

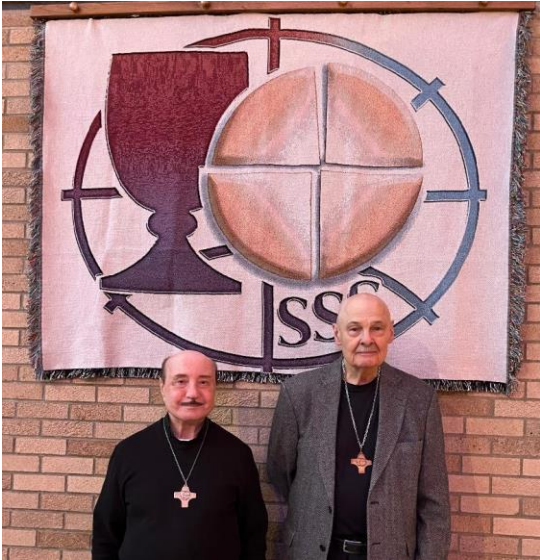


SSS Grapevine

A Publication of the Province of Saint Ann
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament

March 24, 2025 – 2025.4

Sixty Years of Faithful Service: Brothers Thomas Mella SSS and Michael O'Leary SSS



The Solemnity of Saint Joseph is a very special day in the history of the Province of Saint Ann (USA). Those called to be consecrated religious brothers traditionally professed vows in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Sixty years ago, Brothers Thomas Mella SSS and Michael O'Leary SSS professed a life in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament on March 19, 1965, in Barre, Massachusetts (Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts). Brother Thomas joined the Congregation from his Brooklyn, New York City home. He primarily mainly served the Congregation in our parishes as a sacristan. We are grateful for his commitment to Chicago (Notre Dame de Chicago parish), Albuquerque (Saint Charles Borromeo), and

New York City (Saint Andrew downtown) from 1992 for 17 years and Saint Jean Baptiste since 2024. He resides at our parish next to our province center, Saint Paschal Baylon, Highland Heights, Ohio, in the Diocese of Cleveland. Brother Thomas continues to serve in various capacities in the order's Diocesan Shrine of Saint Ann, as its sacristan for the 11:30

Mass and after Mass devotions, and within the parish by being part of the Art & Environment Committee, recitation of the rosary, and assistant sacristan duties. We are so happy he shares his care, gifts, and talents.



Concelebrants from the Mass gather for a candid photo opportunity before enjoying a reception provided by the lovely Ladies' Guild of Saint Pashal Baylon Parish

Over the years, Brother Michael O'Leary was a paramedic and firefighter in Hyde Park, New York, Chicago, Illinois, and Highland Heights, Ohio. He was also instrumental in the 1990s in leading our internal Medical Office and establishing Regina Health Center (RHC), Richfield, Ohio, with the other religious orders of the Diocese of Cleveland. Because of Brother Michael's leadership, RHC has served many of our religious priests brothers and those of the other 14 participating religious communities for 32 years, winning award after award. Brother Michael has always enjoyed interesting hobbies, especially as he assists our men in getting to their doctors' appointments as principal driver, enjoying cooking and maintaining his tropical fish tanks.



Father Lane, provincial superior blesses Brother Michael and Brother Thomas at the end of the Mass



At our SSS dinig room, we enjoy an ice cream cake with the jubilarians

We thank these two men for their service to the Congregation and its various communities, our parishes, neighborhoods, and the Church in the USA. We appreciate and admire their witness and dedication to their religious profession of vows.



Social time before the SSS Party for Brothers Michael and Thomas