



LAITY IN SUPPORT OF RETIRED PRIESTS, INC.

CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE
FOR THOSE WHO SERVED



Reverend John C. Rourke

Father John Rourke, retired, of the Diocese of Venice, graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1959. He was ordained in 1963 in Worcester, Mass, after obtaining his Masters Degree in Theology and History.

His first ten years as a priest were spent as a missionary in the Dioceses of Fort Portal and Hoima, in Uganda, East Africa. Those were the years of the first uprisings in Rwanda and the South Sudan when Uganda became a refugee location under the auspices of the United Nations. Seven of those years he spent as pastor in Kilembe Mines, a Canadian-run copper enterprise with 29 different tribes, as well as European and Indian upper-level management. Upon the killing spree of Idi Amin, he returned to the States after the establishment of the Cathedral parish of the new Diocese of Kasese in the same country.

In the United States, he was assigned to the Nativity Parish in Brandon, Florida in the present Diocese of St. Petersburg, and then to parishes in Bradenton (St. Joseph), North Tampa (St. Mary's) Englewood (St. Francis of Assisi), Sarasota (St. Martha's), Naples (St. William's) and Siesta Key (St. Michael's). Until retirement, he worked as a missionary for five years on the island of Saint Maarten (Dutch side).

Presently he assists at San Marco Parish and is on the Board of Directors for the LSRP.