

Reverend James Buckley, FSSP

Fr. James Buckley grew up in a devout Irish Catholic parish in the South Bronx, attending a local grammar school taught by nuns and religious brothers. At an early age, he became interested in joining an order. Several religious communities visited his eighth grade class, and one of the communities, the Salvatorians invited him to enroll in their minor seminary in New Jersey, which he did. After graduating and serving a novitiate year in Iowa, he continued his studies at the Salvatorian center in Maryland and at the Catholic University of America. He was ordained a priest in 1965, the same year the Second Vatican Council ended. Although he had parish assignments in the U.S. and Africa, he spent most of his priesthood teaching. It was not what he originally expected he would do when he joined the order, yet he found he had a natural passion for it.

While he preferred the Traditional rite, Fr. Buckley was obedient to the Church and even initially supportive of the Second Vatican Council. By 1970, the Traditional rite he had grown up with was largely replaced by the Novus Ordo, and the effects of some of the changes that followed afterwards caused him concern. In 1992, four years after the FSSP was established, he accepted an invitation from Fr. Michael Irwin to join the Fraternity. He became the spiritual advisor of the seminarians and a member of the teaching faculty until his retirement. He now serves at Mater Dei, a Fraternity parish in Irving, Texas, and continues to offer Ignatian retreats nationwide.



May 31, 2018, St. Athanasius Chapel, Regina Caeli Parish

Primary source: "Fr James Buckley: Faithful Servant and Fearless Fighter for Truth", by Doug Bean, Celebrate LIFE Magazine, March 1, 2015