

in a

Word™

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Photo from Our Lady of Africa



Most Rev. Curtis Guillory SVD, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, ordained Carl Gales SVD, 44, and Derek Nguyen SVD, 34, on May 28 at Our Lady of Africa in Chicago.

The pair have been confreres since 2015 when they entered the Divine Word novitiate. Father Gales has been assigned to Our Lady of Africa for his first assignment. Father Nguyen will go to Ecuador for his first assignment.

Founded in 1875, the Society of the Divine Word has more than 6,000 members who serve the spiritual and social needs of people in more than 80 countries.



Two New Orleans high schools celebrate 100% college acceptance

Every student graduating in the 2022 graduating classes at two high schools has been accepted into a university or college.

St. Augustine High School and St. Mary's Academy are two New Orleans high schools celebrating an incredible achievement: every student graduating in the 2022 graduating classes has been accepted into a university or college.

St. Augustine High School spokesperson Mel Cordier said 100% of the school's 2022 graduating class received acceptance letters, of which 99 students will continue into higher education and one student will join the military. The graduating Purple Knights have selected to attend 33 different schools across the country, with 55% of those schools being in Louisiana. The graduating class earned a combined \$9.2 million in scholarships, Cordier said.



St. Mary's Academy is also celebrating a 100% graduating rate for the 20th year in a row. The school said the "small but mighty" class of 2022 consisted of 19 young women who earned a combined \$5.6 million in scholarships from schools across the nation.

The young ladies were also accepted into more than 100 universities.

For the past 20 years, St. Mary's Academy has had a 100% graduation rate. Also, for the past 20 years, all graduates received acceptance into a four-year university. This year's class is the smallest since the 1930s.



in a word or two



Father Malcolm Mark O'Leary, SVD, age 92, died on May 25, 2022. He was born April 21, 1930 to the late John O'Leary and Clementine Conway O'Leary in Sulphur Springs, Mississippi. He was one of twelve children and attended Sacred Heart School in Camden, Mississippi; as well as, Holy Ghost School in Jackson.

in 1958, O'Leary continued to face it at St. Francis Church in Yazoo City during his tenure there, from 1968 until 1972.

"Yazoo City had a law, a sidewalk tax. Black people had to pay that tax every year and keep that slip in their pockets" in case a policeman asked for it while they were downtown, O'Leary said.

After two years of boycotts of downtown stores, the city finally gave in, integrating schools and hiring black workers within the city, the fire and police departments and other areas.

"They realized we weren't trying to destroy the town," O'Leary said. "We just wanted justice."

We thank God for the years of service he gave. May he rest in peace.

Father O'Leary began his formal educational preparation for the priesthood in September of 1947 at St. Augustine Seminary in Bay St. Louis. Father O'Leary entered novitiate training in Techny, Illinois on Sept. 8, 1951 and took his first vows in 1953. On May 4, 1961, Father O'Leary was ordained into the priesthood at St. Augustine Seminary in Bay St. Louis.

Father Malcolm served in parishes in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. In Louisiana Father O'Leary served at Holy Ghost Church in Opelousas, Louisiana from 1993-2005.



In the Diocese of Jackson, Father O'Leary served at Sacred Heart Greenville from 1962-1964; St. Francis Yazoo City as associate pastor from 1967-1969 and pastor from 1969-1972; Holy Ghost Jackson from 1972-1980; Immaculate Conception Clarksdale from 1980-1984; and St. Mary Vicksburg from 2008-2018. He retired from active ministry in 2019 and was a resident at the Woodland Village Nursing Home in Diamondhead, Mississippi

Father Malcolm touched the lives of many people. Selika Sweet remembered him: "Father Malcolm always supported the entire community, my family and me. I visited him a few times prior to the pandemic. I saw pictures of his family with his light brown skin being the darkest of the Catholic family. I then asked the obvious thinking of the last name O'Leary. "How much Irish are you?" He laughed and responded, "The Black covers it."

Besides his humor Fr. Malcolm spoke openly against racism. An example is given in an August 4, 2008 article from Vicksburg Daily Journal where Fr. Malcolm's talked of racism. "Though American bishops denounced racism as immoral



Maryknoll Father John Siyumbu kneels in the sanctuary as Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, prays during an ordination Mass at the Maryknoll Society Center in Maryknoll, N.Y., June 3, 2022. Father Siyumbu, who is from Bungoma, Kenya, is the first seminarian from East Africa to be ordained a Maryknoll priest. He will serve in Latin America. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

Divine Word Missionaries is an international missionary community of over 7,000 brothers and priests. In 1905 the SVDs began working among African Americans in the Southern United States. Today, Divine Word Missionaries work in over 35 parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida and Arkansas. IN A WORD is a publication of The Society of the Divine Word's Media Production Center. Rev. James Pawlicki, S.V.D., Director and Editor; Cathy Green-Miner, office manager; consultant.

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