

ANNIVERSARY  
Monsignor Morrison

Last May 8<sup>th</sup> was a special day in my life, one I could hardly ever have expected. On it I reached the sixtieth anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood. As it was not possible for me to celebrate this milestone in a formal or public way, I chose to postpone it until a later time.

Of course, I celebrated a private Mass – if ever Mass can be called private. I could not help but think of the many persons who so long ago fostered my vocation and encouraged me in so many ways. In those days it was a time when the Catholic community was especially happy when a young man decided to become a priest.

I thought, too, of all those who in this present time of my life keep encouraging me and showing generous support and understanding. How could I not pray for all these persons. Though I had such thoughts about so many people, I knew that my first duty was to give thanks to God. It is always the love of God that brings one to become a priest and to persevere in that vocation.

**I would be remiss if in this insert I did not say to the reader that he or she surely has a similar duty for what God has called him or her to be. Every vocation in this life is for the faithful secondary to the call to become holy. That vocation will need continued effort everyday if we are to be ready for the eternal union with God that He has in mind for us.**

As a young priest I enclosed with my Christmas greetings a holy card with the message that spoke of life as a joyful journey from God to God. This journey I share with you. If God allowed me the privilege to journey for sixty years as a priest, how much I must give thanks to God. [If your journey is also long, isn't your duty of thanks great, too?]

Let us approach anniversaries as occasions that can be centered more on God than on ourselves, while rejoicing that others on the journey come to share our own joy.

ANNOUNCEMENT

It will be my joy, God willing, to preside at our school Mass on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, the memorial of the Holy Name of Mary. The Mass will be at 8:45 AM. All are welcome.

I will also preside on Sunday, September 14th at the 10:30 AM Mass. Afterwards I will “meet and greet” in the Marian Inn any who wishes. (Light refreshments available)

## Living the Spirit Memories of Priests

Forgive me if I share with you the many thoughts and memories I been having when I think about anniversary concerns. Having lived so long, I find it wonderful to remember so many priests who have been with me on the journey of life. It was an accepted fact of life to know the priests of the parishes in my early life. I was also taught to pray for the priest who baptized me, even though I never was sure that the priest I came to know was the one.

I think of Fr. Healey who was my pastor at Our Lady of the Rosary in my grade school and high school days. He saw me off to the seminary. I recall Fr. Doolin, who was known as a very holy priest, and was quick to give absolution when you went to confession. I was blessed to have all diocesan priests as the teachers in high school (St. Thomas More – the Golden Bears!). Two of these were to be great friends, Fathers John Simons and McDermott.

Msgr. Thomas Kelly stands out as a good friend and teacher from Seminary days. He was strict as a teacher. But, he also was one who made my vocation a reality for many reasons. Naturally, I recall often my class mates and others who were with me who have since finished their earthly journey.

When I had to write my curriculum vitae for the A.D.Times it was very long – they shortened it for publication, not noting the places where I was a resident priest over the years. I think of Msgr. Wagner, Fr. Dickert, Msgr. Huesman, Fr. Walters, Fr. Frank Lawrence, Fr. Stakowski, Fr. Scott, Fr. Hall with whom I lived, and who are no longer with us. I think, too, of those priests with whom I worked at Allentown Central, Holy Name and the Tribunal. So many more priests, still living, are in my thoughts and prayers. What a great group of good companions on the journey.

Sometimes I hear that people think of the priesthood as a lonely, independent, even selfish way of life. It never was, and never is. For one thing, Jesus is always present and then there are those He gives the priest as companions, together with many spiritual children. I hope young men will see the priesthood as a good fraternity, if they hear God calling them.

Old age is a time for memories, and we must allow those my age to have our memories. I suppose I live at times in the past. When I do, I recall a past peopled by so many good and loving people. Somehow I forget those who may have tried my patience or otherwise were seen as a problem, There is not one of my students for whom I had to write a detention slip whom I can remember. To those who now people my life, I pray that God will let this occasion be a time for my thanks. I continue to do what now I only can do, and pray that God will bless you. Let us together be happy journeyers on the way God marks out for us. And look to the future as we live our present!

*God love you always!*  
*Monsignor Morrison*

August 10,2014