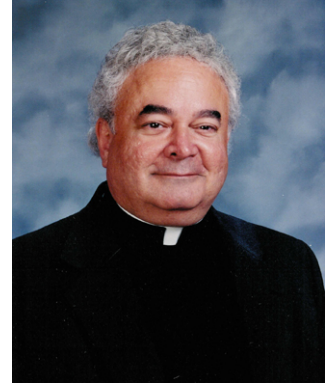


Fr. Mirabelli attended Fenwick High School in Chicago, IL, where he came to know the Viatorians. After completing his novitiate, he attended St. Ambrose College in Davenport, IA, where he earned a B.A. degree in History. He later earned an M.A. degree in American History from Loyola University, Chicago.

On May 28, 1960, he was ordained to the priesthood. His first teaching assignment was at St. Benedict High School in Chicago, IL, for a year followed by five years at Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights. Afterwards, he was assigned to Alleman High School in 1966. As he reflects on his years as a priest, he says, “At this time of remembering, I smile and think fondly of the countless Viatorians who served with me throughout these many years of service to the Catholic Church. The Viatorians are men of class and they have truly enriched my life and my vocation. I have been most blessed and very proud to be a member of this community which is dedicated to service, education, and pastoral care. God is good and has blessed me abundantly throughout my vocation as a Viatorian priest.”

Fr. Richard J. Pighini, CSV  
Twenty-Five Years of Priesthood

Fr. Richard J. Pighini, CSV, who celebrates his twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination this year, hails from the northwest suburbs of Chicago. He studied at the University of Illinois in Chicago, the University of Oregon at Eugene, and he spent a year as a member of the Peace Corps in Hawaii before becoming a teacher at St. Patrick School in Kankakee, IL. From there he entered the Viatorian Community in 1980.



His years of preparation for ordination were completed at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago; he was ordained priest in 1985. During his years on the faculty at Griffin High School and Sacred Heart/Griffin in Springfield between 1985 and 1989, he began to develop his reputation as prize winning gardener. That reputation followed him to Kankakee and to .Bourbonnais, IL. At each place his hobby became art.

In 1989, Fr. Pighini returned to St. Patrick parish as a parochial vicar before becoming pastor in 1994. He was named pastor of Maternity, BVM parish, the first Viatorian parish in the United States, in neighboring Bourbonnais in 2004, a ministry in which he continues today. During these past several years, he became known as a master at creating the artistic and reverent environment for the celebration of the liturgy, even bringing the outdoor garden into the church.

The old “Manual” of instructions for the Viatorians states that a Cleric of St. Viator dedicates his life to “the teaching of Christian Doctrine and the Service of the Holy Altar.” Fr. Pighini follows that old dictum, literally. The parishioners at St. Patrick and Maternity BVM parishes can testify that the decorations are always perfect, that the liturgical ministers are well prepared, and that the altar servers are trained to perfection.