

# Fr. Terrence Dempsey, SJ



## Education

- 1963 - Graduate of Thomas W. Harvey High School
- 1967 - Bachelor of Arts from John Carroll University
- 1970 - Master's Degree in English from St. Louis University
- 1982 - Master's Degree in Art History from St. Louis University
- 1985 - Ordained as a Jesuit Priest at St. Francis Xavier Church, St. Louis, Missouri
- 1985 - Master of Divinity – Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, California
- 1991 - Doctoral Degree – Art History and Religion, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California

## High School Activities

- Leaders' Forum
- Sports correspondent to the Cleveland Press, Plain Dealer, and Telegraph
- W.M.P.W. Scholarship Club
- Key Club
- Har-Binger Sports Editor
- Student Council Treasurer
- Student Court
- National Honor Society
- Drama Club Presentations
- French Club

## Career Service

- 1969-75 - Taught English and Humanities at DeSmet Jesuit High School, St. Louis, Missouri
- 1971-75 - Chair of the English Department at DeSmet Jesuit High School
- 1975-77 - Taught English at Riverside High School, Painesville, Ohio
- 1977 - Entered the Society of Jesus, Missouri Province
- 1981-82 - Taught at Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School, St. Louis, Missouri
- 1990- - Associate Professor of Art History, St. Louis University
- 1990-95 - Curator of the McNamee Gallery in Cupples House, St. Louis University
- 1992- - Founding Director of the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art at St. Louis University
- 1995 - First Holder of the May O'Rourke Jay Endowed Teaching Chair in Art History and Religion at St. Louis University

Terry Dempsey's accomplishments have been numerous since his days at Thomas W. Harvey High School. He has been recognized nationally for his contributions to the field of religious art. Father Dempsey is now the director of the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art at St. Louis University. The museum is the first of its kind in the world to have the specific aim of creating an inter-religious dialogue through works of contemporary art. The museum features exhibits of works by artists of diverse religious traditions and has been the subject of articles in American and European newspapers and journals. It is hoped that the museum will restore a centuries-old relationship between religion and art.

## Comments by Father Dempsey:

"This museum would likely not exist if it were not for two very influential teachers at Harvey High School: Mrs. Geordis Soules-Jackson (teacher of English) and Mrs. Elizabeth Milliken (teacher of World History), who were the first to introduce me to art and to interdisciplinary teaching in their courses. They were the first to open the doors for me to the visual arts, and they were two of the finest teachers I have ever had. Because of the quality of their teaching and of the connections they were able to make between literature, history, and art, my own life took a direction that some 30 years later led to the creation of this museum in St. Louis. In fact, I dedicated my doctoral dissertation to them. I am profoundly grateful to them and to the other fine teachers and administrators at Harvey High School who made a difference in my life."

## Inducted:

Member of The Harvey Alumni Association  
Distinguished Graduates  
June 3, 1997