

## Reverend Simon Harkins, FSSP District Bursar of North America

Born in a small village east of Edinburgh, Fr. Harkins grew up in a staunchly Catholic home in a Catholic village in mostly Protestant Scotland. His village was 99% Catholic, next to a neighboring village that was 99% Protestant, and it had been this way for generations. His family had a long tradition of the eldest son becoming a priest, though it did not happen in the case of his father. Still, the family thought it important for him to attend the same minor seminary that his father had attended.

He enjoyed his time at boarding school, but decided to pursue a civil engineering career. He eventually became Director of Social and Economic Regeneration for the City of Newcastle upon Tyne, England and managed the largest redevelopment project in the United Kingdom. Despite his secular success, he was looking for something more and considered entering a priestly order. When he heard a Traditional Mass would be celebrated by the Fraternity in his area, he came and was hooked. He requested a visit to discern at the seminary in the U.S., and although an invitation was extended, it was a year later before he could come. He entered Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in 2003 and was ordained a priest in May 2010. Returning home to Scotland, he celebrated a First Mass in Edinburgh Cathedral in the presence of His Eminence Keith Cardinal O'Brien, who preached the sermon.

Prior to being appointed District Bursar in 2015, Fr. Harkins served in several apostolates, including Seattle and Minneapolis.



*September 17, 2016, Caretaker's House, Houston*