Fr. Richard to Observe Ordination Anniversary

The Rev. Paul J. Richard will observe the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the clergy during a special Silver Jubilee Mass to be held



THE REV. RICHARD

Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Visitation of Our Lady Church, 3520 Ames Blvd., Marrero.

A reception will follow the service.

Born on Jan. 31, 1922, the Rev. Richard was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 1948, at Notre Dame Seminary where he received his masters degree in history. His first Mass was celebrated at his home parish of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Metairie.

The Rev. Richard was appointed founding pastor of Visitation of Our Lady Parish on Aug. 15, 1963. On arrival, he was faced with a debt of $135,000 for the property purchased by the archdiocese.

In 1964 he started the parish's building program, constructing a church and school. He was successful, with the help of his parishioners, to employ the services of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

The Rev. Richard, one of the originators of the PARD recreation program, was a leader in garnering support for the construction of a new playground in the parish area. Through the cooperation of the Jefferson Parish Council, he was able to establish a recreation district by passing a bond issue.

In spite of the high cost of school operation, Visitation School, which is under supervision of the Rev. Richard, reports it successfully operates in the black.

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