



## Saint Viator High School Loses Social Studies Chair and Football Coach

Fr. Daniel Hall, CSV, returns next month to the Viatorian Foundation of Belize he helped to start more than a dozen years ago. In accepting the new assignment, Fr. Hall leaves the social studies department where he has taught for nine years, including five years as chairman. He also leaves behind the football team, where he has coached receivers and kickers since returning to the school in 2003.

Fr. Hall describes leaving Saint Viator as bittersweet, since this is the longest assignment he has had. But he knows he is needed in Belize, where people can wait up to a month, he says, to attend Mass or receive the sacraments. “They will be long days, but fulfilling ones,” Fr. Hall says. “The parish serves 23 coastal villages or about 30,000 people, and some 5,000 children in the parish school.”

But he won't be doing it alone. When he and Fr. Christopher Glancy, CSV, assumed responsibility of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Corozal Town, Belize in 1998, they were the only religious serving the region. Nearly 10 years later, he will reassume his duties as pastor of the parish. He will be serving with Fr. Moses Mesh, CSV, Deacon Fredy Santos, CSV, Br. John Eustice, CSV, pastoral associate and Br. Daniel Villalobos, CSV, pastoral associate. Twenty Viatorian associates also serve the parish in the areas of education, faith formation, pastoral care, and social services. “Poverty, unemployment and the dropout rate from elementary school, are some of the biggest problems we face,” Fr. Hall says. “But we just take it one day at a time.”

Fr. Hall grew up as a self-described “military brat,” moving around the country and living in Cuba for three years. It was there where he became conversant in Spanish, and he draws on his command of the language in meeting the needs of parish members. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from Old Dominion University, a Master of Education from Loyola University and a Master of Divinity from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Yet, it was his experience in the military which earned him the respect from his students and football players.

“He is well thought of by his students for his dedication, perseverance, and character,” says President of Saint Viator High School, Fr. Robert M. Egan, CSV, “both on and off the field.”