

**Rev. James M. Fondriest ~ July 14, 1989 - Mar. 28, 1994**

A Massillon native Father **Fondriest** was born June 12, 1946. He attended St. John School, Canton; St. Barbara, Massillon and Canton Central Catholic High School. His college and theology studies were taken at St. Gregory and Mt. St. Mary of the West Seminaries, Cincinnati, where he earned a bachelor of arts and master of divinity degrees. He served as Associate Pastor of at St. Joan of Arc, Canton, St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown, St. Paul, Salem, St. Joseph, Alliance, and St. Joseph, Ashtabula, prior to accepting his first Pastorate at St. Anthony in Canton. He served the people of St. Joseph's from July 14, 1989 until March 28, 1994. He also has worked with community groups for home health care and Hospice. Father Jim **Fondriest** stepped down as pastor of St. Joseph's to take a leave of absence from his spiritual duties in March, 1994. He left the ministry, married, and worked as bereavement coordinator for Cleveland Clinic Hospice. He and his wife, Betty Lou, retired to Florida. James **Fondriest** passed away July 17, 2021, in Estero, Florida.

