

# Father Bill Pickard to celebrate Golden Jubilee

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Special to the Herald

HOUSTON – Msgr. Bill Pickard is looking back at more than fifty years of priesthood and looking forward to next year... all with joy and wonder!

On Saturday, May 29, he will celebrate his 50th anniversary as a priest for this diocese, with a special Mass at St. Theresa Church, in Memorial Park, at 5:30 p.m.

"The fifty years have gone by so fast," Father Bill (he prefers "Father" over "Monsignor") explained. "It seems like just a few years ago when the six of us were ordained at St. Mary's Seminary in Laporte, the last class ordained there."

During his priesthood, Father Bill has accumulated many exciting stories. Ask him about his mission work in Guatemala when he was held up by guerillas, or about the time police invoked his help in a gun-toting situation, or about... the stories go on and on with Father Bill!

Father Bill is looking forward because of the recently established "Father Bill Pickard Scholarship Fund," for students at St. Theresa School. A native of Port Arthur, he was educated by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Because of his gratitude for his education, he has established this fund, in hopes of enabling others to receive a similar education.

His lengthy priestly career has encompassed many areas. After ordination he studied at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., where he received a doctorate in Canon Law, and was named to the Marriage Tribunal in Houston. During those years he assisted at St. Mary's in Plantersville; St. Mary's in Orange; Queen of Peace in La Marque and Sacred Heart in Houston. Father Bill also studied Spanish in Mexico City after being encouraged by his friend Father Patrick Flores, who is now Archbishop of the Archdiocese of San



Photo by Jonah Dycus/Herald

Msgr. Bill Pickard shows his personal contribution to the "Father Bill Pickard Scholarship Fund," to St. Theresa School Principal Frances Ramsey, while Father Stephen Tiemann, and 8th graders John Lastovica and Nick Toups look on.

Antonio.

In 1965, Father Bill asked the late Bishop John Morkovsky for permission to go to Guatemala as a missionary. While there, he founded two parishes, a medical clinic and a dental clinic. Upon his return in 1972, he was named pastor of St. Benedict Church, where he served for 12 years. He then served as vice rector and formation director of St. Mary's Seminary for six years, and pastor of St. Francis de Sales for 10 years.

Father Bill has also served as diocesan director of PreCana, Cursillos, DSF, chairman of the Priest Senate, chairman of the priest personnel committee and for priests continuing edu-

cation and Episcopal vicar.

In 2000, the park across from St. Francis de Sales was officially named the "Father Bill Pickard Park."

At the age of 70, Father Bill asked his long-time friend, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza to allow him to be a parochial vicar rather than to retire. He was named to St. Theresa where his pastor is his former student, Father Stephen Tiemann.

"I can do all the pastoral work I want, and not have to go to any meetings," the jovial, laid-back priest explained. "I love it. I'm still needed and do what I want to do, and whatever the boss (Father Steve) says," Father Bill joked. □