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Death Notice No. 1 (To all Unit Administrations):



The Region of Austria-Germany, recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **MARTIN HROSCHEK** of the Marianist Community of Freistadt who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on January 21, 2010 in Linz, Austria in the 96th year of his age and the 80th year of his religious profession.

Bro. Martin was born on August 4, 1914, in Sacherles (now Kamenná) in Southern Bohemia as the first child of his parents. Since his father was killed in action shortly after the beginning of World War I, Martin was the only child of his mother Katharina. In 1924, mother and son moved to Freistadt where Martin attended the preparation class at our Marianum. Already on September 7, 1925, he joined the postulate in the same house and attended the secondary school.

During the year 1929-30, Martin was a novice at Greisinghof and made his first profession of vows on August 30, 1930. He then attended the teachers training college at the Marianum which he completed in 1933.

From 1933 to 1937, Bro. Martin taught at the primary and secondary school in the same house. On July 18, 1937, he professed perpetual vows and moved to Vienna to teach at the primary school of Albertus-Magnus-Schule, of which the Society of Mary took charge that same year.

When all the Catholic schools were closed in 1938 by the Nazi regime, Bro. Martin and two confreres were sent to Istanbul to teach at St. George's College of the Vincentians. Those were beautiful years for all three of them, far away from the war. In 1944, they were forced to leave Turkey, and Bro. Martin was drafted by the "Volkssturm", a provisional military organization.

In Autumn of 1945, Bro. Martin was sent to the Marianum in Vienna, to study at the University. In a remarkably short time of three years, he finished his studies (German and English) and obtained a doctoral degree (Ph.D.). In 1948 he started his life's work as professor of German and English at the teachers training college Marianum in Vienna. Students appreciated his intellectual standard, his professional skills and his total dedication to them. During many years he was also prefect at the boarding school. So he helped prepare hundreds of future Catholic teachers for their vocation. In 1959-60 Bro. Martin was also Master of Scholastics.

Encouraged by three members of his community who had lived in the United States during World War II, he seized the opportunity to make the Second Novitiate in Glencoe (Missouri), in the year 1958-59.

In 1975, Bro. Martin stopped teaching because of problems with his eyes and ears. He then became a member of various communities: Greisinghof (1975-77), Salzburg (1977-1983), Vienna-AMS (1983-86 and 1988-92) and Freistadt (1986-1988, and from 1992 on). He rendered valuable services to the Province, the communities and the people around, by doing translation work, by giving private classes, and – almost until his death – by playing the organ during liturgies. He spent his last years at a Nursing Center of the Sisters of St. Francis in Linz.

It was always a pleasure to talk to “Doctor Hroschek” because of his fine humor. He was a very distinguished confrere, always polite and ready to help. We thank him for the great work he has done in our Region and for his exemplary religious life. Though his modesty may somehow overshadow it, his contribution to our dear Society was really great.