

About Father Simon Mary Zayas, T.O.R.



Father Simon was born (and baptized) in Tampa, Florida on 12 August 1956 into a family from Cuba and northern Spain. When he was five years old he expressed his determination to become a priest "when he grew up." He has three brothers in Florida and Texas (and a sister in Heaven). At age 17, he left home and entered the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis of Penance (T.O.R.) at Loretto, Pennsylvania, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and began studies at Saint Francis College (now University), in Loretto and after his Novitiate Year continued these studies. He went on to pursue Theological Studies at the University of Toronto in

Canada and professed his first vows on 1 June 1976, and was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ on 9 June 1984. Immediately after his First Mass, he went to the Mother House of Saints Cosmas and Damian in Rome, Italy and served many years as personal secretary to the Father General (Most Reverend Father Jose Angulo Quilis, T.O.R.). and was later elected Secretary General of the Order and repeated a second term after a General Chapter. Father Simon also served at that time as secretary to the beloved Archbishop John Henry Boccella, T.O.R., in Rome until his death in 1992.

Father served as Pastor of Souls at St. Benedict the Moor Church in mid-town Manhattan in New York City, served in Mexico with the friars of the Vice Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, taught high school in San Antonio, Texas at Antonium College Prep School and was Vicar to the parishioners at Saint Maximilian Kolbe Chapel in San Antonio, Texas (Extra Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite: Tridentine Mass).

Father Simon later served in the parish of Saint Maria Goretti, Arlington, Texas for three years and is presently Chaplain at the College of Saint Thomas More, Fort Worth, Texas (both Ordinary and Extra Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite). For several months now he has joyfully served the brothers and sisters of Immaculata Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, as Spiritual Assistant

With permission from his Provincial, he cares for his mother at home in Dallas, where they live with several, highly intelligent and very cute dachshunds.