

Fr. Charles Bisgrove, SCJ

1952-2011

Born in Lorain, OH, Fr. Charles Bisgrove, SCJ, professed vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 1972. Before his ordination to the priesthood in 1990, he had been a brother with the community for 18 years.

Fr. Charlie served in formation, and then administrative ministries. In the diocese of San Bernardino, CA, he was the executive secretary of the Diocesan Office of Worship, as well as executive secretary of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. He was also Bishop Phillip Straling's master of ceremonies.

In 1983, he became provincial secretary. From 1986 – 1989, Fr. Charlie also served as a member of the Provincial Council. It was during his term on the council that he enrolled in Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology and prepared for his studies for the priesthood.

Fr. Bisgrove served at St Gregory the Great parish in Milwaukee as a deacon, and then as an associate pastor. In 1993 he was named pastor of what was then Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary parish in Franklin, Wis. While he was pastor, Sacred Hearts merged with nearby Holy Assumption parish and became St. Martin of Tours.

Fr. Charlie later went on to serve as a chaplain with the Franklin Fire and Police Department. In 2001, he became certified to serve as a chaplain with the National Transportation and Safety Board. Just a few weeks later, he was called to duty and assigned to Ground Zero in New York City following the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers.

In 2006, Fr. Charlie made the first of several visits to India, a land that he quickly fell in love with. He first went to fill in for the novice master for two months while he was on sabbatical. In 2007, he returned to join the team.

At the time of his death from a stroke he was a member of the Sacred Heart Monastery Community, and served in various capacities at SHSST.



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