



# Our Men in Black



## **Msgr. Thomas Dzielak** **Pastor, St. Andrew Parish, Rock Falls; Administrator, St. Mary Parish, Tampico**



### **Favorite prayer**

My favorite prayer at this time is St. Padre Pio's prayer after communion, "Stay with me, Lord."

### **What has been a holy moment for you in your priesthood?**

A holy moment for me in my priesthood was my trip to the Holy Land in 1984, especially the spot at the Sea of Galilee where Jesus is said to have forgiven St. Peter and asked him to "Feed my sheep."

### **What have you learned from your brother priests?**

Msgr. Charles Murphy, a classmate of Bishop Doran's and a friend of mine from our seminary days, once gave me the important advice to keep everything in my life in balance, and not to let one failure become the whole test of my relation-

ship to God.

### **Something about you few people would know**

Few people would know that I celebrated a wedding Mass twice for my father. He was widowed twice and married three times (I missed the wedding the first time!)

### **Advice for young people considering a vocation**

I would say to a young man considering the priesthood: "Listen to lay people in your parish if they tell you they think you would be a good priest. Pray about it seriously, because lay people often see things in you that you may not see yourself."

### **Favorite food**

I cook up a crock pot full of Chili several times a year. I use ground turkey, tomato soup, kidney beans, peppers (red, green and yellow), chili powder, a bay leaf, some barbecue sauce, and sometimes a bit of red wine. I heard some-

where that some people like to dump in a bottle of Club Soda, but I can't recommend that because I've never tried it. (Some people would add onions and/or cheese, but I don't like either one!) I let it cook on "low" most of the day and enjoy it at night, usually with a salad.

### **Favorite hobby or pastime**

My favorite pastimes are playing golf (with great mediocrity and frequent humility) and reading mysteries and history.

### **Favorite saint**

I don't have one favorite saint, but one I admire greatly is St. Thomas More.

### **Favorite temporal things**

Three favorite temporal things: the movie "The Last Hurrah" with Spencer Tracy, British comedies on TV, and my computer.