

Father Frank Jordan:


'I thank the Lord every day for my vocation'

Meet Our Priests

This week's featured priest:

Father
Frank Jordan

YEAR FOR PRIESTS



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Was there a particular individual who inspired you to become a priest?

In the 1950s I was very active in the Legion of Mary in Glasgow, Scotland. We had an open house where merchant seaman could come and relax.

These men were from all countries in the world. It was there that I first met Father James Kelly, who came up to Scotland looking for vocations for the Order of St. Camillus, from his house in London. I had just completed my five years as a sheet metal worker. I quit and followed Father Jim back to London. But you had to be a Registered Nurse to enter the Order. I then spent three or four years and obtained my SRN diploma.

Who were the people who encouraged you in your vocation?

I had encouragement from my parish priest and many others. My training was quite varied. I spent a year at the headquarters of the Legion of Mary in Dublin, next door to Frank Duff, now the Venerable founder of the Legion of Mary. He encouraged me a lot. While awaiting any opportunity to find a seminary, I learned a lot about the workings of the Legion worldwide and working with the homeless men.

What do you like most about being

a priest?

The special powers of the priesthood; the power to forgive sins in the sacrament of Reconciliation; and the power that God gives you when you pray over the bread and wine at the Consecration of the Mass when saying the words “that they may become the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.” We bring eternal Life to others in the Eucharist. I thank the Lord every day for my vocation as a priest.

What has been one of the greatest challenges you face in your ministry?

My greatest challenges I faced were when I joined three other priests and three religious sisters for six years taking care of seven parishes. We all had our own personalities.

What has been one of the highlights, so far, of your priesthood?

Some of my highlights as a priest are the care of the sick, anointings, and Reconciliation. This has been my daily and weekly ministry the last 30 years. Since I am a trained hospital chaplain this is what I like to do most. I obtained my BSN from Marymount College in Salina, so I feel quite comfortable among sick people, physical or spiritually. I feel I have experienced a lot in the last 70 years and it helps a lot in my ministry as a priest.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to spend my time preparing homilies, ending with an amusing story and greeting the people as they leave Mass, especially at St. Catherine Hospital each Wednesday. I am sure the non-Catholics see the smiles of the people as they leave the chapel.

If you could take a vacation anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I just received an invitation from the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus to join other priest chaplains in North America for a pilgrimage to Rome, all expenses paid. This will be from New York to Rome, June 6 to June 13. This to me is an answer to my prayers, as it would be beautiful gift for my 50 years as a priest. There were 32 other young men ordained in All Hallows, Dublin. Maybe I might meet some of them.

What are your hobbies?

I like to travel a lot. I have been to Prague, Rome, Assisi, Naples, Malta, Fatima, Jerusalem, Lourdes, and Barcelona and Seville, Spain; sailed on the River Rhine and the Danube; taken a Mediterranean Cruise; bus tour of Ireland; Cancun, Mexico, Hawaii; Alaskan Cruise and Caribbean Cruise.