

The Province of the United States of America recommends to our fraternal prayers our dear brother, **BERNARD LAURINAITIS**, of the Mercy Siena Community, who died in the service of the Blessed Virgin Mary on October 22, 2008, in Dayton, Ohio, in the 83<sup>rd</sup> year of his age and the 65<sup>th</sup> year of his religious profession.

Ben was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on May 17, 1926, to Joseph and Anna (Morosky) Laurinaitis. He was taught by the Sisters of Mercy at St. Peter's grade school and attended North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh for two years. After his sophomore year of high school, Ben was prompted by one of his teachers, a Marianist brother, to consider religious life. "The thing that struck me most was the genuine family spirit that existed between the brothers and the peaceful happiness they manifested on every occasion," he wrote.

In 1942, Ben entered the postulate of the Society of Mary at Mount St. John in Dayton. He was sent to Beacon, New York, in 1943 for novitiate training. Bro. Ben professed first vows in 1944 at Beacon and final vows in 1947 at the University of Dayton.

He received a bachelor's degree in education in 1947 from the University of Dayton, a master's degree in English in 1955 from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in library science in 1968 from St. John's University in New York.

Bro. Ben served the Marianists as a teacher, librarian and archivist. He began his teaching career in 1946 at Cathedral Latin School in Cleveland. For the next 30 years he taught at a number of Marianist high schools, including Colegio San José in Puerto Rico, Purcell in Cincinnati, Chaminade in Mineola, New York, Hamilton Catholic in Hamilton, Ohio, St. Joseph in Cleveland, St. Paul's College in Altona, Australia, and North Catholic in Pittsburgh. Bro. Ben taught religion, English, history, Spanish and science.

"I taught a number of subjects, including economics, which I never studied in college," said Bro. Ben. "In those days, you did whatever they told you to do!"

In addition to teaching, Bro. Ben served as a librarian at schools in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Australia from 1965 to 1977. He was a member of the American Library Association and Catholic Library Association.

Bro. Ben took on a new role in 1977 when he was assigned as the assistant archivist for the former Marianist Province of Cincinnati. He lived at the Marianist community on the campus of the University of Dayton and worked in the Marianist archives at the Roesch Library for over 20 years. He was a member of the Society of American Archivists and the Society of Ohio Archivists.

Fr. Paul Vieson, who worked in archives with Bro. Ben, described him as a quiet, retiring man who lived very simply. "He had a fine mind and was quite methodical but was very shy," said Fr. Paul. "He was never demanding and always tolerant. One of his oft repeated remarks about just about anything was: 'Verrrry good.'"

In 2004, on the occasion of his 60<sup>th</sup> jubilee as a Marianist, Bro. Ben said, “If anyone asked me now ‘Did you make the right decision in becoming a Marianist?,’ I would respond without hesitation, ‘Absolutely!’”

May he rest in peace.