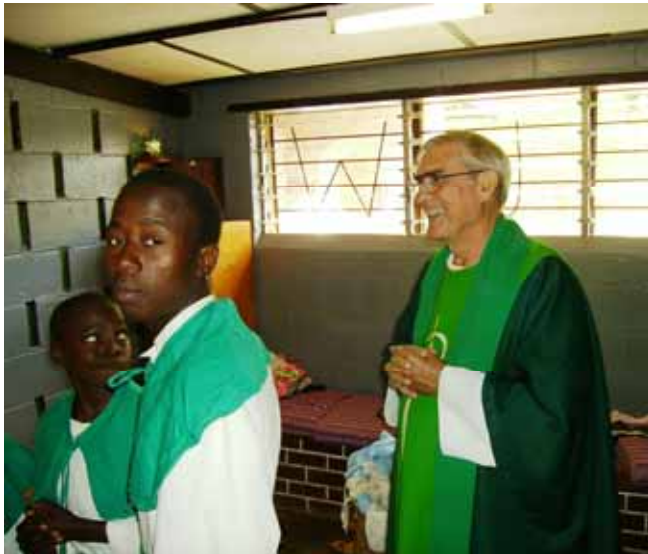


**Richard Loehrlein, S.M.**  
**60 years of profession**



Born: Dec. 1, 1930, fourth child of nine, of Edward and Beatrice Koenig Loehrlein, in Spenser County, Ind.

Baptized: Dec. 6, 1930, in St. Boniface Church, Fulda, Ind.

I grew up on a farm and began school in a two-room school house by the parish church at Fulda. Two Benedictine Sisters from Ferdinand taught all eight classes. We moved to Tell City in 1938, where we all attended St. Paul's

Catholic Grade School. In 1944, we moved to Evansville and attended St. Joseph Grade School, where I learned of the Marianists. In 1945, I went to St. Meinrad Minor Seminary, following my older brother, Fr. Sy Loehrlein, but there my desire to be a Marianist blossomed again, and in 1946, I went to Mount St. John in Dayton as a second-year high school student to begin my Marianist life.

First Profession of Vows: Aug. 23, 1949, at Beacon, N.Y.

Graduation: July 1952 from the University of Dayton.

In 2009 I am celebrating 60 years of professed life as a Marianist.

I began my mission as a Marianist Brother, teaching at North Catholic High School, in Pittsburgh from 1952 to 1954. Then I continued at Chaminade High School in Dayton, from 1954 to 1958. I did my seminary education at University of Fribourg, Switzerland, from 1958 to 1962. I was ordained to the priesthood on June 11, 1961, in Basel, Switzerland, at a diocesan celebration of the Missionary Year of the Catholic Church in Switzerland. I completed my spiritual formation in Rome with a year of study at the Carmelite School of Spirituality at the time that the Second Vatican Council began.

After a year of teaching at Purcell High School in Cincinnati, I went to join my brothers at Mangu High School in Thika, Kenya, in July 1964. I was teaching languages and religious studies. For three years I assisted an elderly parish priest, celebrating Mass for

an out-station at Kamwangi. It was there at Mangu that I made my first contact with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in 1969.

I began studies for a master's degree at Catholic University but dropped the program, as I was assigned to be chaplain at a community college in Lansing, Mich. After two years, I was assigned to Dublin, Ireland, to teach religion at St. Laurence.

I was much involved with the Charismatic Renewal in Ireland, and I often travelled to Northern Ireland, staying in homes of Protestants and Catholics, praying with Catholics and Protestants alike.

Towards the end of my time in Ireland, a Protestant charismatic, who was a car mechanic in England and who regularly did mission with the Protestants in Belfast, came to visit me in Dublin. He had a question about "Mary, mother of Jesus." "Is Mary in the group of 'spirits of just men made perfect' mentioned in the Letter to the Hebrews 12:24?" I had never seen this insight before, but I answered, "Yes." He said, "That's all I want to know." With that he left our community house, went into Dublin to the Catholic bookstore, bought a box of rosaries, went to the Protestants in Belfast and gave the rosaries to Protestants telling them, "Pray to Mary for peace!"

After my stay in Ireland, I went to Duquesnes University in Pittsburg and finished a master of arts in spirituality in 1982.

In 1983, I was pastor in Albion, Mich., and in 1988, I moved to Kalamazoo to be chaplain at Msgr. Hackett Catholic School.

In 1990, I was invited to work at Chaminade High School, in Karonga, Malawi. There I taught bible knowledge until my retirement in 2002 from teaching. And in 1992 when the community decided to begin forming Marianist Lay Communities, I took the responsibility to do this good work for Mary. In 1995 with Bro. Frank Annunziata, I organized seminars in the Five Characteristics of Marianist Education for the teaching staff of Chaminade. For several years this was done only for Chaminade, but we began to include teachers from other schools in Karonga, and in 2001 we organized it for all the teaching staffs of the Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Mzuzu. In 2005, I found money to restart the program of Natural Family Planning in the diocese of Mzuzu. After my retirement from teaching, I continued on as the development officer of the school.

In September 2008, I came to Mombasa, Kenya, to be the assistant in the Parish of St. Martin de Porres in the Mbungoni area of Bombolulu. Here I am also assisting Lay Marianists in their formation.

I am the director of the religious community. I spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, shop, keep accounts, study Kiswahili, meet with lay Marianists, and celebrate Mass in the parish church and in an outstation. I consider myself in retirement.

In 1992, I began to help Mary develop her family, both in the religious community and in the lay communities of Marianists. This has benefitted my personal life in ways that are only good. I consider this work to be consistent with the decision of the African Synod of 1994 to "renew the Church in Africa as the family of God." I was also greatly encouraged by the statement of Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical, *Saved by Hope*, par. 50, where he said that Mary, Mother of Jesus, was given a second mission by her son at the foot of the cross to develop the family he began on the cross. She was to teach her children to listen to God's Word and to act on it. She is eminently capable of that, because she is the exemplar of what her son, Jesus, wants to see in all his family members.