

Fr. Don Cowie
60 years professed



My knowledge of and love of the Marianists began in 1943 as I entered Eugene Coyle High School in Kirkwood, Mo. We were a small parish high school with four-and-a-half Brothers to do all the teaching. (One was part-time!) There were no Marianist priests since the parish priests helped.

After my first year of college at St. Louis University, a time of wondering about my future, I realized just how much I admired my Marianist teachers and I asked to join them. The next four years were a great education: the novitiate in Galesville, Wis., one year at Maryhurst, another at Mount St. John in Dayton, and the final college year and graduation from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

My first year of teaching at McBride High School in St. Louis was good enough to put into my mind and heart that "I could gladly do this the rest of my life." I have never seriously doubted that commitment. Four years at McBride (the first four years of Archdiocesan-wide racial integration) were great years. The next year was in Milwaukee at Don Bosco High School. Then I took the long trip across the ocean for five years of seminary at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland.

In 1962 I came back as a newly ordained priest to Don Bosco and four years as teacher-chaplain. Lots of new things to learn. The summers were busy at Catholic University working towards a master's degree in religious education.

Then came a seven-year break in my high school mission: two at St. Mary's University as scholastic chaplain and theology teacher, followed by five years, from 1968 to 1973, in the novitiate in Galesville, Wis. Good years, but tough.

After serving as Novice Master, I made my permanent return to the high school scene. For the third time I was sent to Milwaukee, this time to St. Thomas More

High School for one year, then six years at Central Catholic in San Antonio, 14 more at St. John Vianney High School in St. Louis, and finally 14 more back here at Central Catholic in San Antonio.

In the summers of 1974 to 1976, while at St. Mary's University directing an informal "renewal program," I began helping out with Masses at Camp TECABOCA on weekends. Since 1977 I have been "full-time" summer chaplain for the camp.

TECABOCA has a symbiotic spiritual relationship with six other camps in the hill country in the sense that I have been their guest chaplain, saying the weekend Masses for Catholics in these camps. A busy but great mission.

Currently here at Central Catholic I have just two freshman religion classes, two daily Masses, daily confessions during the cafeteria shifts, and a few other priest-chaplain services.

At 79 I am delighted to be of service. I am so grateful for my life as a Marianist. The Brotherhood, Fr. Chaminade's charism, and my long years as teacher-chaplain have been the delight of my life.