

## Introducing Father Francis Gillespie SJ

Fr. Gillespie has been a member of the Society of Jesus for 55 years and a priest for 47. He has pastored for five years in the Savannah Diocese, seven years in the Charlotte Diocese, six years in the Raleigh Diocese and for three years in the Charleston Diocese. He has also served in other pastoral capacities, including as retreat director, in the dioceses of Austin, Dallas and Allentown.

Fr. Gillespie holds a Masters of Divinity Degree, a Master's Degree in Philosophy from Boston College and a Doctorate in Sociology, with a concentration in Social Demography, from the University of Texas in Austin. In addition to his pastoral assignments, he has taught Jesuit grade school for two years in Osorno, Chile, where he also coached basketball for the high school; served as tenured faculty member at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia and research director and CEO of The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University. Fr. Gillespie has lived about three years in Latin America including Chile (2 years), Brazil (6 months), Mexico and Paraguay for two months each, and over a half dozen other Latin America countries. He has also lived three months in the Middle East, including two months in Jordan, with brief stints in Iraq, Lebanon and Israel.

Fr. Gillespie is Philadelphia born, one of six children of Irish immigrant parents. He has two brothers who are priests, one of whom is a Jesuit who pastors Holy Trinity parish in Washington, D.C., and the other is a diocesan priest now semi-retired from the Raleigh Diocese. He also has three married sisters and many nephews and nieces. Father Gillespie looks forward to serving the people of God at historic Old Saint Joseph's and to perpetuating its centuries-old Jesuit charism.