

# The Thousander

Newsletter of the International Society for Philosophical Enquiry

August 2011

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## ISPE Web Site: Statistical Snapshot

In the past six months, the ISPE web site ([www.thethousand.com](http://www.thethousand.com)) has received 6,159 visits (3,994 unique visitors), with an average of more than 30 per day. Of these, direct traffic to the site accounted for 27.21% of visits, with 30.13% coming from search engine referrals (over 25% from Google), and 42.65% coming from referring sites (17.29% from Wikipedia). The top 10 countries providing visitors were as follows:

Rank/Country	Visitors
1. United States	2811
2. Denmark	467
3. United Kingdom	423
4. Germany	207
5. Australia	206
6. Mexico	196
7. Spain	161
8. Canada	130
9. Sweden	114
10. South Africa	98

Within the United States, California dominates the number of visits with 679, followed by Texas (381), New York (207), Florida (118), Massachusetts (101), Georgia (99), Virginia (90), Washington State (90), Illinois (72), and Pennsylvania (70).

61.54% of visits are new visitors, so it would seem that the web site remains a primary source for those learning about ISPE, and thus a key recruiting tool. This conclusion is also supported by the large number of referrals from search engines and Wikipedia. This percentage has remained remarkably consistent throughout the period tracked (beginning in April, 2008), as has the overall traffic pattern.



## The President's Corner

It is with sadness that we note the passing of two long-time members of our Society, both of whom were, coincidentally, in the service of the Roman Catholic Church. The Rev. Richard Tlapa served as pastor of a number of parishes in the Chicago area in his long career of some 67 years as a priest. Brother Kevin Friel was a Marist Brother for over 60 years, teaching mathematics at several schools in the Sydney, Australia area.

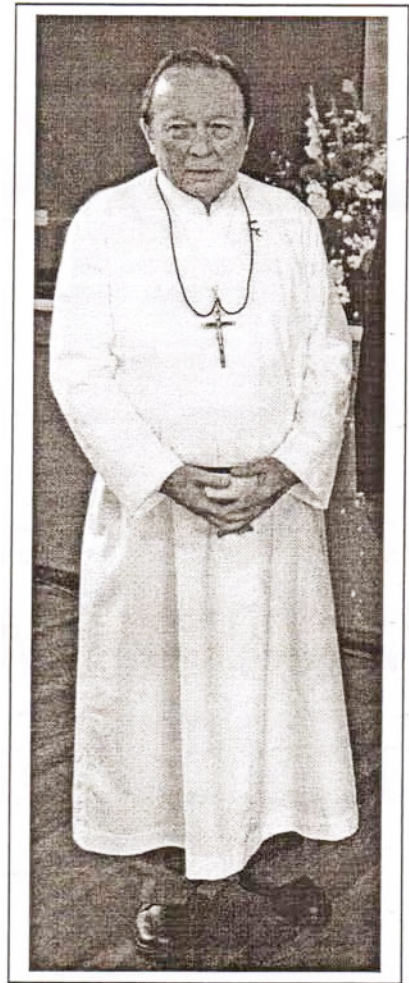
We remember them for their lives of dedication and service to others, as well as their love of life-long intellectual growth.

Patrick O'Shea, DMA, DSPE  
President

## In Memoriam: Br. Kevin Friel, FSPE

*The following memorial is reprinted from the Newsletter of Trinity Catholic College, Auburn, NSW, Australia (July 1, 2011).*

A long-serving Trinity teacher, Brother Kevin Friel passed away at Molloy House at St. Gregory's College early last Saturday morning. He was 80 years of age. He was a Marist Brother for over 60 years and taught in many schools, including Marist schools at Lismore, Maitland, Eastwood, Hunters Hill, Parramana, North Sydney, Kogarah and since 1994 at Auburn. His qualifications included B.A. (University of Queensland), Master of Art (University of Sydney) and Dip.Ed.Admin (UNE). In 1997 he received the Professor B. H. Neumann Award from the Australian Mathematics Trust for his outstanding contribution to Mathematics education. For nearly 30 years, Br. Kevin was a member of the NSW HSC Mathematics Syllabus Committee, for a number of years he was involved in setting the NSW School Certificate Mathematics Examination. In the 1970's and 1980's he set the written exam for NSW Mathematics Olympiad. He was also a member of the Australian Mathematics Competition Committee and a Moderator for the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians. Kevin was a member of Mensa (top 2% of the IQ range) and of the International Society for Philosophical Enquiry where admission is limited to people in the top 0.1% (99.9th percentile) of cognitive ability as measured by testing.



Br. Kevin specialised in teaching higher-level Senior Mathematics. A number of his students topped the State in HSC Mathematics. He continued to teach 3 and 4 unit Mathematics at Trinity until the end of 2006 when he was 76 years of age. In that year he was awarded the Executive Director's Award for Teaching Excellence. Br. Kevin never lost his enthusiasm for teaching and his interest in and love for young people. Until the last couple of years, he was always keen to attend the Year 12 Retreats and to act as a group leader.

Kevin came from a very loving family, was one of seven children and kept frequent contact with his siblings, nephews and nieces. Only his elder sister, May, survives him. He carried his love for family, the 'family spirit' over into his work and life as a Brother. The Brothers were his family as were the staff and students of each of the schools in which he worked. He took a personal interest in others, made friends easily and then worked hard at building and maintaining friendships through text messages, phone calls, cards and gifts. He had the ability to recall an amazing number of birth dates and anniversaries.

Br. Kevin was much loved and respected by his students at Trinity Catholic College. Many of his students kept contact with him long after they left Trinity and sought his advice. When he was admitted to hospital some weeks ago, they visited him and frequently asked about him. He was a sensitive and kind teacher and his students responded well to his approach and his interest in them.

Br. Kevin was a very talented man who could have done anything with his life but he chose to be a Marist Brother and to devote his life to God and to the education of young people. He is one of those people whom you always remember and who help you to be a better person.

Br. Kevin's Requiem Mass was held at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 5 July.

May he rest in peace: with Jesus, Mary and St Marcellin.

## In Memoriam: The Rev. Richard J. Tlapa, Diplomate

*The following memorial is reprinted from the web site of the Archdiocese of Chicago.*

**Chicago, IL (May 31, 2011)** - Rev. Richard J. Tlapa, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, died Saturday, May 28, in Merrillville, Indiana at the age of 91. He was pastor emeritus of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, formerly on Western Avenue, which is now closed.

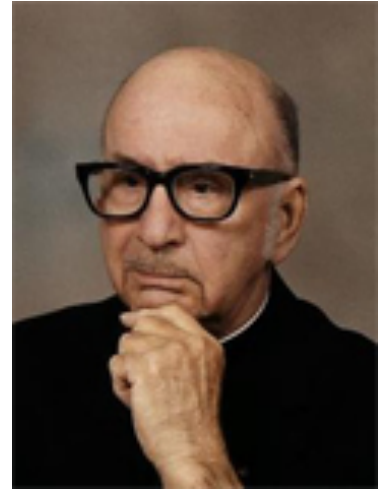
Fr. Tlapa came from a diverse cultural background. He was gifted intellectually and could read or speak eight languages. He authored two books published by Franciscan Herald Press, *New Apostles Mission to the Inner City* (1977) and *The Priest in the Pew* (1986).

Fr. Tlapa was born in Cicero on February 20, 1920. He attended public schools in his hometown before graduating from Quigley Preparatory Seminary and the University of Saint Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary. He was ordained by then Archbishop Samuel Stritch in 1944 and served as the assistant pastor of Blessed Agnes Parish (now St. Agnes of Bohemia) for the next eleven years.

In 1955, Fr. Tlapa became the assistant pastor of his home parish, Our Lady of the Mount in Cicero, where he served for seven years. For the next seven years, Fr. Tlapa served for one or two year periods in five parishes in Chicago and south suburban Harvey. These were: Our Lady of the Angels, now closed, (1962-63); Maternity B.V.M., (1963-64); SS. Cyril & Methodius (1964-66); St. Ludmilla, now closed, (1966-67); and Ascension Parish in south suburban Harvey that combined with St. Susanna Parish to form Ascension / St. Susanna Parish (1967-69).

Fr. Tlapa was made pastor in 1969 of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish on Western Avenue in Chicago, where he served until his retirement from active ministry in 1989. That year he was made pastor emeritus of the parish.

Following visitation and a funeral Mass at St. Stephen, Martyr Church, Merrillville, Indiana, Fr. Tlapa was interred at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Chicago. Fr. Tlapa is survived a cousin, Marie K. Gray of Merrillville.



## Family Member Seeks Information

Janine Rochfort, daughter of Robert Brian “Bob” Rochfort, recently contacted President O’Shea seeking further information on her father. Although ISPE records are not particularly detailed from the period in question (he was a member 1993-1995), the files do show him as a member residing in South Grafton, Australia at that time. Janine then made the following request:

*I know it's a long shot, but I would love to hear from anyone who may have had any contact or correspondence with him in the past. Would it be possible to put a notice in your journal or to distribute an email to anyone who was a member during this time? My contact details are as follows:*

33 Hillside Ave  
Nth Dandenong 3175  
Victoria, AUSTRALIA.

Work email: [Janine.rochfort@hsv.com.au](mailto:Janine.rochfort@hsv.com.au)  
Home email: [Janine869@gmail.com](mailto:Janine869@gmail.com)



*A global, scientific and philosophical society founded in 1974, dedicated to advanced enquiry, original research and creative contributions.*

*“The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits.” - Albert Einstein*

## International Society for Philosophical Enquiry

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