

1947-2007

This Spring I'll be ordained 60 years. And, not having been ordained 60 years before, I'm not sure how I'm supposed to celebrate, or to act, in this great anniversary. This is all new to me! Most of these affairs turn out to be unctuous elaborations of the obvious.

Having a Jubilee is like being a corpse at a funeral. One needs to hold the event, but nobody expects you to say very much—thank God!

For the most part, I have said the 6:30 Mass on week days and Sundays for the past 20 years. So, in the exercise of my geriatric gymnastics, I hope to say my 60th Anniversary Mass at 6:30 on Sunday, April 29th. This Mass will be said for all the good people who have put up with me for the last 60 years. As Cardinal Angelo Sedano said at an ordination in Rome: “The priesthood is not for ourselves, it is for the people.”

I'm also a practical man (I think), so I don't feel that you have to get up in the wee hours of the morning on the 29th. The insomniacs who attend the 6:30 on week days and Sundays, my usual crowd, will represent you and your loved ones. The Mass will be said and celebrated whether you are there or not. But it will be for your intention.

And please, no gifts! At this period of the fiscal year, you have already been impoverished by Uncle Sam, Governor Rendell, and all the gas stations on the Eastern seaboard.

This Mass is the only way—the best way—to say “Thanks” for 60 years of support in the priesthood. I'm a fortunate and lucky man! God bless you all!

Fr. Joseph T. Murphy

P.S.—If you do attend the 6:30 Mass, please stop down in the hall for a quick cup of coffee and a danish. I don't want you fainting by the wayside on your way home.