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## Beloved Cistercian priest celebrates his Golden Jubilee | Faith

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The Rev. Bernard Marton stood out. While the other priests slowly walked into Cistercian Abbey Sunday morning dressed in cream-colored garments, Marton followed them bedecked in crimson and gold.

This was, after all, his Golden Jubilee Mass. It was exactly 50 years to the day that he celebrated his first Mass at Cistercian. It also happens to be the feast day of his namesake, St. Bernard.

The small abbey overflowed with guests who came to honor the dedicated priest. Teachers, alumni and students heard a tale of friendship when the Rev. Denis Farkasfalvy gave the homily.

"I'm honored to have been asked to speak today," Farkasfalvy said before sharing how much Marton had inspired him. "He was the only friend who had the time and patience for me."

After the Mass, Marton changed from his golden outfit to black and white and joined his friends for a reception in the courtyard. Family after family hugged and kissed him and posed for photos.

Throughout, Marton beamed.

"It snuck up on me," he said about his 50th anniversary. "It's just my normal routine."

Marton admitted that one part of the routine he does miss is teaching. He last taught at Cistercian in 2012 and since then has been working in Hungary, the home of the Cistercian order. He travels back and forth often.

Marton's many friends in Europe also got the chance to attend Golden Jubilee Masses. One was at the church where he was baptized and the other at Stams Abbey in Austria, where he served his first Mass as a priest.

At the Stams Mass, Marton wore the same alb embroidered by his mother and the same crimson and gold chasuble that he wore at the same altar 50 years ago.

A contingent of 17 from Cistercian, including six members of the Hamway family, made the Golden Jubilee Mass at Stams.

"It was amazing," Craig Hamway said.

"Father Bernard touches everyone wherever he goes," added his wife, Erin Hamway.

After a couple of hours, it was time to tear the beloved priest away from his friends who were still lingering at the reception. It was nearly noon and time for prayers.

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