

Fr. Henchey Priestly Golden Jubilee Celebrations

**Most Reverend Moacyr J. Vitti, CSS address at St. Anthony's
North Woburn, MA, on March 26, 2006**

Very dear Fr. Henchey,

My warm greetings!

I could not miss sharing your Priestly Golden Jubilee celebration, for the brotherly and friendly ties which join us together.

Since I met you for the first time during your first trip to Brazil and later on here in the United States during the Stigmatine General Chapter of 1976, you became very special to me. As they say, it was some sort of — “love at first sight.”

However, it was in Rome, as Vicar-General of our Congregation, that I began to enjoy the richness of your personality, fraternity, spirituality and love of priesthood.

I had the joy of having you as my professor of Spirituality at the University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, the Angelicum. And, even greater grace, having you as mentor for my doctoral dissertation in Theology: “The Vocation under the Light of the Second Vatican Council”. I remember that in the most difficult moments of my studies, you were always there giving me strength and courage to overcome problems and difficulties.

For everything, dear Fr. Henchey, my gratitude and thanksgiving. I'm very happy to be here in your blessed parish which gave the Church and the Stigmatine Congregation so illustrious a son — that is you.

May the celebration of your 50 (fifty) years of priesthood be a stimulus and a source of new priestly and religious vocations for this community and the nation.

May God, through the intercessions of our Holy Patrons, Mary and Joseph, and our Founder, Saint Gaspar Bertoni, shower generously upon you abundant graces and blessings for all the good you have done in these 50 (fifty) years of your priesthood.

Now, I tell you: it applies fittingly to your person what has been said about Jesus: — “He lives doing good for others!”

My kind regards and Episcopal blessing.