

SS.CC Jubilarians – 2022



Fr. Michael Mary Shanahan, ss.cc. Diamond 60th Jubilee of Ordination

On December 17, 1935, I was born in New York City, the Bronx. As a child, I attended Annunciation School in Manhattan for 1st grade, which I vividly remember being educated by the Dominican Sisters from Columbus, Ohio. I then attended the Visitation School in the Bronx to complete my 2nd through 8th grade, and by that time, the school was staffed by the Sisters of Charity.

After completing Elementary School, I attended High School at La Salette Academy, New York City, for my 1st and 2nd years. At this point, I entered the minor seminary with the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary on September 10, 1951 at Wareham. Finally, after five years, I professed temporary vows on August 15, 1956, at 77 Adams Street, Fairhaven, Massachusetts. The Sacred Hearts priest who influenced me to join the order is Father Columban Moran, ss.cc.

After completing Minor Seminary, the next step was to head off to the well-known Jaffrey, New Hampshire, for theological studies. Six years later, I was ordained on June 21, 1962, in the chapel of the seminary at Jeffrey, New Hampshire. Upon completing theological studies and being ordained, my first assignment was to teach in a high school in California.

From 1962 to 1963, I taught at Pomona Catholic High School in La Verne, California, known today as Damien High School.

From 1963 to 1973, I was made the vocation director for the East Coast Province. In 1975, I became the Director of Damien House in Dorchester, Massachusetts, and in this same year I visited India for the first time. On December 20, 1978, I settled in Shantinagar, India to work in that region.

In 1987, I was transferred by Archbishop Henry to work in the minor seminary in Baras. In 1991, we started our own SSCC training in Bhuvneshwar. In 2003, we searched for property in Bangalore and opened Fr. Damien Seminary in Huskur. Amid the fresh beginnings of the SSCC. in India, I was transferred back to the US Province in 2009 by the Provincial Bill Petrie to live in Damien Residence in Fairhaven, Massachusetts.

Favorably, I was then permitted by the Provincial Johnathan Hurrell to return to India in 2012. It was a great privilege to see the start of the SSCC in the region of India and to be able to see it thrive in the present. However, in 2019 I was transferred back to Fairhaven, Massachusetts, for retirement.

At present, I am retired but not tired. I celebrate mass for the three parishes when it is needed. I keep active by helping out when the priestly duty calls, i.e., anointing and celebrating mass. Every week, I celebrate mass for the Missionaries of Charity, sisters of Mother Teresa, and I feel a connected in a certain way to India when we break bread together.

Reflecting on my 60 years as a religious priest, I would like to say that my name is Michael Marie Shanahan, ss.cc. and officially, I belong to the region of India who continues reparative adoration for the whole world.