



**IAAS Walks of Life 2004**  
**Brother Michael O'Grady, SM**

Brother Michael, SM, is a native Clevelander and a proud son of the O'Grady and Casey families who hail from County Clare and County Monaghan, respectively. Baptized in one of Cleveland's original Irish parishes, St. Aloysius in the Glenville area, Br. Mike now is pastoral administrator of the parish.

First introduced to the Marianists while a student at Cathedral Latin, Br. Mike has lived the vowed Society of Mary religious life since 1965. A graduate of the University of Dayton, he earned a master's degree in religious education at Loyola University in Chicago. He first taught at St. Joseph High School in Cleveland, then served as religious education consultant for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He came to St. Aloysius as director of religious education in 1980, left for three years in 1986 to become vocation minister for the Marianist Cincinnati Province, then returned to the parish to serve in several capacities until placed in charge in 1997.

St. Al's, religious and educational bedrock of generations of Greater Clevelanders, was established at the end of the 19th Century for the area's then predominantly Irish-American population. Today, the parish serves Glenville's African-American community with its church, schools and community center. (In 1974 there was a merger with neighboring St. Agatha Parish, and in 1993 with Collinwood's St. Joseph.)

Among Br. Mike's major projects was his oversight of St. Al's year-long 100th anniversary celebration (1998-1999). Its various events drew generations of former parishioners (including two U. S. congressmen) back to their historic church, which was added to the Register of Cleveland Landmarks in 1985. The centennial also saw Br. Mike overseeing major improvements to the church and educational facilities.

He continues today the great commitment to excellent education that has always been an important value for the parish. In his personal life, he enjoys his nieces and nephews and, true to his Irish humor, he maintains that he has learned quite a bit about life and the Gospel by being a loyal and longtime Cleveland Indians fan.

Irish American Archives Society  
P.O. Box 91756  
Cleveland, Ohio 44101-3756