

PRAESTANS INTER OMNES AWARD
"PROCLAMATION":

BROTHER WILBERT HAMM, S.M., IS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF THE MARIANIST ORDER'S CHARISMS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, PEACE, AND, ABOVE ALL SERVICE TO OTHERS. BORN IN PITTSBURGH EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, HE LEARNED OF THE MARIANISTS IN 6th, 7th, AND 8th GRADES AND REALIZED HIS CALLING TO THIS VOCATION SOON AFTER.

HE SERVED HIS NOVITIATE IN BEACON, NEW YORK, AND PROFESSED AS A MARIANIST BROTHER ON AUGUST 24, 1942. HIS COLLEGE STUDIES INCLUDED ST. LOUIS AND ULTIMATELY GRADUATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON IN 1944. HE LATER RECEIVED HIS MASTERS IN EDUCATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH IN 1955.

HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT WAS AS PREFECT AND PART-TIME TEACHER AT ST. JOHN'S HOME FOR BOYS IN BROOKLYN, 1944 TO 1946. AFTER THAT, HE SERVED ONE YEAR AS AN ACCOUNTING

TEACHER AT PURCELL IN THE 48-49 SCHOOL YEAR BEFORE MOVING ON TO CATHEDRAL LATIN HIGH SCHOOL IN CLEVELAND THROUGH 1952.

HE SERVED A SECOND NOVITIATE IN EUREKA MISSOURI BEFORE TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS AGAIN IN CLEVELAND, CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL IN DAYTON, AND A YEAR AS AT HAMILTON CATHOLIC. HE FINALLY SETTLED DOWN, SOMEWHAT, TEACHING FOUR YEARS AT PURCELL FROM 1959 TO 1963.

FROM DECEMBER OF 1963 TO AUGUST OF 1965 HE SERVED AS SECRETARY AND ACCOUNTANT TO THE HEAD OF TEMPORALITIES AT THE MARIANIST GENERAL ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS IN ROME, ITALY.

AFTER A ONE-YEAR STINT AT ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL IN CLEVELAND, HE SERVED ELEVEN VERY HAPPY YEARS, FROM 1960 TO 1977, AS A TEACHER

AND DRIVER-TRAINING INSTRUCTOR HERE AT PURCELL. HE WAS NEEDED AT MOELLER HIGH SCHOOL FOR ONE YEAR IN 1977, AND THEN COMPLETED TWENTY-EIGHT CONSECUTIVE YEARS AT PURCELL AND PURCELL MARIAN AS A TEACHER, DRIVER TRAINING INSTRUCTOR, SCHOOL RECEPTIONIST, INCLUDING TWELVE YEARS AS A VOLUNTEER IN CHARGE OF THE SPIRIT ROOM. HE CONTINUES TO VOLUNTEER IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT OFFICES AT MOELLER.

WHENEVER PURCELL AND PURCELL MARIAN ALUMS GATHER, THERE ARE ALWAYS FOND RECOLLECTIONS OF BROTHER HAMM. MANY HAVE STATED HOW THEY FEARED HIS DISCIPLINE BUT NOW, LOOKING BACK, REALIZE HOW MUCH THEY LEARNED FROM HIS HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF THEM. THEY REMEMBER HIS COIN JAR AND THE MONEY RAISED FOR MARIANIST MISSIONS. A RECENT CAVALIER NEWSLINE STORY STATED: "HERE AT

PURCELL MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL IT IS THAT DEDICATION TO THE THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE, THE VALUE OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AND THE QUEST OF CHRIST THROUGH MARY, THE MARIANIST TRADITION, THAT WE SEE IN BROTHER HAMM."

IN MORE THAN SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE HE HAS TOUCHED THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS, PROBABLY THOUSANDS, OF YOUNG PEOPLE. IT IS A SMALL TOKEN OF THANKS THAT WE HONOR HIM WITH THIS PRAESTANS AWARD AS "OUTSTANDING AMONG ALL."

*N.B. Prepared by the
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