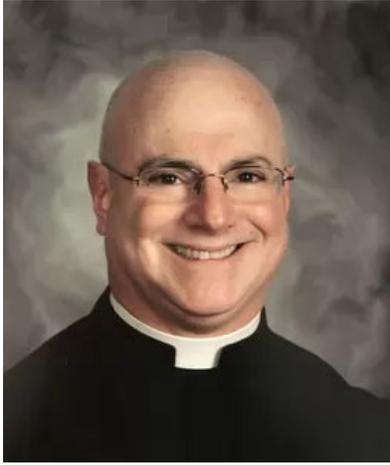


Biographical information for Fr. John Barbella Homilist for Forty Hours



I was born in Queens, New York, but grew up in New Jersey. I first felt that I might want to be a priest when I was about 6 or 7 years old. By age 14, I was certain that God was calling me to the priesthood.

After earning a degree in History from Montclair State College, I entered Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, where I earned degrees in Theology and Church History. I was ordained to the sacred priesthood on May 30, 1987 by Bishop Edward T. Hughes at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen, NJ. Since then, I have served as a parochial vicar (associate pastor) in St. Mary's Church in Alpha, NJ, Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church in Middlesex, NJ, St. Matthias Church in Somerset, NJ, and St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church in

Bridgewater, NJ. Before assuming my current pastorate at St. John Vianney Church in Colonia, NJ, I served as pastor of Ss. Philip and James Church in Phillipsburg, NJ, Holy Rosary and Holy Spirit Churches in Perth Amboy, NJ, and St. Jude's Church in Blairstown, NJ.

I believe that teaching the faith is among a priest's most important duties – and teach 8th and 4th grade religion in my parish school each week. I have also taught 5th and 8th grade CCD at times.

I believe a priest's main job is to help people get to Heaven. To this end, I do my best to help people get to know and love and serve God here on earth.

The Holy Mass is the absolute center and high point of my day. Time spent with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is another indispensable part of my prayer life. For this reason, I encourage people to make every effort to get to Daily Mass as much as they can, and make time for a Holy Hour at least weekly.

My other interests include following sports – especially baseball – and watching, modeling, and photographing trains. Reading about history – especially Church history – and baseball are also fun pastimes for me. Gathering with my extended family is also a big part of my life.

I am honored that Fr. Butera asked me to preach Forty Hours at Sacred Heart, and ask that you pray for me as the Forty Hours approaches. My parishioners know that I always ask them to pray at least one Hail Mary for me each day. If you could do the same, I would really appreciate it.

