

Born June 3, 1963, in Chicago, Illinois, Father Belmonte is the son of the late Joseph and Suzanne Belmonte, lifelong Chicagoans. He has a twin brother, Joseph, who is married to Julie and resides in Arlington Heights, Illinois. They have two children, Tessa, 13, and Joseph, 11. He has a younger brother, Matthew, who is married to Diana and after retirement from the U.S. Air Force resides in Beaver Creek, Ohio with their sons, Jack, 13, and Nicholas, 11.

When he was 5 years old, his family moved to suburban Chicago where they belonged to Our Lady of the Wayside Parish in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Father Belmonte attended public school at Arlington High School where he graduated in 1981. He enrolled at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and graduated in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in History. Upon graduation, Father Belmonte entered the Society of Jesus in St. Paul, Minnesota and pronounced vows in 1987. Two years of philosophy and humanities studies at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, followed. In preparation for ordination to the priesthood, he completed his theological studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy, graduating with the Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology in 1995. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 14, 1996 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1997 completed a Licentiate in Sacred Theology with a concentration in Sacred Scripture at Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1999, Father Belmonte enrolled in the doctoral program in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Loyola University Chicago, which he completed in 2006. His dissertation is entitled, "To Give Ornament, Splendor and Perfection: Diego de Ledesma and Sixteenth Century Jesuit Educational Administration." While working on his doctoral program, he served as the Director of Pastoral Ministry at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago from 1999 to 2003. He has taught theology and social studies at the high school level. From 2004 to 2010 he served as principal of the Jesuit college prep high school in Milwaukee, Marquette University High School. He presently serves as the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Joliet, a position he has held since July 2010. In 2013 he was elected to the NCEA board and presently serves as Vice-President of the superintendent's committee. He is a priest in residence at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Joliet, Illinois. He also presides monthly at Sunday mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, Chicago. You can follow him on Twitter @Father_Belmonte. You can visit the app he created with a marketing team in Chicago to (re)engage young Catholic parents at www.weparentmore.org.