

Dear Roger,

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My associate for nineteen years, Sister Susan Staff, took an old Christmas card list to publicize two anniversaries of mine that just ensued, the 65th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, September 29, 1945 and the beginning of my 90th year of life, born, October 21, 1921. Surprisingly, more than two hundred fifty beautiful cards, letters, e-mails, phone calls, flowers etc. including yours came. Many people thought that I had already lived ninety years. The fact is that I am now starting my 90th year. I apologize for any misunderstanding on that score.

Needless to say, the surprise outpouring of so many good wishes from so many good people including Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, left me amazed and happy and I savored every word of them. Many people went overboard but even though I know that such accolades are largely undeserved, I hugged myself to sleep hoping that there was a kernel of truth in it somehow. So, hoping that I still have the self discipline necessary to respond, I am now determined to attempt a personal response to each one. Since Christmas is now next on the horizon I hope to get them all finished in time for the celebration of Our Savior's birthday

Roger, things have turned against me health wise and I have in effect become a hermit. I'm always impressed with your deep interest in ecclesiastical matters including Dolan's rise to the top job in the USA. I do not answer phones anymore. Hope you are well, and St. John's No.1 fan, Fr. Hauser

Fr. Gerald Hauser