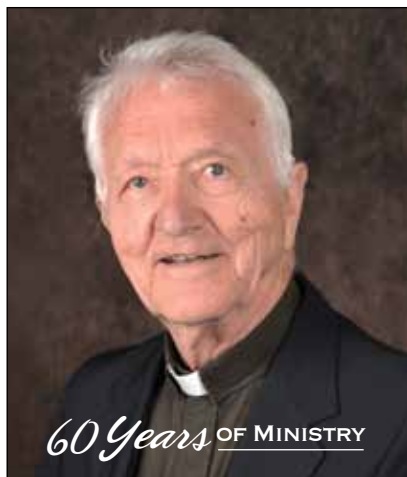


Service to God binds 3 jubilarians

Fathers Les Schmidt, Richard Kreimer celebrate 60 years; Father Bruce Brylinski 25

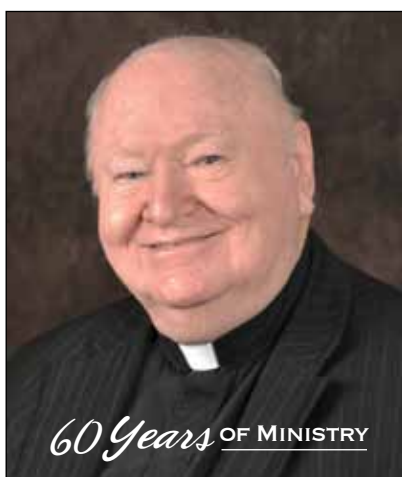


Glenmary Father Les Schmidt spent time early in his Glenmary career working as an associate and substitute pastor, but his calling has been primarily to serve as a regional worker, advocating justice for the marginalized.

While he celebrates 60 years as a Glenmarian this year, Father Les has spent nearly 50 of them as a regional worker, most often based in Big Stone Gap, Va. Father Les has been active on the Catholic Committee of Appalachia and the Catholic Committee of the South. Though 82, Father Les is still active, addressing the issue of for-profit prisons, the need for immigration reform and other matters.

One of only a few Glenmarians who grew up in a Glenmary mission (he was a member of Holy Trinity in West Union, Ohio), Father Les continues to be an advocate for Christ's kingdom on Earth.

"Following Pope Francis, my deepest hope is that we move from the world of fear and judgment, to one of grace and mercy," he said.



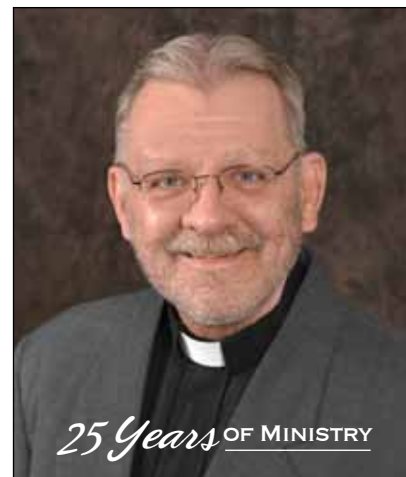
Ordinarily, a person is called to be a priest or a brother, not both. Father Richard Kreimer, 79, on the other hand, took the less traveled path to priesthood. He made his first oath in 1957 as a brother. At the time, brothers took a new name, so he became Brother Roger. For 22 years, he served as a brother, often working in kitchens and developing a reputation for culinary skill.

The call of the priesthood led him to pursue another path, and in May 1979, he was ordained.

Father Richard went on to serve as pastor in Jefferson, N.C., and in Adams County, Ohio.

He served in Glenmary's Mission Office, educating people on the home mission need. He took senior status in 2002 and resides in Cincinnati where he celebrated Mass at area parishes on a fill-in basis.

In an oral history recorded in 2005, Father Richard said, "I always wanted to be a missionary, from as early as I can remember." Reflecting on 60 years, he said, "I've enjoyed my priesthood and being with Glenmary."



Desiring to use all of his God-given talents, Father Bruce Brylinski is both priest and artist. Both vocations have served him during his 25 years as a Glenmary Home Missioner.

Father Bruce served Glenmary in Mississippi before becoming a pastor in Grayson, Ky. There, he first saw the word "artist" added to his official Glenmary title in 1999. In Grayson, he was the only priest for a three-county area and still found time to reach people through his art, including a puppet show.

Father Bruce went from Kentucky to Louisville, Ga., and from there to Waldron, Ark., before being named to his current position at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana, where he helps students grow in their calling to missionary life.

"Glenmary has been very fulfilling," Father Bruce said, reflecting on a quarter century of service. "Small towns and missions have helped me to grow in very dynamic ways. In preaching and artistry, I have been very inspired by the way God works in rural America."