

Priest earns recognition for service

On the occasion of his Golden Jubilee of Ordination, Father Peter Mary Rookey, a priest at Seven Holy Founders Church in Calumet Park, celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Sunday at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, 3121 S. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

A reception and dinner in his honor followed at the Glendora House, 10225 S. Harlem Ave., Chicago Ridge.



Father Peter Rookey

Born in 1916 in Superior, Wis., Father Rookey, who also has an office in Olympia Fields, was ordained in 1941 at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica. In 1930, he entered the Servite Seminary in Hillside. He studied theology, philosophy and music at Loyola and DePaul universities in Chicago.

In 1948, Father Rookey and six other members of the Servite Seminary founded the College of Our Lady of Benburb in Northern Ireland. The college has since become a world-renowned center for healing. Father Rookey directed the college for three years.

Father Rookey was elected to the office of Assistant General of the Servite Order, which placed him in Rome, in 1953. The office allowed him to do extensive traveling in Belgium, Ireland, Lapland, Africa and the Middle East. He speaks seven languages.

From 1959-61, Father Rookey directed the International College at the University of Louvain in Belgium. In 1968, he came back to the United States, where for 16 years he was assigned to four mission churches in the Missouri Ozarks.

In September 1985, Father Rookey returned to Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, where he served until August 1988. In November 1990, he moved to Seven Holy Founders in Calumet park.

Father Rookey also has an office in Olympia Fields to serve his International Compassion Ministry.