

Remembrance of Brother Charles Boglitz, SM  
Marianist Center, Tuesday, October 14, 2008

This afternoon we remember Brother Charles Boglitz  
who died Sunday evening at El Camino Hospital.  
He will be remembered in our Necrology  
as having died on October 12, 2008.  
He was, as you know, in his 92<sup>nd</sup> year  
and his 74<sup>th</sup> year as a Marianist.  
It is now the sixth time since June  
that we have gathered as a community  
to remember one of our recently deceased fellow Brothers.  
And he had been with us for many years,  
first at the Alcalde House with Brother Leo,  
then at Villa Saint Joseph, and finally here at the Marianist Center.  
It is a special occasion for us to thank God  
for what God has done for him and through him  
and to pray confidently for the grace of eternal rest.

*May the Father...*

Now Brother Stanley will review Charlie's life for us.

"Bro. Charles Boglitz was born on December 22, 1916, to Joseph and Lena Pokan Boglitz in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He entered the postulate at Mount St. John on July 31, 1931. He began his year of novitiate at Mount St. John on August 14, 1934. A year later he professed his first vows in the Society of Mary August 15, 1935; among the newly professed were Joe Kindel, Bert Clemens and Elmer Dunsky. In August 25, 1940 he finalized his commitment to the Society with perpetual vows. After a two-year scholasticate at Mount St. John, Bro. Charles began his teaching ministry which spanned from coast to coast and beyond to Hawaii. St. James Grammar School greeted him in 1937. From there he went to Most Holy Trinity in Brooklyn and St. John's Home, also in Brooklyn.

In 1945 Charlie left the immediate confines of the Cincinnati Province for San Francisco and St. James Grammar School. He was there until 1949 when he taught in Hawaii for one year at St. Louis Elementary School, whose present building houses the classrooms of Chaminade University of

Honolulu. Returning to the mainland the following year he was assigned to Riordan High School as it began its second academic year. 1956 saw another change for Charlie as he motored across the Bay Bridge to St. Joseph High School in Alameda. After four years at St. Joseph's he taught for one year at Chaminade High School in Cheviot Hills. Not wishing to move with the faculty and students to its present location in West Hills Charlie was assigned to our school in Gardena.

For the next 33 years he taught and was librarian at Serra. Even in retirement from teaching in 1993 he still assisted in whatever way he could. Finally, in 1994 he came to Villa St. Joseph. He and Bro. Leo Rausch lived in the Alcalde House until circumstances made it necessary for Charlie to move to the Villa. Charlie's last year had been a troubled one. May the good Lord grant him the peace of his eternal kingdom."

Brother Stanley Murakami, SM

*May the Father...*

As various members of the community shared reflections on Brother Charles' life and ministry, I noted the following comments: How important it was to have known Charlie in his prime – helping us to understand him better in these years of retirement from active ministry. The significance of the peaceful conclusion of his life, citing recent visits of Brother Bill Farrell and Father Jim Mifsud. I quoted what Brother Bill wrote from Guatemala: "My last meeting with Charlie was about a week ago when I stopped in to say hello. It was a very positive meeting and he was very cordial and engaged. We talked about my work in Guatemala and he showed keen interest in me and everything we were doing here. I remember him as a man of strong opinions and keen interests.

He knew a great deal about the Pacific Province and I remember reading with interest his history of the Province. I lived with him one summer in Gardena and admired his interest in the students and the changing demographics. Charlie had a long life and who can measure a man? He died in peace and I believe I am better for having known him." I also cited this tribute from a Marianist Mission Legacy of Saint Joseph mailing three years ago: "... a man who loves his life and work God has given him to do. That cheerful spirit can be seen in his face. It can also be heard as Brother

Charles recalls his life as a Marianist. As he recounts his assignments you hear phrases like '3 pleasant years' '4 exciting years' 'enjoyable years' '4 marvelous years'...

"Brother John Haster and Father Jack Russi shared colorful anecdotes about their relationship with Brother Charles when they were students at Riordan ... we also learned that Charlie wanted to be known as Brother Charles, not Mr. Bogo ... Brother Gene Frank expressed his appreciation of Charlie mentoring him in his first years of teaching ... both Brother Gene and Father Joe Stefanelli praised Charlie's exceptional work in the Province archives ... several referred to Charlie's knowledge of the worldwide SM and I recalled how Charlie would go through the international personnel with me, asking questions about people he had never met or places he had never visited..."

Charlie had a difficult transition from Gardena to Cupertino, from the Alcalde House to the Villa, from the Villa to the Marianist Center – but in each case his initial uneasiness turned into graceful acceptance. His curiosity – or interest in all things – and attention to detail were legendary. He was determined and strong willed even until the end of his life. He wrote a history of the Province of the Pacific, including his colorful commentaries on persons and events.

He was handicapped physically but forced himself to walk as long as he possibly could. He was a great correspondent and kept me informed about life at Villa Saint Joseph during my years on Maui. In one of those letters he wrote about winning the contest to identify those who died at the Villa as "Faithful sons of Chaminade." His only dissatisfaction with the photos of the deceased was that he wanted photos taken earlier in life rather than at the end! At the time of his 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee, the Province biographical sketch noted "perhaps his greatest satisfaction comes from the 16 religious he has helped to educate: 8 Marianists, 5 diocesan priests, and 3 priests from other religious orders."

*May the Father...*

And now, let us pray...

Almighty and gracious God, you who are compassion and love,

we thank you for all you have done for our Brother Charles  
in giving him life and faith and calling him to the Society of Mary,  
sending him on mission until the very end of his life...  
We thank you for all you have done for others through him.  
We are confident he is with you now,  
watching our own journey,  
and supporting us by his prayerful intercession  
to continue responding to the call of our Founder  
who said we are all missionaries!  
We ask you to give us light and courage  
and as always we make our prayer  
in the name of your Son Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Stephen Tutas, SM