

Monsignor Joseph James Celebrates 50 years

This year marks the Golden Jubilee of Monsignor Joseph James' Ordination to the Priesthood. Msgr. James was ordained December 15, 1957 and will mark half a century of service on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ convent in Prayer Town, Channing, Texas, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Space is limited. For reservations, please contact Sister Rita before March 1 at 806-534-2312, ext. 13.

Born in Dalhart on February 24, 1932, Msgr. James graduated from Amarillo's Price Memorial High School as valedictorian in 1950. In 1957, after seminary studies in Denver and at the North American College in Rome, Msgr. James was ordained for the Diocese of Amarillo.

He was incardinated as one of the original priests for the Diocese of Lubbock when it was established in 1983, and the honorary title of "Monsignor" was conferred upon him by Pope John Paul II in April, 1985.

Msgr. James' service began as the associate pastor in Borger from 1958 to 1959 and at Lubbock Saint Elizabeth from 1959 to 1960. He was assigned to serve as the first resident pastor for Tulia from 1960 to 1961, then as pastor for Littlefield from 1969 to 1977 and Lubbock Saint Elizabeth from 1977 to 1979.

Msgr. James was founding pastor of Lubbock Saint John Neumann in 1979 and served there until 1990, when he was assigned to Mercy Retreat Center in Slaton with ministry at Woodrow. In 1992 he became pastor at Slaton Saint Joseph along with Mercy Retreat Center. In 1993 he began full-time service as director of the retreat center, and he served as sacramental minister for Idalou from 1995 to 1996.

The recipient of post-graduate degrees or certificates in counseling, liturgy, religious education, spiritual direction, and Bible studies, Msgr. James has also served in diocesan assignments including Vice-Rector of Saint Lucian's Seminary in Amarillo from 1962 to 1967, Coordinator of Religious Education for the Diocese of Amarillo from 1967 to 1968, and as Dean of College Students and Professor of Pastoral and Sacramental Theology at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio from 1968 to 1969.

Since his retirement in 2001, Msgr. James has traveled as confessor on numerous pilgrimages all over the world, including Poland, and shrines of Italy including Rome, Medjugorje and Greece.

Msgr. James was considered the "Founding father" of the "Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ," in the then Diocese of Amarillo. He was one of the first to use projected media in the Catholic church. He had early involvement within Charismatic renewal in the diocese, and the folk Mass, which marked the beginning of contemporary guitar music in the Catholic liturgy and included working with Ray Repp, submitting his Mass for Young Americans, Sons of God, to FEL and sending many other musical artists to FEL for recording of their music..

More information...

Msgr. Joseph W. James was born in Dalhart, Texas on February 24, 1932 to Andy and Loretta James. He is the youngest of five children. Being raised on a ranch, he was groomed in a strong work ethic and was given much responsibility at an early age.

After attending school in Dalhart, he attended Price College in Amarillo and then first college and first year theology at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado.

Second Theology through fourth year Theology was at North American College in Rome, Italy.

He was ordained on December 16, 1957 at North American College in Rome.

Msgr. James was pastor at Saint John Neumann's Parish in Lubbock, Texas. There were approximately 20,000 in attendance at an outdoor mass on the Feast of the Assumption on August 15, 1988. During the ceremony many saw the sun "dancing" and rosaries turned golden in color. Several were healed and many spiritual blessings were received by those present. Countless people came for reconciliation and were renewed by receiving the sacrament. Msgr. James spent endless hours hearing those confessions. Many who had been away, returned to Holy Mother Church with renewed faith. Since that time hundreds make a pilgrimage to Saint John Neumann's Church.

During the Msgr. James' tenure at Mercy Retreat Center, he has been responsible for much growth and rebuilding of the former Hospital/Convent facility. Presently, 100 people can stay during the many retreats and seminars that are given there. The EMMAUS Movement also uses the facility for its many functions.

In the Spring of 1998 Fr. James and two staff members of Mercy Center attended a Fr. Robert DeGrandis Seminar in Houston. During that seminar Msgr. James began hearing confessions. The power of the Holy Spirit was abundant with Fr. DeGrandis' teachings and the Sacrament of Reconciliation being available through the ministry of Msgr. James. Since that time Msgr. James has been at some of the events with Fr. DeGrandis. It seems as though they make a great team for the Lord!

Many who have experienced the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Msgr. James have experienced deep spiritual healing and abundant blessings. He is in much demand and is travelling to many retreats and seminars in order to make himself available to administer the Sacraments.

Some have commented that he looks at them with "the eyes of Jesus" and feel the love of God the Father through Fr. James' hugs, consolation, and spiritual direction.

Msgr. Joseph W. James
P.O. Box 744, Slaton, TX 79364
Telephone (806) 828-4703
info@mercymessenger

CIRRICULUM VITAE

MONSIGNOR JOSEPH W. JAMES

February 24, 1932
Dalhart, Texas

EDUCATION

1950 Price Memorial High School
Valedictorian, Pres. of Senior Class
Conducted by Brothers of
Christian Schools

1954 Saint Thomas Seminary
Denver, CO – B.A.

1958 North American College
Rome, Italy

1962 Marquette University
Milwaukee, WI
M.A. in Counseling

1967 Notre Dame University
South Bend, IN
Completed four Summers in
Liturgical Program

1971 Loyola University
Chicago, IL
M.A. in Religious Education

1983 Pecos Benedictine Monastery
PECOS, NM
Completed courses for
Spiritual Director

1985 ST. Mary's University
San Antonio, TX
Completed 7 Summer sessions
Charismatic Biblical Institute

ASSIGNMENTS

Ordination - Rome, Italy

8/58 - 8/59 Assoc. Pastor
St. John's Church
Borger, TX

8/59 - 9/60 Assoc. Pastor
St. Elizabeth's Church
Lubbock, TX
Newman Club & Parish

9/60 - 8/61 First Resident Pastor
Tulia, TX

8/61 - 8/62 Marquette University

8/62 - 6/67 Vice Rector - St. Lucian's
Seminary Amarillo, TX

6/67 - 10/68 Diocese Coordinator of
Religious Education
Amarillo, TX

11/68 - 5/69 Dean of College Students
and Prof. of Pastoral and
Sacramental Theology
Assumption Seminary
San Antonio, TX

10/69 - 2/77 Pastor -Sacred Heart
Church. Littlefield, TX

2/77 - 1/80 Pastor -St. Elizabeth's
Lubbock, TX

1/80 - 7/90 Founding Pastor
Saint John Neumann
Lubbock, TX

7/90 - Director - Mercy Retreat
Center. Slaton, TX