

October 18, 2008

Death Notice No. 27 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Province of the United States of America, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **CHARLES BOGLITZ**, of the Cupertino Marianist Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 12, 2008 in Cupertino, California, in the 92nd year of his age and the 74th year of his religious profession.

Charles was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on December 22, 1916, the fourth of six children of Joseph and Lenna (Bokan) Boglitz. Money was tight, and the family of eight lived in two rooms. When Charles was 10 years old, his family moved to a larger home near Most Holy Name grade school. It was the first year they could afford to buy a Christmas tree.

At Most Holy Name, Charles was taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame. He often helped them after school and during the summer. After confiding to one of the Sisters that he was interested in religious life, she introduced Charles to her brother who was a Marianist priest.

At age 13, he entered the postulate of the Society of Mary at Mount St. John in Dayton and finished his high school work in three years. In 1934, he began his novitiate year at Mount St. John and professed first vows in 1935. After two years of scholasticate (college) at Mount St. John, Bro. Charles was sent to teach at St. James Grade School in Baltimore. As a new teacher, Bro. Charles learned quickly that strict discipline would serve him well in the classroom. With sadness, he left Baltimore in 1939 to take a teaching job at Holy Trinity grade school in Brooklyn. His consolation, however, was that the World's Fair was being held in New York. He managed to attend the fair three times.

During this time, Bro. Charles spent summers finishing his degree at the University of Dayton. He graduated in 1940 with a bachelor's degree in education. That same year Bro. Charles professed perpetual vows at Mount Saint John.

In 1941, Holy Trinity School closed. Bro. Charles was a fan of New York and wanted to stay. He requested a position at St. John's Home for Boys, an orphanage run by the Marianists in Brooklyn. The orphanage served about 500 children ranging in age from 10 to 18. "You had to be tough to survive the home," said Bro. Charles. "Quite a few religious did not make it." Bro. Charles was proud that four of his students at St. John's Home entered the Society of Mary.

He described his assignment to St. James Grade School in San Francisco in 1945 as "a great gift from the Lord, one for which I will always be grateful." Bro. Charles taught sixth and seventh grade at St. James for four years. After spending a year at Saint Louis College (1949-1950) in Honolulu, Bro. Charles was back in San Francisco to teach Latin at Archbishop Riordan High School for the next six years.

One of his summer duties at Archbishop Riordan was to change the combinations on the school's 500 lockers. He often recruited students to help and used this time to promote religious life to the students. It worked, according to recruit Fr. Jack Russi. "Bro. Charles was always on patrol for Marianist vocations," said Fr. Jack. "He was a very good recruiter and had a great love for vocation work."

In 1956, Bro. Charles moved to St. Joseph High School in Alameda, California, and taught religion, English and French and directed the school library. After a year at Chaminade High School in Los Angeles (1960-1961), Bro. Charles began over 30 years of ministry at Junipero Serra High School in Gardena, California.

At Junipero Serra, Bro. Charles taught Latin, English and religion and ran the school library. Bro. John Haster, a former Boglitz student and Marianist recruit, worked with Bro. Charles at Junipero Serra. "As a teacher, he was excellent but strict. He liked to talk and tell stories," said Bro. John. "As a librarian, he was particular. He wanted all books to be neat and orderly."

Fr. Tim Kenney, another Marianist recruited by Bro. Charles, said he truly believed in Catholic Marianist education. "To Charlie it was a way for the poor to rise out of poverty, for society to have faith-filled citizens and was a means to strengthen the Church by forming students in gospel values. It also was a way of inviting young people into religious life," said Fr. Tim.

In his later years at Junipero Serra, Bro. Charles volunteered his services in the school office, serving as a receptionist and file clerk. He joined the Marianist retirement community in Cupertino, California, in 1994. His ministry continued as he wrote and assembled pieces on Marianist history. Despite having a deformed foot his entire life, Bro. Charles was an avid walker well into his 80s and became somewhat of an icon in his Cupertino neighborhood. "You could set your watch by Bro. Charles' walking schedule," a columnist once wrote in a *Cupertino Courier* article about the neighborhood.

Bro. Charles took great pride in the students he taught, especially those who pursued religious life. "He was very loyal and extremely supportive of the men he recruited into the order," said Fr. Jack Russi. "He wrote us letters and was interested in our careers throughout our lives."

Fr. Tim Kenney said he was always encouraged by his conversations with Charlie. "I will be eternally grateful for the invitation he gave me. Charlie was a wonderful friend, wisdom figure and mentor."

May he rest in peace.