



Michael May, SJ
25 Years in the Priesthood

Since being ordained 25 years ago, my primary work has been teaching mathematics at Saint Louis University. I live between a number of worlds that often do not recognize each other. I teach mathematics and do research on theoretical topics that few people understand. I live in a residence hall with 500 of my closest 18 year-old friends and have now lived there longer than most of them have been alive.

I do administrative work for the university taking care of details that make the system work. I do sacramental work with campus ministry and supply at a number of local parishes. In all these worlds I have the privilege of personifying the church, being given credit for all the good the church has done, and being held responsible for all its ills. That remains true whether I am engaged in sacramental ministry in a parish, either preaching or hearing confessions, or pitching my tent among the students, baking cookies for them, and saying by my presence that the church thinks their lives are worthwhile. In all these situations I am expected to bring the Gospel to their lives. My salvation is that in giving voice to Christ's words I also hear them for myself.

